Date of Hearing: May 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Buffy Wicks, Chair
AB 2298 (Irwin) – As Amended March 19, 2026

Policy Committee: Education Vote: 9 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill defines cybersecurity skills and requires the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) to consider incorporating cybersecurity skills content into the next revision of the computer science content standards after January 1, 2027, and consider them in its criteria for evaluating instructional materials after those are next adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) after January 1, 2027.

Specifically, the bill defines cybersecurity skills to mean techniques to protect information and devices by preventing, detecting, and responding to attacks by threat actors.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No new state costs.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the Alameda County Office of Education, writing in support:

> As students spend an increasing amount of time online, their exposure to sophisticated digital threats has reached an all-time high. By integrating cybersecurity training into the curriculum, schools can equip students with the essential skills to navigate and respond to these risks. Furthermore, embedding cybersecurity within content standards can inspire many students to pursue high-demand careers in the field.

2) **Background.** In 2018, the State Board of Education (SBE) adopted California's first set of computer science standards for grades K-12. (Standards define what competencies students should be able to demonstrate in a given subject matter by grade.)

   In addition, to increase access to, and address uneven access to, computer science coursework, AB 2329 (Bonilla), Chapter 693, Statutes of 2016, required the Superintendent of Public Instruction to convene a computer science strategic implementation advisory panel to develop recommendations for the "California Computer Science Strategic Implementation Plan." The plan was to include recommendations for various aspects of computer science instruction, including broadening the pool of computer science teachers, providing professional development for educators in computer science, increasing the number of

computer science courses offered by schools, and ensuring that all students have access to quality computer science courses.

The advisory panel presented its draft recommendations and SBE adopted the plan in 2019. The plan recommended that school districts adopt a high school graduation requirement for computer science, aligned to the states core computer science standards that can be satisfied through a variety of ways: standalone computer science courses, interdisciplinary courses, or a portfolio of computational artifacts.

This bill requires the IQC, upon the next revision of the computer science content standards occurring after January 1, 207, to consider incorporating cybersecurity skills content and consider them in its criteria for evaluating instructional materials.

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