
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2241
Author: Boerner (D), et al.
Amended: 8/18/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/17/26

AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26

AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: School facilities: inclusive school playgrounds

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to curate and maintain an online resource demonstrating best practices for inclusive school playground design and authorizes related outreach, education, and recommendations to encourage inclusive playground features.

Senate floor amendments of 8/18/26 (1) remove the Inclusive Playground Advisory Committee and its duties and instead require CDE to curate and maintain an online resource demonstrating best practices for inclusive school playground design; and (2) authorize CDE to recommend requirements or incentives for inclusive playground features and to conduct related outreach and education with local educational agencies, advocacy organizations, and parents.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires the Department of General Services (DGS) to review plans and specifications for public buildings and school facilities to ensure compliance

with state and federal accessibility requirements, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

- 2) Requires DGS to supervise the design and construction of school buildings to ensure compliance with applicable safety and accessibility requirements.
- 3) Requires the CDE to establish standards governing the design and construction of school facilities.
- 4) Establishes the School Facility Program (SFP), administered by the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) and State Allocation Board (SAB), which provides state funding for school construction and modernization projects.
- 5) Authorizes school districts to use state school facilities funding for specified school facility improvements, including certain playground safety improvements.
- 6) Establishes the ADA, which requires public facilities, including playgrounds, to meet minimum accessibility standards for individuals with disabilities.

This bill requires CDE to curate and maintain an online resource demonstrating best practices for inclusive school playground design that reflect universal design principles and address equipment selection, surfacing, sensory features, safety, and maintenance. The bill also authorizes CDE to recommend requirements or incentives to encourage inclusive playground features and to conduct related outreach and education.

Comments

Need for the bill. According to the author, “Asm. Boerner is pleased to author AB 2241, a bill that would ensure newly built or renovated playgrounds at public schools are made with inclusivity in mind. Play is a fundamental right for every child, recognized by United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child. Federal ADA standards mandate basic accessibility, but do not ensure inclusive play features. 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.”

Existing state oversight of school facilities. California already maintains a robust framework for reviewing school facility projects. CDE, DGS through the Division of the State Architect, OPSC, and SAB all play roles in reviewing, funding, and approving school construction projects. Existing law also requires compliance with state and federal accessibility standards.

This bill does not alter those approval processes or create new design mandates. Instead, it requires CDE to curate and maintain an online resource demonstrating best practices for inclusive school playground design. These best practices are required to reflect universal design principles, address features such as equipment, surfacing, sensory features, safety, and maintenance, and draw upon the most recent relevant research regarding inclusive playground design.

A narrower, resource-based approach. Earlier versions of this bill proposed a more expansive role for the state, including the creation of a 15-member advisory committee charged with developing model guidelines, conducting outreach, making policy recommendations, and reporting periodically to the Legislature. Recent amendments remove the advisory committee and its associated duties and instead require CDE to curate and maintain an online resource demonstrating best practices for inclusive school playground design.

As amended, this bill takes a more limited approach that focuses on making research and best practices available to local educational agencies rather than establishing new playground standards or requirements. CDE may also conduct outreach and education and recommend requirements or incentives to encourage inclusive playground features, but this bill does not itself require local educational agencies to construct, renovate, or modify playgrounds consistent with the identified best practices.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

The CDE indicates that the bill's costs would depend on whether it would have a member sitting on the council. To the extent that it were to have a member appointed, there would be ongoing General Fund costs of \$188,000 and 1.0 position to support the council and provide guidance. If CDE does not have a member on the council, it would incur ongoing General Fund costs of \$56,000 to appoint a chair. The bill requires CDE to support implementation using existing resources or available grant funding.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/18/26)

Back to the Start

Coalition for Adequate Funding for Special Education

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/18/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, 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, 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 VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Ian Johnson / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/19/26 11:10:58

**** END ****