



April 2024 Legislative Advocate Report

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CABE Co-Sponsored Bills Move to Appropriations Committee

Two of CABE's co-sponsored bills were passed by the Assembly Education Committee on March 20th and have been sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File. The Suspense File will be taken up in May.

AB 2071 (J. Carrillo): Would establish the English Learner Roadmap Implementation Grant Program to assist in the implementation of the California English Learner Roadmap Policy. The State Board of Education would also be tasked with creating a California English Learner Roadmap: Parent Toolkit by 2025. CABE and Californians Together are co-sponsoring this important measure, which is also a budget priority.

AB 2074 (Muratsuchi): Would task the California Department of Education (CDE) with creating an implementation plan for the California English Learner Roadmap Policy and also requires designated staff at CDE to serve as a point of reference to ensure the implementation plan that is created rolls out and gets to all the school districts; these staffers would serve as a point of reference and assistance. Californians Together and CABE are co-sponsoring this bill, which is also a budget priority.

The third co-sponsored bill has already passed the Assembly and is now located in the Senate Education Committee:

AB 2268 (Muratsuchi): Would exempt transitional kindergarten students from the administration of the English Language Proficient Assessments for California. Early Edge, Californians Together, and CABE are co-sponsoring this much-needed measure.

Science of Reading Legislation Held

CABE and Californians Together strongly opposed AB 2222 (Rubio), along with a number of other educational stakeholders. This would mandate the strict use of the science of reading, focused once again on foundational skills, for all children, including our English learners, from transitional kindergarten through the eighth grade. It would also mandate all professional development for teachers and schools be based solely on the science of reading.

CABE believes using a one-size-fits-all approach does not provide an equitable path for the success of our Emergent Bilingual/English learners. California can do better.

Earlier this month, Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas stated his intent to hold the bill for this year to include broader stakeholder engagement to ensure all students in California can benefit from enhanced reading and literacy rates, including English learners. CABE believes the best way to ensure the success of California's English learners is to provide full funding and implementation of the comprehensive and robust California ELA/ELD Framework, which will advance literacy and biliteracy for all California students.

Early Budget Package Enacted

Earlier this month, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed a \$17.3 billion early budget package, which the Governor is expected to sign shortly. This early action includes \$3.6 billion in primarily one-time funding, \$5.2 billion in revenue borrowing, \$5.2 billion in delays and deferrals, as well as \$3.4 billion in cost shifts. Included in [AB 106](#) are the budget changes reflecting this early budget package.

By addressing \$17.3 billion now, while assuming \$12.2 billion will be addressed through use of the Rainy Day Fund, the remaining shortfall that will need to be addressed by the June 15th constitutional deadline is estimated to be between \$8.4 to \$23.4 billion.

Included in this early budget package is the Governor's proposal to reduce the School Facility Program by \$500 million, as well as a delay of \$550 million for the Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten, and Full-Day Kindergarten Facility Program.

CABE Bill Update

The following are CABE-supported bills and their Legislative location:

AB 1805 (Ta): Would require that content standards incorporate the landmark desegregation case, *Mendez v. Westminster*, when they are revised. This bill is on the Assembly Floor.

AB 1821 (Ramos): Would ensure California's history is accurately taught, including its treatment of Native Americans with respect to teaching about Spanish missions as well as the Gold Rush Era. The bill is on the Assembly Floor.

AB 2226 (Muratsuchi): Would expand the minimum day for kindergarten programs to full-time beginning in 2026-27. The bill is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 1056 (Rubio): Would expand the minimum day for kindergarten programs to full-time beginning in 2026-27. The bill is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 1078 (Min): Creates legislative intent to establish an Office of Language Access, which would ensure that California's state agencies are able to provide information to our residents in the languages reflected within California to increase access to services by non-English speakers and equity in existing levels of effectiveness and equity towards all residents. The bill is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Most bills are in on the Assembly or Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense Files. These bills will all be taken up collectively in mid-May.

April Tax Receipts Slightly Lower

Now that the April 15th deadline has passed, the final totals for personal income tax receipts (PIT) are solidifying. The General Fund PIT receipts for 2023-24 reached a total of \$83.87 billion on March 31, reflecting a 4.34% lower than anticipated total than was projected in the 2024-25 budget. The Governor's budget for fiscal year 2024-25 had estimated that total PIT receipts would be \$16.3 billion. These receipts represent 7.67% of the total General Fund revenues that are estimated for 2023-24.

In addition to the updated figures provided by the Controller's office, the Department of Finance has issued their [April Finance Bulletin](#), which noted the initial General Fund agency cash receipts were 1.6% below the Governor's proposed 2024-25 budget forecast, reflecting a total of \$243 million. Personal income added \$3.4 billion to the overall fiscal shortfall. Sales and use taxes were down by \$653 million in March, followed by corporation taxes which were down by \$247 million.

California's personal income grew to 4.2% in 2023, while core inflation decreased to 3.7% year-over-year in February.