

Date of Hearing: May 3, 2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Chris Holden, Chair

AB 1496 (Papan) – As Amended April 17, 2023

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 7 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill, subject to an appropriation, creates a pilot program at county offices of education (COEs) to do with educational technology and establishes an office at the California Department of Education (CDE) to provide technical assistance and teacher professional development to local educational agencies on educational technology.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires CDE, by June 30, 2024, to administer a grant program to select four pilot COEs to develop effective professional development and technical support regarding educational technology for other COEs to adopt. The bill specifies CDE may award additional grants for subsequent three-year terms. As a condition of receiving additional grant funding annually, each pilot COE is to submit an annual report to CDE describing the services it provided, the people it served, and the funds it expended in the prior year.
- 2) Establishes the Office of Educational Technology and Digital Equity at CDE to administer the aforementioned grant program and provide centralized statewide educational technology services. The bill specifies CDE may contract with a COE to provide specific educational technology services. CDE is to annually submit a report to the SBE and the Legislature on the services the office provided, the people it served, and the funds it expended in the prior year.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund costs of an undefined amount, likely in the low millions of dollars annually, to fund the pilot program. If the program provided \$500,000 per COE annually for several staff to administer the pilot, costs would be about \$2 million annually for four pilots.
- 2) Ongoing General Fund costs of about \$1 million to CDE for three staff for the Office of Educational Technology and Digital Equity to perform duties required by this bill.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Background.** Prior to the state's major school funding reform of 2013, known as the local control funding formula (LCFF), the annual budget earmarked funding for a system of educational technology support services to schools. The support services were known as the

Educational Technology program and provided grants to COEs to offer regional technology services to schools. The Budget Act of 2012 provided about \$18 million to the program. In addition to receiving earmarked state funds, some school districts purchased services from COEs using their general purpose funds. Along with a majority of the state's earmarked education programs, funding for the Educational Technology program was subsumed into the LCFF. This bill creates a new pilot program that would serve a similar purpose to the Educational Technology program.

Prior to LCFF, CDE had an Office of Technology, which served a similar purpose to the Office of Educational Technology and Digital Equity created by this bill.

- 2) **Prior Legislation.** SB 876 (Becker) and SB 767 (Becker), both of the 2021-22 Legislative Session, were similar to this bill, except the bills would have provided grant funding to all 58 COEs. Both SB 876 and SB 767 were held in this committee.

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