



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Charter Schools Division

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September 26, 2025

Dear Charter School Governing Board President and Charter School Leader:

As the new Director of the Charter Schools Division (CSD), I welcome you to the 2025-2026 school year. After serving in the CSD for the past 10 years in various leadership roles, I look forward to continuing to lead and support the division in its work with quality charter school authorization and oversight. As always, our team is fully committed to embrace the work ahead.

In keeping with our annual practice, this communication serves to highlight pertinent information and updates related to charter school oversight. Please review this material carefully and in advance so that your school(s) and staff are well-prepared for success throughout the school year and ahead of any oversight visit(s) to your school(s).

Updates to Title IX

It is the policy of the State of California to afford all persons in public schools, regardless of their gender, equal rights and opportunities in the educational institutions of the state. (Ed. Code, §§ 200 and 221.5-231.5.) Additionally, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) and its implementing federal regulations prohibit sex-based discrimination. (20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.) Thus, each charter school is responsible for following the applicable non-discrimination provisions set forth in federal and California law. Please note that the U.S. Department of Education under the current administration is operating under the 2020 federal regulations consistent with the ruling in *Tennessee v. Cardona*, 762 F.Supp.3d 615 (E.D. Ky. 2025), as amended, (Jan. 10, 2025). While the 2020 federal regulations are the operative implementing Title IX regulations, each charter school should continue to monitor all applicable state and Title IX requirements, including the federal regulations, to ensure that all requirements are fully implemented and/or complied with. For additional information, please see Attachment K.

Verified Data and Sunset Dates

As part of charter school renewals, California Education Code Section 47607.2 requires charter school authorizers to consider verified data for renewals of charter schools for the applicable timeframes based on performance classification. For Low performing charter schools, the allowance to consider verified data ended June 30, 2025. For Middle performing charter schools, verified data shall be considered until January 1, 2026.

CalSAAS

The 2024-2025 California Statewide Assignment Accountability System (CalSAAS) official 90-day assignment monitoring cycle began on August 7, 2025. Your responsibility as a Local Educational Agency (LEA) is to review each Exception and make a Determination in CalSAAS, either by substantiating that the assignment was appropriate, or by determining that the assignment was, in

fact, a misassignment. This work must be completed no later than October 6, 2025. After this deadline, LEAs will no longer be able to make edits, and any remaining Undetermined Exception will be identified as Misassignments by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). As soon as your charter school addresses any noted Exceptions and makes Determinations in CalSAAS, the District, as the Monitoring Authority (MA), will review responses and may ask for clarifications or additional documentation. It is important to note that during days 61-90, the charter school may not make any new Determinations, though they are expected to continue to monitor inquiries from the MA and engage in the review process. In addition, please note that although the official closing date of the CalSAAS monitoring is November 14, 2025, the deadline set by the MA to allow sufficient time for finalizing responses is October 31, 2025. Therefore, **the charter school must respond to any questions or requests from the MA no later than 5:00 p.m., October 31, 2025.**

Please ensure you are diligently working in the CalSAAS to address all items related to your charter school in a timely manner. Failure to respond in the CalSAAS will result in Tiered Intervention by the CSD for lack of compliance in this area. It is important to pay attention to the communications and reminders from the District's Human Resources (HR) team to stay abreast of timelines/requests and to ensure compliance in this area.

Updates to the 2025-2026 Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visit Tool; Preparation Guide; and Certification of Clearances, Credentialing, and Mandated Training Form and Guide

As you prepare for this year's Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visit, we want to highlight some of the key changes contained in the Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visit tool, Oversight Preparation Guide, and the Certification of Clearances, Credentialing, and Mandated Training Form and Guide. The updates were made as part of the CSD's annual reflection process, inclusive of feedback from charter school leaders during oversight. Please see below for specific details. To facilitate effective and efficient review on the day of the visit, please adhere to the guidance provided in the Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visit Preparation Guide 2025-2026 for the preparation of the school's oversight documentation. **In an effort to provide charter schools and the CSD greater flexibility during the oversight visit, the CSD fiscal staff may begin their oversight reviews and/or segregation of duties interviews prior to the scheduled oversight visits, including via videoconference, as early as the fall.**

Updates to the Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visit Report ("APBOV Report")

Student Achievement and Educational Performance

- o Verified Data/Internal Assessment Data will no longer be included in the Student Achievement and Educational performance category. However, as noted below, internal assessment data results may be considered as a source of evidence in Indicator O2: Meeting the Needs of All Students; Student Group Data Analysis.

Organizational Management, Programs, and Operations

- o Indicator O2 (Meeting the Needs of All Students; Student Group Data Analysis) Internal assessment data results may be considered as a source of evidence.
- o Indicator O6 (Clearances and Credentialing Compliance) has been removed as a separate indicator and replaced with a checklist ("Compliance Item A – Review of Clearances, Credentialing, and Mandated Training Compliance Items").
- o The Review of Health and Safety Compliance Items checklist no longer includes a Certificate of Occupancy item.

- o The Review of Transparency and Stakeholder Information Compliance Items checklist now includes a requirement to post information on the school’s website about the dangers of using synthetic drugs not prescribed by a physician, such as fentanyl (per Ed Code § 48985.5).

Fiscal Operations

- o Notes for charter operators operating multiple charter schools authorized by LAUSD in the Areas Noted for Further Growth and/or Improvement:
 - A description of the CSD’s fiscal oversight review, including documentation of fiscal management issues affecting charter schools operated by the same charter operator.
- o Clarification on the Fiscal Operations Rubrics regarding audit findings identified as material weaknesses or significant deficiencies.

Updates to the Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visit Preparation Guide 2025-2026 (“Prep Guide”)

General

- o All documentation for the Governance; Student Achievement and Educational Performance; Organizational Management, Programs, and Operations; and Day of Visit folders are to be submitted ten (10) business days prior to the annual oversight visit for timely review.

Student Achievement and Educational Performance

- o Verified Data/Internal Assessment Data will no longer be requested for the Student Achievement and Educational Performance category.

Organizational Management, Programs, and Operations Documentation

- o Indicator O2: (Meeting the Needs of All Students; Student Group Data Analysis) – Internal assessment data results may be submitted as an optional source of evidence.
- o Indicator O3: (Special Education) – Special Education questions that had previously been included in the Guiding Questions will now be submitted as part of the evidence for this indicator.
- o Within the Review of Health and Safety Compliance Items – Certificate of Occupancy (COO) is no longer requested to be provided on an annual basis. Rather, a COO must be provided as supporting documentation for any proposed changes to the use of a current site, relocation to a new site, or expansion to an additional site.

Fiscal Operations Documentation

CSD’s updates and/or additions (noted with underlines below) to the Fiscal Operations Documentation are as follows:

- o Additional supporting documentation in the footnote to include funding sources (i.e., standardized account code structure (SACS) code) and the applicable chart of accounts
- o Clarification that the audit/fiscal report is issued by any public agency or third-party organization other than the school’s annual independent audit, including additional examples of public agencies that may conduct audits or issue fiscal reports (i.e., Item #3)
- o Clarification that the organizational chart should reflect the information for the current school year (i.e., 2025-2026) and identify the employees who handle and/or have day-to-day financial responsibilities (i.e., Item #13)

- o Clarification pertaining to Related Parties and criteria (i.e., Item #15).
- o Clarification that all current, signed, and executed agreements or contracts should include associated rate sheets, attachments, and exhibits (i.e., Item #16)
- o Additional information requested for the list of all active credit card account(s), including the name of the charter operator's network-operated schools (if applicable) (i.e., Item #20a.)
- o Additional information requested related to all credit card reconciliation reports in Microsoft Excel format, including, but not limited to: vendor names, transaction dates, amounts, transaction descriptions, and names of the charter operator's network-operated schools (if applicable) of all credit card transactions for the corresponding six months from Item 20c. (i.e., Item #20d.)
- o Clarification regarding the inventory listing to include capitalized assets reported in the 2024-2025 fiscal year audit and a current list of non-capitalized equipment (i.e., Item #23)
Updated request for information and documentation related to the Employee Retention Credit (ERC) claim filed with the Internal Revenue Service (i.e., Item #28)
- o Updated request for legal disclosure, including an explanation or a written statement if the charter operator has no information to disclose (i.e., Item #29)

Updates to Certification of Clearances, Credentialing, and Mandated Training Form and Guide

The *Certification of Clearances, Credentialing, and Mandated Training Form and Guide* added clarification that charter schools should obtain a signed *Vendor Certification of Criminal Background Clearance, Tuberculosis Clearance, and Credential Verification* form from each vendor on or after July 1st of the current school year (consistent with the guidance provided in the *Vendor Certification 2024-2025 update letter* sent August 5, 2024). The guide was also updated to note that charter schools should provide a separate vendor certification file for each vendor rather than collate multiple vendors' forms in a single file.

Triannual Electronic Document Submission

In an ongoing effort to streamline the documents charter schools send to the CSD, document submissions have been consolidated so they are submitted by established deadlines. This is organized into a triannual calendar (i.e., T1, T2, and T3) for the electronic sharing of documents three times per year. The triannual submission calendar, including due dates and list of items required, is as follows:

T1: DUE October 31, 2025

- o Master Plan for English Learner (EL) Certification
- o Compliance Monitoring and Certification of Board Compliance Review (Administrator Certification)
- o 2025-2026 Charter School's Reclassification Criteria for all grade levels served
- o Lottery Form (the form used to apply for the 2026-2027 school year)
- o Certification of Clearances, Credentialing, and Mandated Training 2025-2026 (i.e., ESSA Grid) [**include all supporting documentation (i.e., DOJ clearance forms, credentials, documentation of mandated trainings, and vendor certification forms and Master Schedule/Course Schedule)**]

T2: DUE January 9, 2026

- o Compliance Monitoring and Certification of Board Compliance Review (Governing Board Certification) with Board agenda

T3: DUE July 1, 2026

- o Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Report for the 2026-2027 Plan Year (approved by the charter school's Board of Directors)
- o Bell Schedule (for Secondary schools only) 2026-2027
- o Certificate of Insurance for the 2026-2027 School Year (no later than July 1 of each year)
- o Cell Phone Policy

The following items are to be submitted via survey:

- o Charter School Contact Information
- o Governing Board Contact Information 2026-2027
- o Governing Board Meeting Calendar 2026-2027

Dropbox

Please continue to use the school's CSD Dropbox folder to submit this year's triannual submission items. A new folder will be created within the school's CSD Dropbox folder labeled "2025-2026." Within the 2025-2026 folder, there will be the triannual submission folders (i.e., T1, T2, and T3). If you do not currently have access to your school's Dropbox folder, and/or you are a new school and require further assistance with Dropbox please email charterschools@lausd.net and include the staff's name(s) who will need access.

Please be advised all triannual submission items should be submitted via Dropbox within their respective folders. At the appropriate time, please send an e-mail to the charterschools@lausd.net to confirm that you have completed uploading of files. Dropbox will also be the means by which you will share documents for the Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visits.

Highlights of New Laws

An important aspect of charter school governance and operations is to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations. All LAUSD-authorized charter schools are to stay abreast of all legislative changes that affect charter schools. We encourage charter school leaders and governing boards, in consultation with their legal counsel, to conduct an annual review of relevant new federal and state laws and regulations, and to update their policies and practices as needed.

Below, we are highlighting some key legislative updates signed into law in 2024 that may impact charter schools. Please note that the following is not intended as nor constitutes legal advisement. Unless otherwise noted, the bills became effective on January 1, 2025. The new laws can be viewed/accessed here: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

AB 1884 (Ward) Pupil attendance: excused absences: uniformed services deployments.

Summary: Current law, notwithstanding the requirement that each person between 6 and 18 years of age who is not otherwise exempted is subject to compulsory full-time education, requires a pupil to be excused from school for specified types of absences, including, among others, for purposes of spending time with a member of the pupil's immediate family who is an active duty member of the uniformed services, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from, deployment to a combat zone or combat support position, as specified. This bill would remove the requirement that the deployment be to a combat zone or combat support position, thereby expanding the scope of that excused absence to encompass all deployments. The bill also would make nonsubstantive changes. To the extent the bill would impose additional duties on school officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

AB 1785 (Pacheco) California Public Records Act.

Summary: The California Public Records Act prohibits a state or local agency from posting the home address or telephone number of any elected or appointed official on the internet without first obtaining the written permission of that individual. This bill would instead prohibit a state or local agency from publicly posting, as defined, the home address, telephone number, or both the name and assessor parcel number associated with the home address of any elected or appointed official on the internet without first obtaining the written permission of that individual.

AB 1858 (Ward) Comprehensive school safety plans: active shooters: armed assailants: drills.

Summary: Existing law prohibits a chartering authority from denying a petition for the establishment of a charter school unless it makes written factual findings supporting at least one of specified bases for denial. One of those bases for denying a petition is if the petition does not contain a reasonably comprehensive description of the development of a school safety plan that includes the same safety topics required in the comprehensive school safety plan of a school district or county office of education. This bill would authorize a chartering authority to deny a charter school petition that does not include in its proposed development of a school safety plan the same provisions on procedures and policies relating to active shooter and armed assailant drills as are required by the bill in a school district or county office of education comprehensive school safety plan. To the extent the bill imposes additional duties on chartering authorities, which include governing boards of school districts and county boards of education, when reviewing the petition for the establishment of a charter school, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would require, on or before June 15, 2025, the State Department of Education to curate and post on its internet website best practices pertaining to school shooter or other armed assailant drills for use by school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools, as provided. The bill would encourage a school district, county office of education, or charter school to comply with these best practices.

AB 2968 (Connolly) School safety and fire prevention: fire hazard severity zones: comprehensive school safety plans: communication and evacuation plans.

Summary: Current law provides that school districts and county offices of education are responsible for the overall development of a comprehensive school safety plan for each of their schools, as provided. Current law requires a schoolsite council to write and develop a comprehensive school safety plan relevant to the needs and resources of that particular school, in consultation with a representative from a law enforcement agency, a fire department, and other first responder entities, as specified, while providing an alternate mechanism for compliance with this requirement for small school districts, as defined. Current law requires the comprehensive school safety plan to include appropriate strategies and programs relating to school safety and school safety law compliance, including the development of specified disaster procedures. Current law authorizes a chartering authority to deny a petition for the establishment of a charter school for specified reasons, including the absence in the charter petition of a reasonably comprehensive description of the development of a school safety plan that includes these same topics. Current law requires the State Fire Marshal to identify, according to specified procedures, high and very high fire hazard severity zones within state responsibility areas and lands that are not within state responsibility areas. Current law, for purposes of the California Emergency Services Act, defines an “operational area” as an intermediate level of the state emergency services organization, consisting of a county and all political subdivisions within the county area, as provided. This bill would, commencing with the 2026–27 fiscal year, require the disaster procedures in the comprehensive school safety plans to include the establishment of a procedure to identify appropriate refuge shelter for all pupils and staff, for use in the event of an evacuation order, and to notify the operational area having jurisdiction of the refuge.

SB 1244 (Newman) Pupil instruction: dual enrollment: College and Career Access Pathways partnerships.

Summary: Current law prohibits a community college district from entering into a College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnership with a school district, county office of education, or charter school within the service area of another community college district except where an agreement exists, or is established, between those community college districts authorizing that CCAP partnership. This bill would instead require a community college district to allow an existing CCAP partnership to be amended, or a new CCAP agreement to be established with a school district, county office of education, or charter school and a community college district outside of the primary community college district's service area, if the primary community college district has declined a request from the school district, county office of education, or charter school, or has failed to take action within 60 calendar days of a request by the school district, county office of education, or charter school to either amend into the existing CCAP partnership the requested courses, or to approve another community college district to enter into a CCAP partnership to offer those courses.

AB 1913 (Addis) Pupil safety: child abuse prevention: training.

Summary: Current law requires the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Office of Child Abuse Prevention in the State Department of Social Services, to, among other things, (1) develop and disseminate information to all school districts, county offices of education, state special schools and diagnostic centers operated by the State Department of Education, and charter schools, and their school personnel in California, regarding the detection and reporting of child abuse, (2) establish best practices for school personnel to prevent abuse, including sexual abuse, of children on school grounds, by school personnel, or in school-sponsored programs, as provided, and (3) develop appropriate means of instructing school personnel in the detection of child abuse and neglect and the proper action that school personnel should take in suspected cases of child abuse and neglect, including, but not limited to, an online training module to be provided by the State Department of Social Services. This bill would revise and recast these provisions by, among other things, requiring the department to (1) additionally develop and disseminate information to all school districts, county offices of education, state special schools and diagnostic centers operated by the State Department of Education, and charter schools, and their school personnel in California, regarding the prevention of abuse, including sexual abuse, of children on school grounds, by school personnel, or in school-sponsored programs, and (2) additionally develop appropriate means of instructing school personnel in the prevention of abuse, including sexual abuse, of children on school grounds, by school personnel, or in school-sponsored programs, as provided.

AB 2345 (Patterson, Jim) Short-term staff permits: provisional intern permits: teaching permits for statutory leave: designated subjects career technical education teaching credentials: cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification.

Summary: Current law imposes minimum requirements for a preliminary multiple subject, single subject, or education specialist teaching credential, including satisfactory completion of an accredited program of professional preparation that, among other things, provides experience that addresses health education, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Current law requires that training in CPR to meet the standards established by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross. Current law specifies minimum requirements for the 3-year preliminary designated subjects career technical education teaching credential and the 5-year clear designated subjects career technical education teaching credential. This bill would, commencing July 1, 2025, add certification in CPR that meets the standards established by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross to the minimum requirements for the 3-year preliminary designated subjects career technical education teaching credential and the 5-year clear designated subjects career technical education teaching credential. Commencing July 1, 2025, a school district, county office of education, charter

school, or state special school shall not hire any person for purposes of a short-term staff permit, provisional internship permit, or a teaching permit for statutory leave unless that person has a certification in CPR that meets the standards established by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross.

AB 1796 (Alanis) Pupil instruction: course offerings: parental notification.

Summary: Current law requires the governing board of a school district to annually notify parents or guardians of minor pupils of specified rights and responsibilities of the parent or guardian and of specified school district policies and procedures. Current law requires, as part of the annual notification, a school district offering any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive, to provide the parent or guardian of each minor pupil enrolled in any of those grades in the school district with written notification that includes, among other things, a brief explanation of college admission requirements and a brief description of what career technical education is, as provided. This bill would require a school district, county office of education, or charter school to annually notify the parents or guardians of pupils admitted to, or advancing to, grades 7 to 12, inclusive, of specified courses offered by the local educational agency, as provided. The bill would require school districts to provide this notice as part of the annual notification required by the above-described provisions.

AB 2053 (Mathis) Pupil instruction: abusive relationships.

Summary: The California Healthy Youth Act requires school districts to ensure that all pupils in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, receive comprehensive sexual health education and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) prevention education, as specified. Under the act, this instruction includes, among other things, information about adolescent relationship abuse and intimate partner violence, including the early warning signs thereof. This bill would require the comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education to also include information about resources available to pupils related to adolescent relationship abuse and intimate partner violence, including the National Domestic Violence Hotline and local domestic violence hotlines, as provided.

AB 2229 (Wilson) California Healthy Youth Act: menstrual health education.

Summary: The California Healthy Youth Act requires school districts, defined to include county boards of education, county superintendents of schools, the California School for the Deaf, the California School for the Blind, and charter schools, to ensure that all pupils in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, receive comprehensive sexual health education and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) prevention education, as specified. The act defines “comprehensive sexual health education” for these purposes to mean education regarding human development and sexuality, including education on pregnancy, contraception, and sexually transmitted infections. This bill would additionally include in that definition of “comprehensive sexual health education” the topic of menstrual health.

AB 2429 (Alvarez) Pupil instruction: health education courses: fentanyl.

Summary: Would, commencing with the 2026–27 school year, require the governing board of a school district or the governing body of a charter school that has elected to require its pupils to complete a course in health education for graduation from high school to include instruction in the dangers associated with fentanyl use, as provided.

AB 2927 (McCarty) Pupil instruction: high school graduation requirements: personal finance.

Summary: Current law requires a pupil to complete designated coursework while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of graduation from high school. These graduation requirements include, among others, the completion of 3 courses in social studies, including a one-semester course in economics. This bill would add the completion of a separate, stand-alone one-semester course in personal finance, that is prohibited from being combined with any other course,

to the graduation requirements commencing with pupils graduating in the 2030–31 school year, including for pupils enrolled in a charter school. The bill would authorize, commencing with pupils graduating in the 2030–31 school year, including for pupils enrolled in a charter school, a pupil who completes a separate, stand-alone one-semester course in personal finance, that is not combined with any other course, to elect to be exempt from the graduation requirement to complete a one-semester course in economics.

AB 2999 (Schiavo) Pupil instruction: homework policy.

Summary: Would enact the Healthy Homework Act, would encourage each school district, county office of education, and charter school to (1) develop a homework policy for all grades maintained by the local educational agency, as specified, by the start of the 2027–28 school year, (2) formally adopt a final homework policy by the start of the 2028–29 school year, and (3) update the adopted homework policy at least once every 5 years, as provided. The bill would, among other things, encourage the local educational agency to annually distribute the adopted or updated homework policy at the beginning of the school year to all certificated staff and administrators, to all pupils and parents or legal guardians, as specified, and by publication on the local educational agency’s internet website and on the internet websites of the individual schools operated by the local educational agency. For a local educational agency that formally adopted a homework policy on or before July 31, 2024, the bill would encourage the local educational agency to update its adopted homework policy before the start of the 2028–29 school year or within 5 years of its adoption, whichever is later, and would encourage the local educational agency’s updated homework policy to be consistent with the bill’s provisions. The bill would authorize the State Department of Education to develop and post on its internet website, guidelines for local educational agencies to use in developing the homework policy, as provided, and would encourage those guidelines to be developed and posted by January 1, 2026.

SB 1244 (Newman) Pupil instruction: dual enrollment: College and Career Access Pathways partnerships.

Summary: Current law prohibits a community college district from entering into a College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnership with a school district, county office of education, or charter school within the service area of another community college district except where an agreement exists, or is established, between those community college districts authorizing that CCAP partnership. This bill would instead require a community college district to allow an existing CCAP partnership to be amended, or a new CCAP agreement to be established with a school district, county office of education, or charter school and a community college district outside of the primary community college district’s service area, if the primary community college district has declined a request from the school district, county office of education, or charter school, or has failed to take action within 60 calendar days of a request by the school district, county office of education, or charter school to either amend into the existing CCAP partnership the requested courses, or to approve another community college district to enter into a CCAP partnership to offer those courses.

SB 1277 (Stern) Pupil instruction: genocide education: the Holocaust.

Summary: Would establish the California Teachers Collaborative for Holocaust and Genocide Education, to be responsible for establishing a statewide teacher professional development program on genocide, including the Holocaust, for school district, county office of education, and charter school teachers. The bill would require the collaborative to consist of leading genocide and Holocaust education organizations and institutions, genocide survivors, and community leaders. The bill would provide that the collaborative’s mission is to ensure that genocide, including Holocaust, education is taught consistent with, among other things, the content standards, curriculum frameworks, and instructional materials adopted by the State Board of Education, in ways that are interdisciplinary and

age-appropriate to pupils of different grade levels. The bill would prescribe the duties of the collaborative, including, among others, developing and providing curriculum resources on genocide and Holocaust education. The bill would authorize other duties of the collaborative, subject to available funding, including, among others, providing, as determined by the department, annual verbal or written reports to the department and the Legislature on the collaborative's achievement of its mission. The bill would make the implementation of these provisions contingent upon an appropriation.

AB 2711 (Ramos) Suspensions and expulsions: voluntary disclosures.

Summary: Existing law requires a petition to establish a charter school to include, among other things, a reasonably comprehensive description of the procedures by which pupils can be suspended or expelled from the charter school for disciplinary reasons or otherwise involuntarily removed from the charter school for any reason.

This bill would prohibit the suspension of a pupil enrolled in a charter school in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, who voluntarily discloses, in order to seek help through services or supports, the pupil's use of a tobacco product, controlled substance, alcohol, or an intoxicant of any kind, solely for that disclosure.

AB 3074 (Schiavo) School or athletic team names: California Racial Mascots Act.

Summary: Current law establishes the California Racial Mascots Act, which prohibits public schools from using the term Redskins as a school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname. Current law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish and implement a system of complaint processing, known as the Uniform Complaint Procedures, for specified educational programs. This bill would exempt public schools operated by an Indian tribe or a tribal organization from this prohibition. The bill would prohibit, beginning July 1, 2026, public schools, except for public schools operated by an Indian tribe or tribal organization, from using any derogatory Native American term, as defined, as a school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname, except as provided.

AB 5 (Zbur) The Safe and Supportive Schools Act (Passed in 2023)

Summary: This bill would require, commencing with the 2025–26 school year and ending with the completion of the 2029–30 school year, each local educational agency, as defined, serving pupils in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to use the online training delivery platform and curriculum, or an in-service alternative, to provide at least one hour of required training annually to teachers and other certificated employees at those schools, as provided.

AB 1870 (Ortega) Notice to employees: legal services.

Summary: Employers who are subject to the workers' compensation system are generally required to keep posted in a conspicuous location frequented by employees and easily read by employees during the hours of the workday a notice that includes, among other information, to whom injuries should be reported, the rights of an employee to select and change a treating physician, and certain employee protections against discrimination. Current law requires the Administrative Director of the Division of Workers' Compensation to make the form and content of this notice available to self-insured employers and insurers. This bill would require the notice to include information concerning an injured employee's ability to consult a licensed attorney to advise them of their rights under workers' compensations laws, as specified. The bill would also make technical, nonsubstantive changes to these provisions.

AB 2268 (Muratsuchi) English learners: initial identification: English language proficiency assessment.

Summary: Existing law requires each school district that has one or more pupils who are English learners, and, to the extent required by federal law, each county office of education and each charter school, to assess the English language development of each pupil in order to determine the pupil's level of proficiency, as specified. Existing law requires the State Department of Education, with the approval of the State Board of Education, to establish procedures for conducting the assessment and for the reclassification of a pupil from English learner to English proficient. Existing law requires those reclassification procedures to utilize multiple criteria in determining whether to reclassify a pupil as proficient in English, including, among other things, an assessment of language proficiency using the English language development test that is developed or acquired by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, as provided. Existing law requires the assessment for initial identification to be conducted upon the initial enrollment of a pupil, as provided. Existing law requires the English language development test to assess pupils in kindergarten and grade 1 in English listening and speaking, as provided. This bill would define "initial enrollment" for the purposes of the above-described provision regarding initial identification to exclude enrollment in a transitional kindergarten program. The bill would expressly state that the above-described requirement for pupils in kindergarten to be assessed in English listening and speaking does not include pupils in transitional kindergarten.

AB 2473 (Committee on Education) English Language Learner Acquisition and Development Pilot Program repeal: teacher credentialing authorizations: fingerprints and related information: high school coursework and graduation requirements for pupils participating in a newcomer program.

Summary: Existing law requires local educational agencies to exempt a newcomer pupil, as defined, and who is in their 3rd or 4th year of high school from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the governing body of the local educational agency that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements necessary to receive a diploma of graduation from high school, unless the local educational agency makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the local educational agency's graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the pupil's 4th year of high school. Existing law requires local educational agencies to comply with other procedures in relation to newcomer pupils, including, among other things, pupil consultation and notice requirements. Existing law requires local educational agencies to issue, and new local educational agencies to accept, full or partial credit for all full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed by a newcomer pupil while attending a public school, a juvenile court school, a charter school, a school in a country other than the United States, or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school, as provided. This bill would require local educational agencies to comply with the above-described coursework exemptions, pupil consultation and notice requirements, acceptance of coursework completed at other schools, and other requirements for pupils participating in a newcomer program, as defined, who were enrolled before January 1, 2024, and would authorize local educational agencies to extend these provisions to other pupils participating in a newcomer program, as specified.

AB 2251 (Connolly) Graduation requirements: local requirements: exemptions.

Summary: Current law requires a pupil to complete designated coursework while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of graduation from high school. These graduation requirements include, among others, the completion of 3 years of courses in English, 2 years of courses in mathematics, 2 years of courses in science, and 3 years of courses in social studies, as specified. Current law authorizes the governing board of a school district to adopt its own additional coursework requirements. This bill would clarify that the governing board of a school district is expressly authorized, at its discretion, to adopt a policy to exempt pupils from its additional

coursework requirements, as provided.

AB 2165 (Reyes) Pupil instruction: financial aid application.

Summary: Current law requires the governing body of a school district, county office of education, or charter school to confirm that a grade 12 pupil who has not opted out, as specified, completes and submits a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or, if the pupil is exempt from paying nonresident tuition under current law, completes and submits a form for purposes of the California Dream Act, as provided. Under existing law, a local educational agency that determines that a pupil is unable to complete these requirements is required to (1) exempt the pupil or, if applicable, the pupil's parent or legal guardian, from completing and submitting a FAFSA, a form for purposes of the California Dream Act, or an opt-out form, and (2) complete and submit an opt-out form on the pupil's behalf. This bill would require a local educational agency, before exempting a pupil or the pupil's parent or legal guardian from the above-described requirement to complete and submit a FAFSA, a form for purposes of the California Dream Act, or an opt-out form, to provide specified information to the pupil and the pupil's parent or legal guardian, as provided.

AB 2137 (Quirk-Silva) Homeless and foster youth.

Summary: The Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program authorizes a county office of education, or a consortium of county offices of education, to apply to the Superintendent for grant funding to operate an education-based foster youth services coordinating program. If sufficient funds are available, current law requires each foster youth services coordinating program to identify at least one person as the foster youth educational services coordinator, who is responsible for facilitating educational support, as specified, to any pupil in foster care residing or attending school in the county or consortium of counties. As a condition of receiving funds, current law requires a foster youth services coordinating program to develop and implement a foster youth services plan that includes, among other things, authorization of a school district, when specified conditions apply, to enter into a temporary agreement with the foster youth services coordinating program to provide tutoring, mentoring, and counseling services to pupils, as provided. This bill instead would authorize a foster youth services coordinating program to provide tutoring, mentoring, and counseling services to a foster youth pupil, if a foster youth educational services coordinator determines, as specified, that the foster youth services coordinator is unable to secure those services provided by the foster youth pupil's school district and if those services are established as needed and identified by the foster youth educational services coordinator.

AB 2630 (Bonta) Pupil health: oral health assessment.

Summary: Existing law requires a pupil, while enrolled in kindergarten in a public school, or while enrolled in first grade in a public school if the pupil was not previously enrolled in kindergarten in a public school, to present proof of having received an oral health assessment by a licensed dentist, or other licensed or registered dental health professional operating within the professional's scope of practice, that was performed no earlier than 12 months before the date of the initial enrollment of the pupil, as provided. This bill would define "kindergarten" for these purposes as including both transitional kindergarten and kindergarten and would require the above-described proof only once during a 2-year kindergarten program.

AB 2887 (Maienschein) School safety plans: medical emergency procedures.

Summary: Current law expresses the intent of the Legislature, for all public schools teaching kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, that are operated by a school district to develop, in cooperation with identified partners and other persons who may be interested in the prevention of campus crime and violence, a comprehensive school safety plan, as defined. This bill would revise that statement of intent to include local emergency medical services personnel and other persons who

may be interested in the health and safety of pupils among the identified cooperating partners and would revise the definition of “safety plan” for purposes of the statement of intent to expand its scope, as specified. Existing law prohibits a chartering authority from denying a petition for the establishment of a charter school unless it makes written factual findings supporting at least one specified bases for denial. One of those bases for denying a petition is if the petition does not contain a reasonably comprehensive description of the development of a school safety plan that includes the same safety topics required in the comprehensive school safety plan of a school district or county office of education. This bill would authorize a chartering authority to deny a charter school petition that does not include in its proposed development of a school safety plan the same provisions on procedures relating to the response to incidents involving an individual experiencing a sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening medical emergency while on school grounds as are required by the bill in a school district or county office of education comprehensive school safety plan. The bill also would make a change to conform a certain requirement for the approval of charter petitions by school districts and for the approval of countywide charters by county offices of education.

AB 2998 (McKinnor) Opioid overdose reversal medications: pupil administration.

Summary: Would prohibit a school district, county office of education, or charter school from prohibiting a pupil 12 years of age or older, while on a schoolsite or participating in school activities, from carrying or administering, for the purposes of providing emergency treatment to persons who are suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering, from an opioid overdose, a naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray or any other opioid overdose reversal medication that is federally approved for over-the-counter, nonprescription use, as provided. The bill would prohibit a pupil 12 years of age or older of those local educational agencies who administers those opioid antagonists on a schoolsite or while participating in school activities, in good faith and not for compensation, to a person who appears to be experiencing an opioid overdose, from being held liable in a civil action or being subject to criminal prosecution for their acts or omissions, unless the pupil’s acts or omissions constitute gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct, as provided. The bill would also prohibit those local educational agencies, or an employee of those local educational agencies, from being subject to professional review, liable in a civil action, or subject to criminal prosecution for a pupil’s acts or omissions in administering those opioid antagonists, unless an act or omission of the local educational agency, or the employee of the local educational agency, constitutes gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct connected to the administration of those opioid antagonists.

SB 997 (Portantino) Pupil health: opioid antagonists and fentanyl test strips.

Summary: Would prohibit school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools from prohibiting pupils in middle schools, junior high schools, high schools, or adult schools, while on a schoolsite or participating in school activities, from carrying fentanyl test strips or a federally approved opioid antagonist, as provided, for the emergency treatment of persons suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering, from an opioid overdose.

SB 1063 (Grove) Pupil safety: identification cards.

Summary: Would, commencing July 1, 2025, would require a public school, including a charter school, or private school that serves pupils in any of grades 7 to 12, inclusive, and that issues pupil identification cards to have printed on the identification cards the number for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. The bill would require schools subject to this requirement that, as of July 1, 2025, have a supply of unissued identification cards that are noncompliant with this requirement to issue the noncompliant identification cards until that supply is depleted. The bill, commencing July 1, 2025, also would expressly authorize those schools to additionally have printed on either side of the card a quick response (QR) code that links to the mental health resources internet website of the county in

which the school is located.

SB 1248 (Hurtado) Pupil health: extreme weather conditions: physical activity.

Summary: Would require the State Department of Education, on or before January 1, 2026, and in consultation with relevant stakeholders and experts, to establish compile and post on the department's internet website, standardized guidelines specifying temperature thresholds or index ratings that trigger modifications to pupil physical activities during extreme weather conditions, and would require those standardized guidelines to consider relevant factors, including, but not limited to, pupil ages, harmful duration of exposure to extreme weather conditions, overall pupil safety, and available mitigation measures. The bill would authorize the department, in consultation with relevant stakeholders and experts, to use existing resources or frameworks, or both, about temperature thresholds or index ratings that trigger modifications to pupil physical activities during extreme weather conditions to meet those requirements. The bill would require school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools, on or before July 1, 2026, to develop, adopt, and implement weather protocols for extreme weather conditions.

AB 1984 (Weber) Pupil discipline: transfer reporting.

Summary: Current law authorizes a county board of education to establish and maintain one or more county community schools, and authorizes the governing board of a school district to establish one or more community day schools, to enroll specified categories of pupils, including expelled pupils, among others, as specified. Current law authorizes the governing board of any school district to maintain one or more alternative schools, as defined, and requires the governing board of each high school district and each unified school district to establish and maintain within its boundaries special continuation education classes. Current law requires enrollment in an alternative school to be voluntary, and authorizes both the voluntary and involuntary transfers of pupils to county community schools and to continuation schools, as specified. Current law requires the governing board of a school district that establishes a community day school to adopt policies that provide procedures for the involuntary transfer of pupils to a community day school. This bill would require, commencing with the 2026–27 school year, the State Department of Education to collect and publish on its internet website, and school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to provide to the department, data on pupil transfers due to disciplinary reasons, including whether the pupil transferred to an alternative school based on a referral by the school. The bill would require the department, when providing guidance on its internet website about reducing disproportionate discipline of pupil subgroups in schools, to advise local educational agencies against the use of transfers to avoid reporting suspensions and expulsions.

AB 2046 (Bryan) Educational programs: single gender schools and classes.

Summary: Current law authorizes, until January 1, 2025, a school district with an average daily attendance of 250,000 or more pupils to maintain any single gender schools and classes that were enrolling pupils as of July 1, 2017, if certain requirements are met and authorizes a charter school authorized by a school district with an average daily attendance of 250,000 or more pupils that was operating as a single gender school or with single gender classes as of July 1, 2017, to be maintained as a single gender school or to maintain single gender classes, if those same requirements are met. Current law requires, until January 1, 2025, a school district that maintains a single gender school or class, and a charter school maintained as a single gender school or that maintains a single gender class to conduct certain evaluations at least once every 2 years, and to report the findings of those evaluations to the State Department of Education and specified legislative committees. This bill, among other things, would extend the operation of these provisions through June 30, 2031.

SB 897 (Newman) Pupil attendance: interdistrict attendance: school districts of choice.

Summary: Current law authorizes the governing board of a school district to accept pupils from other school districts by adopting a resolution to become a school district of choice, in accordance with various programmatic and procedural requirements and limitations, including, among other requirements and limitations, that the school district of choice accept all pupils who apply to transfer until the school district of choice is at maximum capacity, and that pupils are selected through an unbiased process, as specified. Current law prohibits school districts of choice from targeting their communications to individual parents or residential neighborhoods on the basis of a pupil's or pupils' actual or perceived academic skill or other personal characteristics. This bill would expand that prohibition to also prohibit school districts of choice from targeting their communications to individual parents or residential neighborhoods on the basis of a pupil's or pupils' actual or perceived proficiency in English, family income, or their disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic that is contained in the definition of a hate crime, as defined.

SB 1445 (Cortese) Governing boards: pupil members: expulsion hearing recommendations.

Summary: Would authorize school district governing boards, charter school governing bodies, and the governing bodies of entities managing multiple charter schools to allow each of their respective pupil members to make restorative justice recommendations that would be considered in closed session expulsion hearings. The bill would require, if the school district governing board, charter school governing body, or governing body of an entity managing multiple charter schools authorizes those pupil member recommendations, limited case information that pertains to those closed session items to be disclosed to each pupil member, subject to pupil and parental consent, as specified.

SB 88 (Skinner) Pupil transportation: driver qualifications (*passed in 2023*)

Summary: Places various requirements upon a driver who provides certain transportation services for pupils, including, among others, by requiring these drivers to submit and clear tuberculosis risk assessments. Requires any vehicle used to provide pupil transportation for compensation by an LEA to be inspected, as specified, and to be equipped with a first aid kit and a fire extinguisher. To the extent that the requirements of this article conflict with a contract entered into between a LEA and a private entity before January 1, 2024, this article shall not apply until the expiration or renewal of that contract. Existing law requires a governing board or county superintendent of schools providing for the transportation of pupils under contract, as provided, or any other provision of law to require as a condition of the contract the tuberculosis risk assessment, as provided, except that, at the discretion of the governing board or county superintendent of schools, that provision does not apply to a private contracted driver who transports pupils infrequently without prolonged contact with the pupils. This bill would delete that exception for private contracted drivers. The bill would additionally extend the requirement involving a tuberculosis risk assessment to the governing body of a charter school, as specified. At the discretion of the governing board, county superintendent of schools, or governing body of a charter school, the bill would not apply the requirement involving a tuberculosis risk assessment to a private contracted driver who transports pupils infrequently and without prolonged contact with the pupils before July 1, 2025.

AB 2690 (Patterson, Joe) Pupil safety: parental notification: synthetic drugs) Pupil safety: parental notification: synthetic drugs.

Summary: Current law requires a school district, county office of education, and charter school to annually inform parents or guardians, at the beginning of the first semester or quarter of the regular school term, of the dangers associated with using synthetic drugs and the possibility that dangerous synthetic drugs can be found in counterfeit pills, as provided. Current law requires a local educational agency and each of their schools to post this information on their respective internet websites, as

specified. This bill would require a local educational agency to, as part of the above-described annual notification to parents or guardians, also include the risk of social media platforms being used to market and sell synthetic drugs, such as fentanyl.

AB 3216 (Hoover) Pupils: use of smartphones.

Summary: Current law authorizes the governing body of a school district, a county office of education, or a charter school to adopt a policy to limit or prohibit the use by its pupils of smartphones while the pupils are at a schoolsite or while the pupils are under the supervision and control of an employee or employees of that school district, county office of education, or charter school. Current law, however, specifies circumstances in which a pupil may not be prohibited from possessing or using a smartphone. This bill would instead require the governing body of a school district, a county office of education, or a charter school to, by July 1, 2026, develop and adopt, and to update every 5 years, a policy to limit or prohibit the use by its pupils of smartphones while the pupils are at a schoolsite or while the pupils are under the supervision and control of an employee or employees of that school district, county office of education, or charter school, as provided.

SB 1283 (Stern) Pupils: use of social media.

Summary: Current law explicitly authorizes the governing body of a school district, a county office of education, or a charter school to adopt a policy to limit or prohibit the use by its pupils of smartphones while the pupils are at a schoolsite or while the pupils are under the supervision and control of an employee or employees of that school district, county office of education, or charter school. This bill would additionally explicitly authorize the governing board of a school district, a county board of education, or the governing body of a charter school to limit or prohibit the use by its pupils of social media, as defined, while the pupils are at a schoolsite or while the pupils are under the supervision and control of an employee or employees of that school district, county office of education, or charter school, as provided.

AB 1938 (Gallagher) Special education: inclusion and universal design for learning.

Summary: Current law finds and declares that all individuals with exceptional needs have a right to participate in free appropriate public education and special educational instruction and services for these persons are needed in order to ensure the right to an appropriate educational opportunity to meet their unique needs. This bill would require, consistent with state and federal law, a school district, county office of education, and charter school, when implementing inclusion and universal design for learning initiatives, to consider specified things with respect to the full language access needs of pupils who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind, as provided. The bill would require individualized family service plan teams and individualized education program teams, when determining the least restrictive environment for a deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind pupil 0 to 22 years of age, inclusive, to consider the language needs of the pupil, as provided, and to consider reviewing placements and services available to the pupil.

SB 483 (Cortese) Pupil rights: prone restraint.

Summary: Current law prohibits a person employed by or engaged in a public school from inflicting, or causing to be inflicted, corporal punishment upon a pupil. Current law prohibits the use of certain restraint and seclusion techniques. Current law authorizes staff trained in prone containment to use the procedure on a pupil who is an individual with exceptional needs in a public school program as an emergency intervention. If prone restraint techniques are used, existing law requires a staff member to observe the pupil for any signs of distress throughout the use of prone restraint. This bill instead would prohibit the use of prone restraint, defined to include prone containment, by an educational provider.

SB 939 ([Umberg](#)) Educational equity: schoolsite and community resources: neurodivergent pupils.

Summary: Current law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to post, and annually update, on the department's internet website and provide to each school district a list of statewide resources, including community-based organizations, that provide support to youth, and their families, who have been subjected to school-based discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, including school-based discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying on the basis of religious affiliation, nationality, race, or ethnicity, or perceived religious affiliation, nationality, race, or ethnicity. This bill would require the Superintendent to additionally post, and annually update, on the department's internet website and notify local educational agencies of the availability of a list of resources that provide support for youth, and their families, who have been subjected to school-based discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying on the basis of neurodiversity or perceived neurodiversity, including those developed by the University of California and California State University Collaborative for Neurodiversity and Learning. This bill would require schools operated by a school district or a county office of education and a charter school to annually make available the online training module developed by CDE to certificated schoolsite employees and all other schoolsite employees who have regular interaction with pupils.

AB 960 ([Mathis](#)) School safety: web-based or app-based school safety programs.

Summary: Current law provides that it is the intent of the Legislature that all public schools, in kindergarten, and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, operated by school districts, in cooperation with specified entities and individuals, develop a comprehensive school safety plan, as provided. Current law provides that school districts and county offices of education are responsible for the overall development of a comprehensive school safety plan for each of its schools, as provided. The Charter Schools Act of 1992 provides for the establishment and operation of charter schools, including countywide charter schools, and requires a petition for the establishment of a charter school to contain comprehensive descriptions of various matters and procedures, including procedures that the charter school will follow to ensure the health and safety of pupils and staff. The act requires those procedures to also require the development of a school safety plan, as provided. This bill would encourage each public school, including charter schools, with an enrollment of 100 pupils or more, to implement a web-based or app-based school safety program that includes specified program parameters, including, among others, (1) a multilayered digital map of the schoolsite that contains key information, including, but not limited to, detailed building floor plans, alphanumeric building identification, gate locations, shut-off valve locations, first aid equipment locations, automated external defibrillator locations, links to 360-degree interior and 360-degree aerial photography, and the location of, and field of view of, schoolsite surveillance cameras, (2) the ability to alert first responders from multiple agencies within a reasonable geographic area from the school in the event of an emergency on or around the schoolsite, to be used only when there is a situation involving imminent danger of serious physical injury or death to a person on school property, and (3) detailed schoolsite information, including, but not limited to, the general schoolsite location, schoolsite size, pupil populations, the schoolsite's grade levels, the number of staff on campus, the schoolsite's Wi-Fi connection information, a hierarchy representation of those with responsibility duties, including their name, title, photograph, and contact information, and the emergency procedures for that schoolsite.

2024-2025 State Budget

The 2024-2025 State Education Omnibus Budget bill, [Senate Bill 153](#) was signed by the Governor on June 29, 2024, and took effect immediately upon signing. The provisions below impact charter schools and take effect at the beginning of the 2025-2026 fiscal year or school year.

Intersessional Expanded Learning Opportunities

SEC. 44. *Section 46120 of the Education Code is amended to read:*

46120 (d) (10) (A) Commencing with the 2025–2026 fiscal year and annually thereafter, local educational agencies shall annually declare their operational intent to the department to run an expanded learning opportunity program pursuant to this section in accordance with instructions and forms prescribed and furnished by the Superintendent.

Attendance Recovery Programs

SEC. 45. *Article 9 (commencing with Section 46210) is added to Chapter 2 of Part 26 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code, to read:*

46211. (j) Commencing with the 2025–2026 fiscal year Guide for Annual Audits of K–12 Local Education Agencies and State Compliance Reporting, the Controller shall incorporate verification of compliance with the requirements specified in subdivisions (d) to (h), inclusive, including loss of apportionment for an attendance recovery program pursuant to this article for local educational agencies found to be noncompliant.

Transitional Kindergarten

SEC. 50. *Section 48000 of the Education Code is amended to read:*

48000 (c) (1) As a condition of receipt of apportionment for pupils in a transitional kindergarten program pursuant to Section 46300, and Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 47610) of Part 26.8, as applicable, a school district or charter school shall ensure the following:

(G) In the 2025–2026 school year, and in each school year thereafter, a child who will have their fourth birthday by September 1 shall be admitted to a transitional kindergarten program maintained by the school district or charter school.

(g) As a condition of receipt of apportionment for pupils in a transitional kindergarten program pursuant to Section 46300, a school district or charter school shall do all of the following:

(3) (A) Commencing with the 2025–2026 school year, and for each year thereafter, maintain an average of at least one adult for every 10 pupils for transitional kindergarten classrooms.

Reading Difficulties and Dyslexia

SEC. 79. *Section 53008 of the Education Code is amended to read:*

53008 (e) Commencing no later than the 2025–2026 school year, and annually thereafter, a local educational agency serving pupils in kindergarten or grades 1 or 2 shall assess each pupil in kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 for risk of reading difficulties using the screening instrument or instruments adopted by the governing board or body of the local educational agency pursuant to subdivision (d), unless the pupil’s parent or guardian opts out of the screening in writing. In determining when during the school year to administer each screening instrument, a local educational agency shall consider whether pupils have received sufficient instruction in foundational reading skills to support a valid assessment. Nothing in this section restricts local educational agencies from providing additional pupil screenings or diagnostic evaluations, as appropriate. Employees administering screening instruments shall be appropriately trained to administer the instrument.

2025-2026 State Budget

The 2025-2026 State Education Omnibus Budget bill, [Assembly Bill 121](#), was signed by the Governor on June 27, 2025, and took effect immediately upon signing. The provisions below impact charter schools and take effect at the beginning of the 2025-2026 fiscal year or school year. There may also be other provisions in AB 121 of interest or that affect charter schools.

SEC. 40 and SEC. 71 Los Angeles County Fires

- Holds harmless ADA funding for Marquez Charter, Palisades Charter Elementary, and Palisades Charter High within the Los Angeles Unified School District, and specified schools in Pasadena Unified School District.
- Extends flexibilities regarding use of temporary school facilities outside of district boundaries provided during the Los Angeles County Fires to remain in effect for the 2025-2026 school year.

SEC. 15, SEC. 83 and SEC. 88 Improving Literacy Instruction

- Allocates \$200 million to provide professional development in effective means of teaching literacy for elementary school educators
- Allocates \$215 million to augment the literacy coaches and reading specialists grant program
- Allocates \$40 million to support literacy screenings for students at risk of reading difficulties

SEC. 38 Expanded Learning Opportunities Program

- Lowers the unduplicated pupil percentage requirement for funding universal access (as opposed to access only for unduplicated pupils) from 75% to 55% unduplicated
- Doubles the minimum funding for local educational agencies under the program to \$100,000 in a fiscal year.
- Holds Los Angeles Unified and Pasadena Unified harmless for reductions in participation due to the Los Angeles County Fires

SEC. 81 Student Support and Professional Development Discretionary Block Grant

- Appropriates \$1.7 billion for a discretionary block grant. Funding will be available for expenditure until June 30, 2029.

SEC. 28. Section 42238.016 of the Education Code is amended to read (related to AB 938 from 2024):

- Strikes requirement to update a salary and benefit schedule form to include data collection for classified staff (From J-90) and instead requires CDE by July 1, 2026, to create a data collection system for salary and benefits data for represented certificated and classified nonmanagement employees.
- Requires by August 31, 2026, and by July 1 annually thereafter, school districts, county offices of education, and direct-funded charter schools to complete the data collection process and to report the data to the department.
- Requires CDE, by January 31, 2027, and by November 30 annually thereafter, to report to the Legislature on the progress in increasing salaries for classified and certificated employees, as provided.

Transitional Kindergarten

SEC. 30. Section 42238.02 of the Education Code is amended to read:

- Increases the Transitional Kindergarten add-on to \$5,545 and makes the amount adjustable for inflation starting in 2026-2027

SEC. 41. Section 48000.1 of the Education Code is amended to read:

- Amends the student to adult ratio calculation to reflect the new required ratio of 10:1.
- Amends the calculation for the class size penalty starting in the 2025-2026 school year to make the calculation based on the average daily attendance at the affected schoolsites, rather than average daily attendance for the whole district.

Thank you for taking time to review this information as part of the CSD's effort to provide clear and accessible information to you as part of oversight. Please continue to communicate with your assigned CSD administrator and Fiscal Oversight Manager as your primary Division contacts for all key matters and questions.

Sincerely,

Marla Willmott
Director, Charter Schools Division

Attachments:

Attachment A: Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visit Preparation Guide 2025-2026
Attachment B1: Certification of Clearances Credentialing and Mandated Training Guide 2025-2026
Attachment B2: Certification of Clearances Credentialing and Mandated Training Form
Attachment C1: Criminal Background Clearance Certification 2025-2026
Attachment C2: Sole Proprietor Criminal Background Clearance Certification 2025-2026
Attachment D1: Vendor Cert of Criminal Background Tuberculosis 2025-2026
Attachment D2: Sole Proprietor Vendor Cert of Criminal Background, TB, and Credential Verification 2025-2026
Attachment E: Charter School Compliance Monitoring 2025-2026
Attachment F: Annual Performance Based Oversight Visit Report 2025-2026
Attachment G: Charter School Transparency Resolution 017-15/16
Attachment H: Facilities Information 2025-2026
Attachment I: Master Plan for English Learners Certification 2025-2026
Attachment J: Calendar of Significant Deadlines 2025-2026
Attachment K: Title IX
Attachment L: Charter School Incident Reporting Protocol 2025-2026