

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1230 (Bonta)

As Amended July 3, 2025

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Makes several changes to the components and procedures for the development and review of a rehabilitation plan for a student who is subject to an expulsion order. The bill also specifies data collection and reporting requirements related to expulsions for school districts and county offices of education (COEs).

Senate Amendments

- 1) Specify that the assessment for readmission at least 45 days before the end of the expulsion term is preliminary.
- 2) Adds a prohibition on any requirement for the pupil or their parents to pay for any services the governing board determines to be necessary for the pupil.
- 3) Extends the requirement that the governing board complete the initial referral to an educational program from two days to three days.
- 4) Other technical and conforming changes.

COMMENTS

Disparities in the rate of expulsions in California. The rate of expulsions in California schools has dropped significantly from a total of 6,724 in the 2013-14 school year to 4,133 in the 2023-24 school year, a drop of 39% over the ten-year period. However, disparities in the incidence between racial/ethnic groups remains. According to data from the California Department of Education (CDE), in 2023-24:

- 1) African American students accounted for 5% of statewide enrollment and 12% of expulsions;
- 2) Hispanic or Latino students made up 56% of statewide enrollment and 67% of expulsions; and
- 3) White students made up 20% of enrollment and 12% of expulsions.

According to the Author

"AB 1230 strengthens expulsion rehabilitation plans to ensure that California's most vulnerable students receive the support they need to return to their home schools. In 2023-24, over 4,000 students were expelled. These students are some of our most underserved and at highest risk for poor academic outcomes. Without meaningful rehabilitation, these students risk falling into the school-to-prison pipeline, leading to lower academic achievement and higher incarceration rates. This bill ensures that rehabilitation plans are tailored to students' needs, removes financial and transportation barriers, and limits prolonged expulsion terms. It also mandates clear readmission pathways, transition support, and the use of expulsion data to improve district policies. AB 1230 prioritizes education over exclusion, providing expelled students with the resources necessary to succeed."

Arguments in Support

The Alameda County Office of Education writes, "In the 2023-24 school year, more than 4,000 California students were expelled from school, many of them among our most vulnerable student populations, with significant over-representations of Black, Native American, and Latinx students as well as foster youth, unhoused students, and students with disabilities. When students are removed from the classroom for disciplinary reasons, they are more likely to fall behind academically, drop out, and/or enter the juvenile justice system.

Current law offers only limited guidance to school districts regarding the development of rehabilitation plans to support the successful return of expelled students to their home district school or appropriate alternative. At present, plans may fail to address specific behaviors that led to the expulsion or may not be tailored to the specific needs of the expelled student. Currently, plans may require services the student must complete at the family's expense or include community service requirements without access to transportation. Current statute requires school districts to collect data on expulsions but does not mandate that the data inform the triennial plan each COE creates in partnership with districts in their county.

To hold students accountable for expulsion-related behavior, while also strengthening pathways for their return to their home district school or appropriate alternative, it is crucial to develop meaningful expulsion rehabilitation plans and data-informed triennial plans. AB 1230 will support improved outcomes for expelled students by requiring that rehabilitation plans address the behavior leading to the expulsion, include services responsive to the student's needs, and provide vital information regarding program enrollment and readmission. The bill will also require that school district data on expulsions inform the triennial plan."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

This bill could result in Proposition 98 General Fund costs ranging from the tens of thousands to the hundreds of thousands of dollars for local educational agencies (LEAs) and their governing boards to fulfill the additional requirements for student rehabilitation plans and comply with the bill's data collection and reporting requirements. While there are approximately 4,000 expelled students in a given year, the costs for each LEA would vary depending on the exact number of its expulsions. The bill's requirements could be deemed to be a state reimbursable mandate.

VOTES:**ASM EDUCATION: 9-0-0**

YES: Muratsuchi, Hoover, Addis, Alvarez, Bonta, Castillo, Garcia, Lowenthal, Patel

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 14-0-1

YES: Wicks, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Sanchez

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0-2

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: DeMaio, Sanchez

SENATE FLOOR: 40-0-0

YES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

UPDATED

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