



FISCAL REPORT

PUBLIC EDUCATION'S POINT OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING EDUCATED DECISIONS

New Laws for 2024



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posted January 3, 2024

Over the fall, School Services of California Inc. highlighted the most important bills signed by Governor Gavin Newsom in his fifth year in office that will affect education in 2024 and beyond.

As we enter into the new year, we wanted to give you a refresher of some of the more significant bills affecting local educational agencies (LEAs) that officially went into effect on January 1, 2024:

- Assembly Bill (AB) 248 (Mathis, Statutes of 2023) eliminates obsolete and offensive terminology for students with disabilities throughout the health and safety code and the welfare and institutions code.
- AB 446 (Quirk-Silva, Statutes of 2023) defines handwriting, in the adopted course of study for grades 1-6, to include cursive and joined italics.
- AB 452 (Addis, Statutes of 2023) eliminates the statute of limitations applicable to civil actions for damages as a result of childhood sexual assaults that occur on or after January 1, 2024.
- AB 472 (Wicks, Statutes of 2023) requires districts to pay a classified employee their full compensation upon returning to service for the district from a period of involuntary leave of absence following a finding in favor of the employee.
- AB 483 (Muratsuchi, Statutes of 2023) modifies and imposes new requirements related to timelines, reporting, technical assistance, stakeholder engagement, and guidance for the Local Education Agency Medi-Cal Billing Option Program.
- AB 557 (Hart, Statutes of 2023) eliminates the sunset date on provisions of law allowing local agencies to use teleconferencing without complying with specified Brown Act requirements during a proclaimed state of emergency.
- AB 873 (Berman, Statutes of 2023) requires the Instructional Quality Commission to consider incorporating the Model Library Standards and media literacy content into the English language

arts/English language development curriculum framework when it is next revised.

- AB 1503 (Lee, Statutes of 2023) extends the excused absence provision for a student to attend a religious retreat from four hours, or a half-day, to one full day.
- AB 1722 (Dahle, Statutes of 2023) allows, until January 1, 2029, an LEA to hire a licensed vocational nurse who is supervised by a credentialed school nurse if a diligent search has been conducted for a suitable credentialed school nurse.
- Senate Bill (SB) 10 (Cortese, Statutes of 2023) requires school safety plans serving students in grades 7-12 to include a protocol for responding to an opioid overdose.
- SB 274 (Skinner, Statutes of 2023) extends the prohibition against the suspension of pupils enrolled in grades 6-8 for willful defiance to July 1, 2029, and prohibits the suspension of pupils enrolled in grades 9-12 for willful defiance until July 1, 2029.
- SB 348 (Skinner, Statutes of 2023) requires schools to provide students with adequate time to eat following guidelines established by the California Department of Education (CDE).
- SB 494 (Newman, Statutes of 2023) prohibits the governing board of a school district from taking action to terminate a superintendent or assistant superintendent without cause at a special or emergency meeting of the governing board.
- SB 515 (Stern, Statutes of 2023) limits the cost of complying with the requirement to provide an accessible path of travel to a free-standing, open-sided shade structure project to 20% of the adjusted construction cost, as defined, of the shade structure project.
- SB 616 (Gonzalez, Statutes of 2023) amends the Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act to guarantee five paid sick days per year for employees.
- SB 848 (Rubio, Statutes of 2023) requires employers to provide eligible employees with up to five days of reproductive loss leave following a reproductive loss event.

There are also a number of measures that Governor Newsom signed that became statute on January 1, 2024, but their provisions or requirements do not take effect until a later date. The significant bills that fit this mold include the following:

- AB 5 (Zbur, Statutes of 2023) requires LEAs to provide at least one hour of training annually to all certificated staff, beginning with the 2025-26 school year through the 2029-30 school year, on cultural competency in supporting LGBTQ+ students.

- AB 10 (Lowenthal, Statutes of 2023) requires the CDE, by June 30, 2025, to develop and post on its website a model policy and resources about body shaming that LEAs may use to educate staff and pupils about body shaming.
- AB 230 (Reyes, Statutes of 2023) expands the requirement that schools serving students in grades 6-12 stock specified restrooms with menstrual products to include schools serving students in grades 3-5 beginning with the 2024-25 school year.
- AB 579 (Ting, Statutes of 2023) requires, by January 1, 2035, 100% of all newly purchased or contracted school buses of an LEA to be zero-emission vehicles.
- AB 721 (Valencia, Statutes of 2023) repeals, on January 1, 2027, a district's requirement to publish in a newspaper information on how the public may inspect the district's budget and information regarding the public hearing of the budget adoption.
- AB 723 (Quirk-Silva, Statutes of 2023) requires, beginning with the 2024-25 school year, a nonpublic, nonsectarian school to provide assurances in its application for state certification that it agrees to serve as the school of origin of a foster youth and allow these students to continue their education in the school.
- AB 897 (McCarty, Statutes of 2023) requires, beginning July 1, 2024, adult education teachers to attain permanent employee status after completing a probationary period akin to general education teachers.
- AB 1228 (Holden, Statutes of 2023) implements a \$20.00 minimum wage for national fast-food chains in California beginning April 1, 2024.
- AB 1273 (Bonta, Statutes of 2023) requires the CDE to convene the Classified Employee Staffing Ratio Workgroup by December 31, 2024, and for the workgroup to recommend staffing ratios per identified grouping of classified assignments to the Legislature by December 31, 2025.
- SB 88 (Skinner, Statutes of 2023) establishes, beginning July 1, 2025, or upon the expiration of an LEA's transportation contract, whichever is later, new requirements for drivers who are compensated to provide school-related transportation services to students whether they are employed or contracted by an LEA.
- SB 291 (Newman, Statutes of 2023) requires, beginning with the 2024-25 school year, that recess offered by a public school be a minimum of 30 minutes on regular instructional days and a minimum of 15 minutes on early release days, offered through one or more periods.
- SB 760 (Newman, Statutes of 2023) requires LEAs to provide at least one all-gender restroom for pupil use at each of its school sites by July 1, 2026.

- SB 765 (Portantino, Statutes of 2023) temporarily, from July 1, 2024, through July 1, 2026, increases the CalSTRS postretirement compensation earning limit for retirees from the current 50% to 70% of the median final compensation of all members who retired from service during the fiscal year ending in the previous calendar year.
- SB 857 (Laird, Statutes of 2023) requires the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI), by July 1, 2024, to convene an advisory task force to identify the statewide needs of LGBTQ+ pupils and report its findings to the Legislature, SSPI, and Governor by January 1, 2026.

Some measures, such as urgency bills, took effect immediately upon Governor Newsom's signature. The following bills signed by the Governor last fall went into effect when they were signed:

- AB 1078 (Jackon, Statutes of 2023) makes various changes to the requirements on local school governing boards regarding the adoption of instructional materials for use in schools, including a provision that prohibits a governing board from disallowing the use of an existing textbook, other instructional material, or curriculum that contains inclusive and diverse perspectives.
- SB 432 (Cortese, Statutes of 2023) clarifies certain provisions of last year's AB 1667 (Cooper, Statutes of 2022) related to the recovery of pension overpayments from the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) to retired teachers due to errors in reported compensation.
- SB 531 (Ochoa Bogh, Statutes of 2023) exempts contracts for work-based learning from current requirements related to fingerprinting but preserves student safety by ensuring that at least one adult employee at the workplace that supervises the student is fingerprinted and that school staff visit the workplace at least once every three weeks.

Lawmakers return to Sacramento today, January 3, 2024, to begin their work on the final year of the 2023-24 Legislative Session. We will cover bills as they are introduced by the Legislature and make their way through the legislative process in our "Top Legislative Issues" series.