
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2149 (Garcia) - Pupil achievement: closing the achievement gap: accountability report

Version: June 30, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: ED. 7 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill Summary: This bill requires the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) to report to the Legislature and the Governor, on or before December 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, on the state's progress in closing pupil academic achievement gaps, as a component of the assessment of the state budget.

Fiscal Impact: This bill could result in one-time General Fund costs, potentially in the high tens of thousands to low hundreds of thousands of dollars, for the LAO to complete the report and submit it to the Legislature each year. It may also impact the ability of the LAO to fulfill other existing or future legislative mandates and requests, as the LAO's budget is subject to the Legislature's constitutional spending cap.

Background: Existing law requires Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs) to address how school districts will address and improve in eight state priority areas, including pupil achievement as measured by, among other things, the percentage of pupils who have successfully completed courses that satisfy the requirements for entrance to the University of California (UC) and the California State University (CSU), or the completion of career pathways. The law requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to adopt and annually revise LCAPs.

Existing law establishes a single system for providing support (System of Support) to LEAs and schools and for programs established by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act to support the continuous improvement of pupil performance within the state priorities; address the gaps in achievement between pupil subgroups; and improve outreach and collaboration with stakeholders to ensure that the goals, actions and services described in school district and COE LCAPs reflect the needs of pupils and the community, especially for historically underrepresented or low-achieving populations.

Proposed Law: This bill requires the LAO, on or before December 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, to assess and publicly report to the Legislature and the Governor the state's progress in closing pupil academic achievement gaps as a component of the assessment of the state budget. The bill requires the LAO to include within that report, recommendations on actions that the state can take to meet its specific goals and benchmarks to support LEAs in closing the achievement gap, as specified.

This bill requires the LAO to include in the report, but not be limited to, all of the following:

1. A review and assessment of whether the prior year's adopted budget aligns with the Closing the Achievement Gap State Operations and Support Plan (CTAG Plan), as specified.
2. An assessment of new and existing unfunded mandates or state requirements on LEAs and whether those mandates and requirements contribute to, or interfere with, LEAs' ability to close the achievement gap, including whether those mandates and requirements align with the CTAG Plan.
3. An evaluation of state supports and the efficacy of state-run and state-directed programs aimed at improving pupil outcomes and closing the achievement gap.
4. Any barriers that LEAs face in closing the achievement gap

This bill requires the LAO to consult with education stakeholders to develop each of the annual reports.

This bill specifies that its provisions shall only become operative if AB 2225 is enacted and becomes effective on or before January 1, 2027.

Staff Comments: This bill is one of four bills sponsored by the California School Boards Association that seek to establish "a comprehensive state-level operations and support plan that clearly defines how the state will help LEAs close achievement gaps." Specifically, this bill requires the LAO to annually report to the Legislature and the Governor on the state's progress in closing pupil academic achievement gaps, which shall include a review and assessment of whether the prior year's adopted budget aligns with the CTAG Plan.

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