

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 2225 (Patel, et al.)

As Amended August 27, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires the Education Commissioner to submit a report, on or before October 1, 2028, to the Governor and appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature, that includes, among other things, information on the state's progress toward implementing the Commissioner's recommendations on phase two of education governance consolidation and streamlining, and recommendations for additional steps to consolidate and reduce fragmentation.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Require the Education Commissioner to submit a specified report, on or before October 1, 2028, to the Governor and the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature, utilizing the Commissioner's findings and recommendations for a second phase of education governance consolidation and streamlining (developed pursuant to AB 181 (Alvarez and Patel), Chapter 66, Statutes of 2026). Requires the report to include all of the following:
 - a) Progress toward implementation of the recommended actions or activities for education governance consolidation and streamlining, including evaluation of how implementation is contributing to increased efficiency, transparency, and accountability, and how it is supporting improved child and pupil outcomes, with a particular focus on improving outcomes for lower-performing pupil subgroups;
 - b) Identification of how the California Department of Education (CDE) is implementing recommendations to the extent possible under existing statutory and budgetary authority;
 - c) Identification of how state actions and activities of all entities that have authority over, or provide statewide support to, early education and any of transitional kindergarten (TK), kindergarten, or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, that can be consolidated, streamlined, or eliminated in pursuit of the recommendations and improved child and pupil outcomes, with a particular focus on improving outcomes for lower-performing pupil subgroups; and
 - d) Recommendations of any additional steps the Governor and Legislature can take to consolidate or eliminate fragmented or duplicative state requirements and activities that require statutory or budgetary authority.
- 2) Remove provisions from earlier versions the bill, including the requirement to develop a State Education Alignment and Impact Plan (or in earlier versions, the Closing the Achievement Gap State Operations and Support Plan) and related working group and stakeholder advisory group.

COMMENTS

Recent changes to K-12 state education governance. AB 181 (Alvarez and Patel), Chapter 66, Statutes of 2026, setting forth a significant reorganization of California's state governance structure. Key components of this restructuring effort include the following:

- 1) Transferring management of the CDE from the elected Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to a Governor-appointed, Senate-confirmed Education Commissioner;
- 2) Vesting all executive and administrative functions of the CDE in the Education Commissioner;
- 3) Providing that the CDE shall be administered through the SBE and the Education Commissioner, rather than the SPI;
- 4) Authorizing the Education Commissioner to exercise general supervision over department operations and issue orders necessary to carry out duties vested in the CDE;
- 5) Establishing a separate Office of the SPI consisting of the elected SPI, constitutional deputies and associate superintendents, specified exempt staff, and transferred civil service employees; and
- 6) Authorizing the Education Commissioner to exercise general supervision over department operations and issue orders necessary to carry out duties vested in the CDE.

AB 181 also requires the Education Commissioner to develop recommendations by October 1, 2027, for a second phase of education governance consolidation, including recommendations regarding statewide support entities, county office regional functions, the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence, the Office of Civil Rights, and the future role and staffing of the Office of the SPI

This bill amends AB 181 to require the Education Commissioner to utilize the above phase two recommendations to develop and submit a follow-up report to the Governor and appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature, on or before October 1, 2028. The bill requires that the follow-up report includes, among other things, information on the state's progress toward implementing phase two recommendations for education governance consolidation and streamlining, the identification of state actions and activities that can be consolidated and streamlined to support improved child and pupil outcomes, and recommendations for further actions that could be taken to consolidate and eliminate fragmentation and duplication.

Statewide efforts to close achievement gaps in California. Since the creation of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and the related accountability measures in 2013, California has developed the "Statewide System of Support" for all local educational agencies (LEAs), including school districts, COEs and charter schools. The goal for support at all levels is to assist LEAs and their schools in meeting the needs of each student served, with a focus on building capacity to sustain improvement and effectively address inequities in student opportunities and outcomes. The System of Support is comprised of four entities in current law: the CDE, State Board of Education (SBE), county offices of education (COEs), and California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE). Current law articulates a system of policymaking (the Governor, Legislature and SBE), data collection (CDE and LEAs), technical assistance (CDE, COEs, and CCEE), and practice (LEAs), but there is no entity formally tasked with collecting research related to achievement gaps and supporting undergraduate and preservice preparation of educators programs. Although achievement gaps are widely studied both at the national and statewide levels, few supports exist to collect, distill and distribute the findings from that research to practitioners and technical assistance providers to change statewide policies and local practice.

According to the Author

According to the author, "AB 2225 aligns the goal of closing achievement gaps with AB 181 which passed earlier this year. This bill adds metrics for the newly created Education Commissioner to specifically address closing student achievement gaps and improving student outcomes."

Arguments in Support

The CSBA writes, "This legislative package proposes that the state, similar to local school district and county office of education boards, must adopt clear goals, measurable benchmarks and transparent and understandable reporting to the public on the state's progress towards a more aligned state system that improves outcomes for California students. This north star would guide the state's public education entities and serve as a common throughline to a shared goal of closing achievement gaps."

Progress has been made in recent years, but a fragmented governance approach without a coherent and unifying state-level plan to help school districts and COEs remains one of the largest obstacles to improving student outcomes. This is not a lack of state effort. The challenge is that the state needs a coherent and cohesive operations and support plan that aligns policy and funding and focuses on how state entities are going to support school districts and COEs and measures the effectiveness of that support."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

The California Department of Education estimates General Fund costs of \$188,000 and 1.0 position to convene the working group to develop the CTAG Plan.

NOTE: The fiscal analysis reflects a previous version of this bill.

VOTES:**ASM EDUCATION: 9-0-0**

YES: Patel, Hoover, Alvarez, Bonta, Castillo, Garcia, Lowenthal, Pellerin, Zbur

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-0-4

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

ABS, ABST OR NV: Hoover, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-1-1

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle

Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO: DeMaio

ABS, ABST OR NV: Celeste Rodriguez

UPDATED

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