
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No:	AB 1969	Hearing Date:	August 26, 2026
Author:	Bonta		
Version:	August 21, 2026		
Urgency:	No	Fiscal:	Yes
Consultant:	Therresa Austin		

Subject: California Community Schools Partnership Program: Promise Neighborhoods.

SUMMARY

This bill requires a local educational agency (LEA) that elects to retain up to 10% of California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP) funds for its eligible schoolsites to use those funds in a way that is consistent with the Community School framework. The bill also requires LEAs to, among other things, use those funds to serve as a network lead for multiple eligible schoolsites located in a Promise Neighborhood.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes, in federal law, the Promise Neighborhood program, which provides grants to nonprofit organizations, tribal organizations, or institutions of higher education, which, together with partners, develop and implement plans to significantly improve outcomes of children living in a given neighborhood. (Title 20 United States Code (USC) § 7274)
- 2) Defines “community school” to mean a public school serving preschool, transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, with strong and intentional community partnerships ensuring pupil learning and whole child and family development, and specifically includes the following:
 - a) Integrated supports services, including the coordination of trauma-informed health, mental health, and social services that ensure coordination and support with county and LEA resources and nongovernmental organizations, and early screening and intervention for learning and other needs.
 - b) Family, pupil, schoolsite staff, and community engagement, which may include home visits, home-school collaboration, culturally responsive community partnerships to strengthen family well-being and stability, and school climate surveys.
 - c) Collaborative leadership and practices for educators and administrators, including professional development to transform school culture and climate, that centers on pupil learning and supports mental and behavioral health, trauma-informed care, social-emotional learning, restorative

justice, and other key areas relating to pupil learning and whole child and family development.

- d) Extended learning time and opportunities, including before and after school care and summer programs. (Education Code (EC) § 8901 (b))
- 3) Defines “Promise Neighborhood” to mean a targeted geographic area served by the Promise Neighborhoods program, as authorized by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (Public Law 114-95), or a collaborative network of service providers that serves geographically defined areas or neighborhoods and focuses on revitalizing economically-disadvantaged communities through the establishment of a cradle-to-career network of services aimed at improving the health, safety, and education of the occupants in the defined area. (EC § 8901(m))
- 4) Requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt and maintain an implementation Framework for the California Community Schools Partnership Act that is responsive to evidence and research on the CCSPP model and outcomes, which shall include, but not be limited to all of the following:
- a) The statutory pillars of integrated supports services; family, pupil, schoolsite staff, and community engagement; collaborative leadership and practices for educators and administrators; and extended learning time and opportunities.
 - b) The key conditions of learning, cornerstone commitments, and proven practices consistent with successful community school research, including, but not limited to, embedded instructional and service coordination practices, shared governance, community engagement, and integration with other community-based approaches like Promise Neighborhoods.
 - c) Required data, reporting, and accountability elements necessary for schoolsites, LEAs, and a system of support for continuous improvement, including, but not limited to, measurable indicators for shared governance, community engagement, and integration of services at the county and regional levels.
 - d) Differentiated elements for elementary and secondary community school models.
 - e) Differentiated measures for LEA and schoolsite readiness to implement a new community school, and achieve certification, as specified.
 - f) Key practices for county coordinators and regional transformational assistance centers. (EC § 8901.5)
- 5) Requires the SBE to review and adopt, as necessary, an updated framework, as specified, on or before January 1, 2030, and every five years thereafter, in response to specified CCSPP evaluation results and certification

recommendations, and other research on the program's pupil and system outcomes. (EC § 8901.5)

- 6) Appropriates, for the 2026–27 fiscal year, an initial sum of one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) from the General Fund to the California Department of Education (CDE) to administer the CCSPP (EC § 8903(b))
- 7) Authorizes an LEA to retain up to 10% of funds awarded pursuant to the California Community School Partnership Program for its eligible schoolsites each fiscal year. Requires that those funds be used to administer community schools established at eligible schoolsites, manage professional learning and networking, and coordinate services and funding streams for community schools under the LEA with eligible schoolsites. (EC § 8903(f))

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Makes a series of legislative findings and declarations on the importance of collaborative approaches such as neighborhood-based partnerships, regional place-based partnerships, and community schools in ensuring that a continuum of services reach children in communities where they are needed the most.
- 2) Establish the intent of the Legislature that the vital contributions provided by community-based and regional networks be brought to scale so that all children and families have the opportunities and continuum of services needed to break the cycle of poverty.
- 3) Requires LEAs that elect to retain up to 10% of CCSPP funds for its eligible schoolsites to use those funds in a way that is consistent with the Community Schools Framework.
- 4) Requires LEAs, among other things, use those retained funds to serve as a network lead for multiple eligible schoolsites located in a Promise Neighborhood.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, “California has made historic investments in our children through community schools, universal prekindergarten, expanded learning, behavioral health, school meals, and other programs designed to help children thrive. Yet too often, these investments operate in separate systems, leaving schools and families to navigate a complicated web of programs on their own. AB 1969, the It Takes a Village Act of 2026, builds on California’s historic \$1 billion investment in community schools by providing technical clarification that strengthens the partnerships and infrastructure necessary to make that investment successful over the long term.

“AB 1969 recognizes that community partnerships and coordination are needed. The bill strengthens coordination between local educational agencies, community-based organizations, county offices of education, and Promise

Neighborhoods, and allows LEAs to use existing administrative funding to serve as a network lead for multiple community school sites within a Promise Neighborhood. By better coordinating the resources we already invest in children and families, AB 1969 helps ensure students can access the academic, health, behavioral health, and other supports they need to succeed. It takes a village to raise a child, and AB 1969 helps ensure California's public systems work like one."

- 2) ***Promise Neighborhoods.*** The Promise Neighborhood Initiative is a federal grant program that seeks to create cradle-to-career pipelines in communities historically impacted by poverty. Modeled after the Harlem Children's Zone in New York City, Promise Neighborhoods serve as a place-based educational approach that connects community members with access to high-quality early care and education, smooth and effective transitions to K-12 schools, and pathways to postsecondary and career success.

Since the first cohort in 2011, Promise Neighborhood program funds have helped grantees establish 46 Promise Neighborhoods across the country, with 356 participating schools. California currently has ten Promise Neighborhood sites located in San Francisco's Mission District, Oakland, Hayward, Los Angeles, Chula Vista, San Diego, Corning, and Klamath River.

According to the California Promise Neighborhood Network, Promise Neighborhood investments have produced successful outcomes for children and families living in economically disadvantaged communities across California. Notable highlights include the following.

The Chula Vista + San Diego Promise Neighborhood

- 49,819 adults and 5,170 children served
- Achieved a 15% gain in average daily attendance rates for K-12 students and a 15% decrease in chronic absenteeism
- Improved kindergarten readiness 100% since 2023

Hayward Promise Neighborhood

- 7,375 adults and 29,212 children served
- Achieved a 5% increase in students' average daily attendance and a decrease in student absenteeism from 52.6% in 2023 to 23% in 2024

Mission Promise Neighborhood

- 15,970 adults and 17,855 children served
- Reduced chronic absences by 10%
- Increased kindergarten readiness by 9%

- 3) ***California Community Schools Partnership Program.*** As noted in the SBE's 2022 adopted California Community Schools Framework, a community school is any school serving pre-kindergarten through high school students using a whole-child approach, with an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement. As a school improvement strategy, community school initiatives enable LEAs and

schools to work closely with educators, students, and families to understand and address the unique needs, assets, and aspirations of the school community.

Community schools often include four evidence-informed programmatic features, which are aligned and integrated into high-quality, rigorous teaching and learning practices and environments:

- a) Integrated support services;
- b) Family and community engagement;
- c) Collaborative leadership and practices for educators and administrators; and
- d) Extended learning time and opportunities.

Since the passage of the California Community Schools Partnership Act in 2021, the Legislature has allocated over \$4.1 billion for the CCSPP.

This year's Budget Act approved an additional \$1 billion in ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund for the CCSPP to expand the community school model to more school sites that have large concentrations of students from low-income families, English learners, and youth in foster care.

The CCSPP has long recognized Promise Neighborhoods as a compatible community-based approach, encouraged LEAs to develop partnerships with existing Promise Neighborhood lead agencies, and authorized LEAs that serve as network leads for multiple eligible schoolsites within a Promise Neighborhood to use CCSPP to support planning needs.

This bill amends language from the 2026 Budget Act to require an LEA that elects to retain up to 10% of CCSPP funds for administrative purposes to, among other things, use those funds to serve as a network lead for multiple eligible schoolsites located in a Promise Neighborhood.

4) ***Prior and related legislation.***

AB 1321 (Bonta, 2023) would have established the California Coordinated Neighborhood and Community Services Grant Program. AB 1321 was substantively similar to AB 1969 prior to its most recent amendments. AB 1321 was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 2517 (Bonta, 2022) would have created the California Coordinated Neighborhood and Community Services Grant Program to provide competitive awards to eligible entities to implement comprehensive, integrated continuum of C2C solutions. AB 2517 was vetoed by Governor Newsom with the following veto message:

"The author's goal of ensuring coordinated investments in services and supports to achieve better outcomes for children and families throughout

their lives is laudable, and I note that the 2022 Budget Act includes \$12 million one-time General Fund to support specified Promise Neighborhoods in California. However, there would be substantial costs to administer AB 2517 in addition to tens of millions of dollars in grant funding that would be necessary, neither of which are accounted for in the budget.”

AB 132 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 144, Statutes of 2021) establishes the C2C Data System to link data on student progress through education, workforce training, employment, health and social services; establishes a governing board comprised of 21 members; and establishes the Office of C2C Data within Government Operations Agency until July 1, 2026, among other things.

AB 932 (Levine, 2021) would have established the C2C Grant Program to administer public and private funds to address child poverty and achievement gaps in California children. AB 932 was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 686 (Allen, 2019) would have enacted the California Promise Neighborhoods Act of 2019, which would have provided grants, administered by the State Department of Education, to implement a comprehensive integrated continuum of cradle-to-college-to-career solutions, including academic, health, and social programs. AB 686 was set to be heard in the Assembly Education Committee, but the hearing was canceled at the request of the author.

SUPPORT

None received

OPPOSITION

None received

-- END --