

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1653 (Lackey) – As Amended March 23, 2026

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 8 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) to consider including, and recommend for adoption by the State Board of Education (SBE), recommendations regarding including specific heat illness related content in the next revision of the California public schools health framework.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No new state costs.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

Education saves lives. By incorporating age-appropriate heat safety lessons into health education curriculum, we empower students with practical knowledge they can use immediately at school, at home, and in their communities. This bill is not about adding burden, it is about prevention. A few minutes of education can prevent emergency room visits, long-term health complications, and even fatalities. Heat illness is predictable. It is preventable. And with this legislation, it is teachable.

2) **Background.** The health framework, adopted by the SBE on May 6, 2019, includes minimal heat illness related content. However, according to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), between 2010 and 2020, there was an average of more than 5,000 emergency department visits and 60 deaths annually from heat-related illness, with heat-related illness representing the leading cause of death among teenage athletes. Largely in response to this risk, in 2023 the Legislature passed AB 1653 (Sanchez), Chapter 589, Statutes of 2023, establishing the Extreme Heat and Air Quality Policy developed and maintained by the California Scholastic Federation (CIF), in consultation with the CDE, to provide safety standards and prevention guidance regarding exertional heat illness.

Current law charges the IQC and SBE with developing and adopting state curriculum and instructional materials for use in public schools. The process is iterative and public, involving input from the public, practitioners, and experts in the given curriculum area in question. Notably, the Health Framework curriculum framework adoption in 2019 did not result in a

subsequent successful instructional materials adoption, largely due to a lack of interest from publishers. The Budget Act of 2025 appropriated \$1 million for a study to provide recommendations for how to improve and streamline California's curriculum development and adoption process by January 1, 2027. This bill requires the IQC, upon the next revision of the health curriculum framework, to consider including heat-related illness educational content.

- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 1766 (Krell), of the current legislative session, requires, during the next revision of the health framework, the IQC consider including, and recommending for adoption by the SBE, recommendations for local educational agencies local educational agencies on covering human trafficking prevention, staying safe from sexually exploitative materials, and skills-based content building protective factors such as healthy boundaries and digital citizenship.

AB 1792 (Michelle Rodriguez), of the current legislative session, requires, during the next revision of the health framework, the IQC consider including, and recommending for adoption by the SBE, specific content related to sexual health instruction to educate pupils about dating abuse and digital violence.

AB 86 (Boerner), of the current legislative session, would have required the SBE to adopt kindergarten through grade 8 health education instructional materials, on or before July 1, 2028. The Governor vetoed AB 86 suggesting that such proposals should only be considered after conclusion of the study authorized by the Budget Act of 2025 and encouraged local governing boards to use existing discretion to evaluate and select from materials aligned with state standards.

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