

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 2460 (Celeste Rodriguez)

As Amended August 20, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires the California Department of Education (CDE) by July 1, 2027, in consultation with appropriate stakeholders, to review and update as necessary, the model behavioral health referral protocols to ensure they include guidance on providing supports in case of a local emergency related to immigration enforcement activities; and requires the governing board or body of a local educational agency (LEA) serving students in grades 7 to 12 to review and, as necessary, adopt an updated policy on referral protocols to ensure it includes guidance on immigration enforcement by July 1, 2028.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Requires the CDE, by July 1, 2027, to review, and update if necessary, the model behavioral health referral protocols.
- 2) Requires LEA governing boards or bodies, by July 1, 2028, to review, and update if necessary, their policy on referral protocols.
- 3) Removes the requirements for the CDE and LEAs to post the referral protocols on their websites.

COMMENTS

Immigration status among California children and parents. Approximately 4.2 million children in California had at least one immigrant parent in 2017-18, according to the Urban Institute. Of these children, 93% are U.S. citizens. Over 1 million children in California have at least one undocumented parent.

Harm to children from immigration enforcement. According to a report from the Center for American Progress, it is not simply enforcement actions themselves, such as detentions, deportations, raids, or traffic stops, that affect undocumented immigrants and their communities, but it is also the fear of enforcement actions. The expansion of immigration enforcement pushes even those with legal status to fear that their loved ones could be deported. This fear can take many forms, such as individuals refusing to leave their homes or take their children to school due to an impending raid. Within the school, these actions instill fear in young people and their families, making them perceive schools as a place where family members may be detained. In some cases, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers detained parents after they dropped their children off at school. Students may underperform or exit school early based on fears of detention or the knowledge that, without legal status, access to higher education and a good job are inaccessible. (Center for American Progress, 2012)

This report further notes that "some youth, particularly those whose parents are undocumented, learn early on that their undocumented status makes them different, vulnerable, and even suspect. This is especially driven home by nervous parents who, when fearful of deportation, may not take their children, including U.S.-born children, to school. Even though research by the Urban Institute found that schools provide a safe haven for children who have lost a family member to

immigration enforcement, helping these students cope and adjust, the schools can only provide these functions when parents feel comfortable enough to send their children, not fearing immigration reprisal." (Center for American Progress, 2012)

In addition to impacts on a child's schooling, "families may avoid interacting with officials in social service agencies, even when this means denying children the social, medical, and educational services they need and are entitled to. In the process, children learn to be fearful of authorities who may, at any moment during a regular activity such as attending school, separate them from their families or send them to a country they do not remember or simply do not know." (Center for American Progress, 2012)

CDE developed model referral protocols for addressing student behavioral health concerns. AB 309 (Gabriel) Chapter 662, Statutes of 2021 requires the CDE, in consultation with the DHCS, to develop mental health model referral protocols for voluntary use by schools to address the appropriate and timely referral by school staff of students with mental health concerns. SB 153 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) Chapter 38, Statutes of 2024, requires the CDE, before June 1, 2025, to develop these protocols for use, and requires LEAs to adopt a policy on referral protocols by January 31, 2026.

According to the Author

"Students cannot succeed in school when fear and trauma keep them from the classroom. In many immigrant communities, aggressive immigration enforcement has created deep anxiety for children who fear family separation, parental detention, or sudden disruption at home. That fear does not stay outside the school gates — it affects attendance, concentration, emotional well-being, and a student's ability to learn.

AB 2460 recognizes that schools need a clearer mental health framework to respond when students are experiencing this kind of community-wide trauma. California's children deserve learning environments that are prepared to support them with stability, compassion, and continuity during times of crisis."

Arguments in Support

La Cooperativa Campesina de California writes, " This legislation addresses a growing need. Recent immigration enforcement activities have been linked to increased student absences, heightened anxiety, and long-term emotional distress among children. Yet schools currently lack a uniform statewide protocol for responding when immigration-related trauma affects a student's well-being and educational outcomes. AB 2460 provides schools with practical tools to better support vulnerable students while reinforcing California's longstanding commitment to safe, inclusive learning environments. Every child deserves the opportunity to learn in an environment where they feel safe, supported, and connected to the services they need to succeed. By ensuring schools are better equipped to recognize and respond to the impacts of immigration-related trauma, AB 2460 represents an important investment in the health, well-being, and educational success of California's children."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8, negligible state costs.

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

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

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 12-1-2

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

NO: Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Dixon, Ta

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 65-9-6

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO: DeMaio, Ellis, Flora, Hadwick, Johnson, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Chen, Dixon, Gallagher, Lackey, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta

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