

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2241 (Boerner) – As Amended April 27, 2026

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 9 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill establishes the Inclusive Playground Advisory Committee within the California Department of Education (CDE) and requires the committee, by January 1, 2028, to develop and publish model guidelines for inclusive school playgrounds, as defined.

The bill defines inclusive school playground as an outdoor play area designed and constructed to ensure that individuals with physical, sensory, intellectual, or developmental disabilities can play together with nondisabled individuals.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Minor and absorbable costs to CDE.

Generally, the committee will move the suspense file any bill it determines has the primary purpose of creating a work group, task force, or commission, pursuant to the committee's rules and custom and practice.

COMMENTS:

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

Out-of-state and internationally, there are many examples of playground design going above and beyond to create experiences for children which help them grow, both socially, and mentally, as well as in developing their fine motor skills. Current California design for playgrounds is not sufficient to nurture these important skills for our children. AB 2241 would address these issues by ensuring that new and renovated playgrounds on public school campuses are inclusive, accessible, and engaging for children of all abilities, designed by an expert advisory committee and given priority funding.

2) **Background.** A review in the 2023 American Journal of Occupational Therapy found eight studies reporting that social participation, play participation, and motor skills development among certain children were negatively affected despite playgrounds being labeled accessible. A 2017 Children, Youth and Environments review also found children with disabilities are often unable to fully engage with their peers and environment due to barriers in playground structure and design. This bill requires CDE to establish a committee to

develop and publish guidelines to help educate local educational agencies about the benefits of inclusive school playgrounds and inclusive design standards.

Analysis Prepared by: Aaron Heredia / APPR. / (916) 319-2081