

Date of Hearing: January 22, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1159 (Addis) – As Amended January 16, 2026

Policy Committee: Privacy and Consumer Protection  
Judiciary

Vote: 11 - 2  
10 - 2

Urgency: No      State Mandated Local Program: No      Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill extends California's student data privacy framework to artificial intelligence uses and higher education and authorizes private enforcement with notice-to-cure provisions.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Extends comprehensive student data privacy protections to higher education, applying prohibitions on targeted advertising, profiling, sale of student data, and artificial intelligence training across all covered education sectors.
- 2) Creates new private right of action, including class action authority, by expressly authorizing students and their parents to bring civil actions against educational technology operators for violations of the K–12 Pupil Online Personal Information Protection Act (KOPIPA), the Early Learning Personal Information Protection Act (ELPIPA), or the Higher Education Student Information Protection Act (HESIPA).
- 3) Imposes a 45-day notice-and-cure requirement as a prerequisite to bringing suit.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

- 1) Possible of one-time workload costs (General Fund) for the Chancellor's Office to release guidance to students.
- 2) Cost pressures (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) of an unknown but potentially significant amount to the courts to adjudicate cases filed by injured individuals. Actual costs will depend on the number of cases filed and the amount of court time needed to resolve each case. It generally costs approximately \$1,000 to operate a courtroom for one hour. Although courts are not funded based on workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create a demand for increased funding for courts from the General Fund. The Governor's January budget proposal for fiscal year 2026-27 provides \$70 million ongoing General Fund to the Trial Court Trust Fund for court operations.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Purpose.** This bill is sponsored by Privacy Rights Clearinghouse. According to the author:

The Student Online Personal Information Protection Act and the Early Learner Personal Information Protection Act were landmark pieces of

legislation that created protections for student and early learner data. However, technological progress has outpaced the legal protections provided by these laws, leaving students and early learners vulnerable to irresponsible collection, usage, and disclosure of their data. Additionally, students in California's institutions of higher education completely lack any sort of robust educational data protections. AB 1159, the CA Learner Personal Information Protection Act, modernizes existing data protections in the education field and extends those protections to students in higher education, ensuring that *all* students can learn safely and securely in an increasingly digital world.

- 2) **Background.** Under existing law, California regulates student data privacy through sector-specific statutes—most notably KOPIPA and ELPIPA—which prohibit private educational technology operators from engaging in targeted advertising, profiling, or sale of covered student information and impose limits on disclosure, data security, retention, and deletion, but rely exclusively on enforcement by the Attorney General and do not expressly address artificial intelligence or extend comparable protections to higher education students. AB 1159 updates this framework by clarifying that covered student information may not be used to train or develop artificial intelligence systems except for limited educational purposes, extending KOPIPA-like protections to postsecondary students, and creating a limited private right of action for students or their parents who suffer actual harm, subject to a mandatory notice-and-cure process.

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