

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1969 (Bonta, et al.)

As Amended August 28, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Authorizes up to 10% of the funds provided to local educational agencies (LEAs) to implement new and provide ongoing support for existing community schools to be used, among other purposes, to serve as a network lead for multiple eligible community schoolsites located in a Promise Neighborhood in support of the California Community Schools Partnership Program.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Authorize up to 10% of the funds provided to LEAs to implement new and provide ongoing support for existing community schools to be used, among other purposes, to serve as a network lead for multiple eligible community schoolsites located in a Promise Neighborhood in support of the California Community Schools Partnership Program.
- 2) Add findings and declarations

COMMENTS

Federal Promise Neighborhoods. Promise Neighborhoods are a holistic, place-based approach to reducing poverty and improving economic, social, and academic outcomes in disadvantaged communities by developing "cradle to career" solutions that support children and families. According to the Lifting Children and Families out of Poverty Task Force, "Promise Neighborhoods tailor their specific set of cradle-to-college-and-career solutions to the local context, but each share the following characteristics: results-driven focus on impacting population-level results; place-based to focus on a specific high-need geography; collective impact is achieved through partnerships; and most importantly, Promise Neighborhoods implement a comprehensive cradle-to-college-and-career continuum that addresses all of a family's needs to help them move out of poverty."

The federal government first established the "Promise Neighborhood Initiative" under the Obama Administration to improve the educational and developmental outcomes for youth in poverty. The vision was for all children and youth growing up in Promise Neighborhoods to have access to great schools and strong systems of family and community support to prepare them to attain an excellent education and successfully transition to college and a career. The Promise Neighborhood program awarded several cycles of grants in 2010, 2011, and 2012 to nonprofit organizations, Indian tribes, and institutions of higher education. There are Promise Neighborhoods in 20 states and the District of Columbia. Programs awarded funding were required to use a variety of metrics to track outcomes.

What is a community school? According to the Coalition for Community Schools, "a community school is both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources. Its integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement leads to improved student learning, stronger families, and healthier communities. Community schools offer a curriculum that emphasizes real-world learning and community problem-solving. Schools become centers of the community and are open to everyone – all day, every day, evenings, and weekends."

A paper by the Partnership for Children and Youth, and others, *Leveling the Playing Field: Community Schools Confront Poverty to Improve Student Success*, identifies the key ingredients of successful community schools as health services, mental health services, family engagement, and after-school programs. Although each service on its own has the power to improve student achievement, in community schools these services are brought together and integrated into a single, reframed educational experiences that has the power to clear the path to success for children in poverty.

According to the Author

"A strong understanding of the community and regional context, as well the effective coordination of services and supports aligned with the needs of the community, are essential to achieving better outcomes for children and families at every stage of life – from cradle to career.

"Over the last 10 years, Promise Neighborhoods, Cradle to Career networks, and similar entities have worked in disadvantaged communities. Utilizing a place-based, equity-focused approach, these networks coordinate services and supports across the public and private sectors and collect and share data to maximize the efficiency and efficacy of programming. Areas where these networks have operated have seen substantial improvements in healthcare access, literacy, and college and career readiness, as well as reduced child welfare and juvenile justice involvement."

Arguments in Support

The Inland Empire Children's Cabinet writes, "[This bill] strongly aligns with this mission by investing in neighborhood partnerships, Promise Neighborhoods, and regional partnerships that coordinate services and resources around the needs of children and families. By supporting educational outcomes, reducing child poverty, and advancing economic mobility, the bill recognizes that children's success is shaped not only by what happens in the classroom, but also by access to stable housing, health care, food, family support, and other community resources. This approach is particularly important for the Inland Empire, where families across a large and diverse two county region often navigate fragmented systems and significant disparities in access to services. Supporting coordinated regional and neighborhood partnerships can help communities better align with schools, nonprofits, public agencies, and other partners, so families can more easily connect with the resources they need."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

This bill version has not been analyzed by a fiscal committee.

VOTES:

ASM HUMAN SERVICES: 5-2-0

YES: Lee, Gipson, Elhawary, Jackson, Solache

NO: Castillo, Tangipa

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-4-0

YES: Wicks, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache

NO: Hoover, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 56-14-10

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO: Castillo, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Johnson, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis

ABS, ABST OR NV: Arambula, Chen, Flora, Garcia, Hoover, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Schultz

UPDATED

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CONSULTANT: Bri-Ann Hernandez-Mengual / HUM. S. / (916) 319-2089

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