

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
Buffy Wicks, Chair  
AB 2324 (Jeff Gonzalez) – As Amended April 20, 2026

Policy Committee: Education Vote: 9 - 0

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

**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the California Department of Education (CDE), upon the next revision of the California Career Technical Education (CTE) Model Curriculum Standards, to consider adding content on the role of youth caregivers within the Personal Care and Services career pathway.

Specifically, the bill requires CDE, by July 1, 2028, in consultation with relevant entities, to provide guidance for the implementation of the Personal Care and Services career pathway, including but not limited to a focus on skills specific to in-home caregiving by youth caregivers supporting household family members. The bill also authorizes the family home as a viable location for work-based learning within the Personal Care and Services career pathway.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

Minor and absorbable costs to CDE.

**COMMENTS:**

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

Across the country, young people provide daily care and support for siblings, parents, grandparents, and other loved ones who are aging, ill, or living with disabilities. These responsibilities require maturity, compassion, resilience, and practical problem-solving skills. Despite the value of their contributions, youth caregivers frequently carry these responsibilities without recognition, resources, or structured support. Balancing school, personal development, and caregiving duties can place significant pressure on young people and limit their access to educational and career opportunities. Recognizing youth caregivers means not only acknowledging their work but also ensuring they have pathways that allow their experience to become a strength rather than a barrier. When we invest in programs that connect caregiving experience with education and workforce development, we create meaningful career pathways into fields such as healthcare, community health, and direct care. These pathways honor the skills youth caregivers already possess while equipping them with professional credentials, economic mobility, and long-term career stability.

- 2) **Background.** The California CTE Model Curriculum Standards include 15 industry sectors. Each of these sectors contains multiple career pathways. The Education, Child Development, and Family Services industry sector provides students with academic and technical preparation to pursue high-skill, high-demand careers in these related industries. The sector encompasses four distinct, yet interrelated, career pathways: Child Development, Consumer Services, Education, and Family and Human Services. Historically, California has had approximately 1 million students enrolled in CTE coursework in a given academic year, but fewer than 5,000 enrolled in the Family and Human Services pathway.

CDE is updating the California CTE Model Curriculum Standards to align with the Advance CTE National Career Clusters Framework, with planned adoption by the State Board of Education (SBE) in fall of 2027. Within the framework's Healthcare and Human Services career cluster is the Personal Care Services pathway. This bill requires CDE to consider adding content on the role of youth caregivers within the Personal Care Services pathway in the next revision of the California CTE Model Curriculum Standards.

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