

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2225 (Patel) – As Amended April 13, 2026

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 9 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), by July 1, 2027, to convene a working group to develop the Closing the Achievement Gap State Operations and Support Plan.

FISCAL EFFECT:

One-time General Fund costs of an unknown but potentially significant amount, possibly in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars, for the California Department of Education (CDE) to staff the working group.

Generally, the committee will move to the suspense file any bill it determines to have the primary purpose of convening a working group.

COMMENTS:

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

AB 2225 convenes educators, families, researchers, and policymakers to develop a comprehensive statewide plan with clear goals, benchmarks, and annual performance targets to close achievement gaps and evaluate how well our state education programs are supporting student success. AB 2225 is the first of a package of 4 bills in the California School Board Association (CSBA)'s package to address these persistent gaps.

2) **Background.** Much research conducted on the academic outcomes of different subgroups demonstrates persistent disparities in achievement for Black or African American Students and Latino students compared to White and Asian students, commonly known as the "achievement gap." Results from California's standardized testing of students in English Language Arts (ELA) and math on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) in 2025 demonstrated only 32.8% and 38.8% of Black or African American and Latino students, respectively, met or exceeded targeted benchmarks for ELA, compared to 61.8% and 74.4% for White and Asian students, respectively. Similarly, 2025 CAASPP math results demonstrated 20.1% and 25.7% of Black or African American and Latino students, respectively, met or exceeded targeted benchmarks for math, compared to 51% and 70.3% for White and Asian students. The statewide average for each assessment was 48.8% for ELA and 37.3% for math. Therefore, while the state has made several policy

attempts to help local educational agencies meet the unique and diverse needs of their respective student populations, through legislation such as the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), Local Control Accountability Plans, the LCFF Equity Multiplier, and the Statewide System of Support, the achievement gap persists. By convening the working group to develop the Closing the Achievement Gap State Operations and Support Plan, the California School Boards Association (CSBA), sponsors of the bill, claim this bill, in conjunction with three other pieces of legislation discussed in comment #3, would “focus and align the state’s policy, fiscal and operational efforts to support schools and establish a new level of shared accountability between state entities and local educational agencies for closing achievement gaps.”

- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 2149 (Garcia), of the current legislative session, requires the Legislative Analyst’s Office to assess and report on the state’s progress in closing pupil academic achievement gaps, including recommendations for actions the state can take to meet its performance targets to be established pursuant to AB 2225 (Patel) of the current legislative session. AB 2149 is on Assembly Third Reading.

AB 2202 (Muratsuchi), of the current legislative session, establishes the Closing the Achievement Gap Commission as an advisory board to the State Board of Education. AB 2202 is pending hearing in this committee.

AB 2514 (Ransom), of the current legislative session, requires the working group and Closing the Achievement Gap State Operations and Support Plan established by AB 2225 (Patel) of the current legislative session to include recommendations for the development of a State of the Achievement Gap Dashboard. AB 2514 is pending hearing in this committee.

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