

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING  
AB 889 (Joe Patterson)  
As Introduced February 14, 2023  
Majority vote

## SUMMARY

Requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to annually inform the parents or guardians of each enrolled pupil of the dangers associated with synthetic drugs that are not prescribed by a physician, such as fentanyl.

### Major Provisions

- 1) Requires LEAs to inform the parents or guardians of each enrolled pupil of the dangers associated with synthetic drugs that are not prescribed by a physician, such as fentanyl, and that there is a possibility that dangerous synthetic drugs can be found in counterfeit pills.
- 2) Requires the notification to be provided annually at the beginning of the first semester or quarter of the regular school term, and authorizes the notification to be provided as part of the annual notifications required under current law.
- 3) Requires the LEA to post the information on their website as well as the website of each individual school within the LEA, if they have a website.

## COMMENTS

*Addressing Fentanyl Among California Youth.* According to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), fentanyl-related overdose deaths increased 625% among ages 10-19 from 2018 to 2020. In 2021, there were 224 fentanyl-related overdose deaths among teens ages 15–19 years old in California.

Current law requires the SPI to establish minimum training standards for school employees who volunteer to administer naloxone or another opioid antagonist. In addition to setting minimum training standards, the CDE must maintain on its website a clearinghouse for best practices in training nonmedical personnel to administer naloxone or another opioid antagonist to pupils.

The CDE, in conjunction with the CDPH, provide LEAs with resources and information that they can readily share with parents and students to help keep them safe. The Fentanyl Awareness and Prevention toolkit page offer information about the risks of fentanyl and how to prevent teen use and overdoses. In addition to the toolkit, the CDPH's Substance and Addiction Prevention branch also provides resources for parents, guardians, caretakers, educators, schools, and youth-serving providers.

### According to the Author

"When I was growing up in the '80s and '90s, parents largely worried about their children using marijuana and drinking alcohol. Until recently, it never crossed my mind that a child could lose his or her life by making a single mistake experimenting with counterfeit prescription drug. This is why I wrote AB 889 so schools can educate both parents and children on the dangers of using synthetic drugs. I don't want other parents to have to wait for tragedy to strike for them to become aware of the dangers. AB 889 is a proactive approach and will save lives."

**Arguments in Support**

According to the Los Angeles County Office of Education, "While there is a right for parents to know and understand the policies and procedures of the school or district policies, there is not a formal notification of the dangers associated with using synthetic drugs, including fentanyl. Many local educational agencies utilize their website to disseminate a wealth of information, including the annual notification to inform parents or guardians of rights and responsibilities of the school district policies and procedures. Since this annual notification is already required, there are no foreseeable barriers to add such timely and important information regarding the dangers associated with using synthetic drugs that are not prescribed by a physician which has caused student deaths due to use of counterfeit pills. AB 889 would require the school district and county office of education to annually notify parents and guardians about the risks and dangers associated with using synthetic drugs, including fentanyl."

**Arguments in Opposition**

None on file.

**FISCAL COMMENTS**

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- 1) Ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund costs, potentially in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, for LEAs to provide written notifications. California has about six million students. If we assume printing costs of \$0.03 per notification, costs would be \$180,000 annually.
- 2) Minor and absorbable one-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs to each LEA to add information to its website.
- 3) If the Commission on State Mandates determines the bill's requirements to be a reimbursable state mandate, the state would need to reimburse these costs to LEAs or provide funding through the K-12 Mandate Block Grant.

**VOTES****ASM EDUCATION: 7-0-0**

**YES:** Muratsuchi, Megan Dahle, Juan Carrillo, Hoover, Lee, McCarty, Quirk-Silva

**ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-1**

**YES:** Holden, Megan Dahle, Bryan, Calderon, Wendy Carrillo, Dixon, Mike Fong, Hart, Lowenthal, Mathis, Papan, Pellerin, Sanchez, Weber, Ortega

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Robert Rivas

**UPDATED**

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