

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1766 (Krell) – As Introduced February 9, 2026

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 8 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

The bill requires the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) to, upon the next revision of the Health Education Framework for California Public Schools (health framework), to consider including, and recommending for adoption by the State Board of Education (SBE), recommendations for local educational agencies (LEAs) 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. The bill also requ that the recommendations include the recommendation for an LEA to provide at least three staff members with annual human trafficking prevention training.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No new state costs.

COMMENTS:

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

Human trafficking prevention education saves lives. On average, sex trafficking survivors were first victimized at age 13. Children need tools to protect themselves and their peers from exploitation. In some cases, traffickers target students on school grounds. In others, traffickers target school-aged children by reaching out through social media and online gaming. Many cases of trafficking involve family members, leaving children unprotected at home. Our schools can act as the first line of defense by teaching students and educators proven prevention strategies, identifying possible victims, and helping to break cycles of exploitation and abuse.

2) **Background.** The health framework, adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) on May 6, 2019, includes information regarding sexual health and human trafficking. Further, since 2016, the California Healthy Youth Act requires school districts to ensure that all students receive comprehensive sexual health education, which includes information about human trafficking. Additionally, AB 1861 (Rodriguez), Chapter 807, Statutes of 2018, requires a school district, as part of its comprehensive sexual health education for all seventh to 12th grade pupils, to provide information regarding how social media and mobile device applications are used for human trafficking.

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 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.

- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 1792 (Michelle Rodriguez), of the current legislative session, requires that, during the next revision of health framework, the IQC consider including, and recommend for adoption by the SBE, specific content related to sexual health instruction to educate pupils about dating abuse and digital violence. AB 1792 is pending hearing in this committee.

AB 1653 (Lackey), of the current legislative session, requires the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) to consider, and recommend for adoption by the SBE, including specific heat illness related content in the next revision of the California public schools health framework. AB 1653 is pending hearing in this committee.

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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