

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2008 (Patel) – As Amended April 27, 2026

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 9 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the California Department of Education (CDE), by October 1, 2027, to release a standardized template for local educational agencies (LEAs) for programmatic or expenditure reports. The bill requires the CDE to also submit the template and a report to the Legislature, by October 1, 2027, detailing the interest holder engagement conducted, providing recommendations for the template's use, and any additional information.

The bill requires, beginning January 1, 2027, any legislation requiring an LEA to complete a plan or report with an undefined end date to include a provision repealing the planning or reporting requirement within four years following its operative date. Additionally, the bill requires, beginning January 1, 2028, any legislation requiring an LEA to complete a programmatic or expenditure report to include a provision requiring the final report be submitted using the template created pursuant to this bill.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

One-time General Fund costs of an unknown but likely significant amount, possibly in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars, for CDE to release a standardized reporting template and provide recommendations for its use to the Legislature.

Even if Legislature provides funding to CDE to support this work as part of the annual budget act for the 2027-28 fiscal year, it is unlikely CDE would be able to hire additional staff with enough time to complete the required tasks of this bill by October 1, 2027.

**COMMENTS:**

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

AB 2008 would add an automatic sunset to school planning and reporting requirements, making them inoperable four years after they go into effect. This common-sense provision, which already exists for other state government agencies, will allow schools to submit a reasonable amount of data without being bogged down by perpetual requirements.

School administrators from across the state have been asking for 'permission to focus.' They want to spend their time on improving

student success, not filling out endless reports. AB 2008 would give them that permission. By automatically sunseting outdated reporting requirements, AB 2008 would give much-needed time back to school administrators and allow them to better serve our students.

- 2) **Background.** In 2025, the CDE provided a report to the Legislature identifying a total of 59 examples of data it collects from LEAs reported across 39 different submission portals. This LEA reporting does not include federal program reporting requirements. Generally, these data collections fit into the categories of accountability, safety and transportation, state block grants and special funds, special education, pandemic recovery programs, and discretionary grants. A separate report by Fresno County office of education identified more than 204 reporting requirements submitted to 17 different divisions at CDE with individual school administrators spending an estimated 30% of their time each work on reporting related workload. As a result, many LEA management groups, such as the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), the California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO), and the California School Boards Association (CSBA), lament the increasing reporting burden experienced by LEAs, especially post the COVID-19 pandemic with the enactment of several new state and federally funded programs. According to CSBA, writing in support of this bill, the bill “is an important and common-sense step in addressing this issue and balances the interests of policymakers with those of students.”

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