

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2468 (Patel) – As Amended April 13, 2026

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 8 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: Yes

**SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes the Supporting Innovative Practices (SIP) project, subject to an appropriation for this purpose, administered by the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE) to provide technical assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) supporting the proliferation of evidence-based practices increasing inclusion of students with disabilities within general education settings and improving academic outcomes for this student subgroup. The bill also requires the CCEE to submit an annual report to the Legislature summarizing its activities, the number of LEAs receiving assistance, collaboration with other CCEE initiatives, and policy recommendations.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

Ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressures of at least \$30 million annually.

The establishment of the SIP project and the bill's requirements are contingent upon funding in the annual Budget Act for this purpose, for which the bill states legislative intent of at least \$30 million. Currently, federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds SIP activities carried out by the CDE and federal law restricts these funds to each state's respective State Education Agency (SEA), which is CDE. Additionally, existing law funds the CCEE's operations through an annual appropriation from Proposition 98 General Fund.

**COMMENTS:**

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

Recent research from Policy Analysis for California Education shows that districts participating in the Supporting Innovative Practices project have increased inclusion at a rate significantly higher than the state average. Over five years, SIP districts experienced 13 times the growth compared to the state average. Districts required to participate by the California Department of Education because of low rates of inclusion experienced growth 6 times the state average. AB 2468 will ensure that SIP is able to continue and expand its successful work, as well as align and integrate it with the other improvement initiatives.

2) **Background. Inclusion.** "Inclusion" is when a student with disabilities is placed in general education settings with appropriate supports. Inclusion also includes students with disabilities

in other school programs as full members of the school community and ensures school staff are provided with the knowledge and resources to effectively teach all students. One inclusive practice supported by research is the “UDL” approach to teaching. When a teacher uses UDL, they provide access to the course materials in a way that all students can engage, including a student with disabilities. For example, when teaching shapes, a teacher might show a 2-D diagram of a shape, and, to allow visually impaired students to participate, also encourage students to touch a 3-D model of the shape, thereby allowing all students to engage with learning shapes.

***Least Restrictive Environment.*** Inclusive practices, supported by efforts such as the SIP project, help facilitate placements for students with disabilities in the “least restrictive environment,” meaning students with disabilities are educated with children who are nondisabled to the maximum extent appropriate. Federal law requires local educational agencies to educate students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment and requires related data collection. According to Disability Rights California, writing in support of this bill:

Too many students in California remain in unnecessarily restrictive placements. This gap is not due to a lack of evidence, but a lack of consistent systems training and support to implement inclusive practices effectively. AB 2468 (Patel) addresses this challenge by codifying and expanding the SIP project, a model that provides targeted technical assistance to school districts. Districts participating in SIP have significantly increased inclusive placements compared to the statewide average demonstrating the effectiveness of sustained, practice-based support.

***SIP Project.*** While not established in statute, the Special Education Division of the California Department of Education (CDE) has administered the SIP project for the last ten years along with two COEs. The project helps LEAs strengthen inclusive practices through tiered technical assistance and support.

According to the Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE), the SIP project integrates support for cultural and organizational change, practice-based tools, and differentiated technical assistance. Practices supported by SIP include addressing underlying structures that enable inclusive education, expand leadership mindset and culture, and promote data-driven planning, continuous improvement, and cross-role collaboration and shared leadership. SIP delivers support to LEAs through one of three tiers: foundational resources for all LEAs, a cohort of voluntary grantees receiving tailored technical assistance, and LEAs identified through CDE’s Compliance and Improvement Monitoring that receive intensive, individualized support.

This bill would establish the SIP project in statute and place its administration within the CCEE, with implementation of its provisions contingent upon funding being appropriated for this purpose.