
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2189 (Nguyen) - Statewide Special Education Parent Advocacy Collaborative

Version: June 22, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: HUMAN S. 5 - 0, ED. 7 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 2189 would require the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to establish and administer a Statewide Special Education Parent Advocacy Collaborative.

Fiscal Impact:

- General Fund costs of \$800,000 annually for three fiscal years to provide grants, of which up to 5 percent may be retained by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities for administration.
- The State Council on Developmental Disabilities indicates that the council would need \$303,000 during the three-year period for state administration and that the 5 percent cap for administration would result in insufficient funds to cover the costs.

Background:

State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD). State and federal law establishes the SCDD as an independent state agency to ensure that people with developmental disabilities and their families receive the services and supports they need. The SCDD works to achieve a person-centered and family-based system of individualized services, supports, and other assistance. The SCDD provides trainings for self-advocates, family members, and law enforcement; provides direct problem-solving assistance; and partners with community organizations to expand access to housing, education, employment, and safety.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The federal IDEA ensures that children with disabilities and their families have access to a free appropriate public education and to improve educational results for children with disabilities.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Require SCDD to establish and administer a Statewide Special Education Parent Advocacy Collaborative for the purpose of building statewide capacity for parent and pupil engagement in special education advocacy, systems change, and policy development.
- Require SCDD to conduct a competitive grant process to award \$800,000 annually for three fiscal years to an eligible nonprofit statewide advocacy organization; and authorize the SCDD to retain up to 5 percent of the grant funding for administration.

- Require grantees, at a minimum, do all of the following:
 - Work with parents, pupils, family support entities, and stakeholders to identify key challenges and opportunities in state policy relating to improving outcomes for pupils with disabilities.
 - Identify and build a network of at least 200 leader stakeholders engaged in advocacy for pupils with disabilities.
 - Establish and facilitate a statewide collaborative of parents, pupils, and stakeholders, including identifying and supporting a cohort of approximately 40 to 50 parent and pupil leaders representing diverse geographic regions of the state to build advocacy and leadership skills for state-level advocacy.
 - Conduct not fewer than three convenings annually to provide training, build relationships, and coordinate statewide advocacy efforts.
 - Develop and implement a statewide training program, including virtual and in-person opportunities, to build participant knowledge and skills.
 - Provide training and technical assistance designed to develop participant capacity, as specified.
 - Coordinate with and leverage existing local, regional, and statewide parent and family support structures to ensure alignment and avoid duplication of services.
 - Collect, analyze, and elevate the experiences of parents and pupils to inform state-level policymaking, oversight, and systems improvement.
- Require SCDD to submit a report, on or before December 31, 2030, to the Legislature and the Governor, as specified.
- Condition implementation upon an appropriation in the annual Budget Act or another statute for these purposes.

Related Legislation: The Budget Act of 2026 includes \$2.4 million General Fund for the SCDD for a Special Education Parent Action Network.

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