
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2468 (Patel) - School accountability: pupils with disabilities: inclusion

Version: June 22, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: ED. 7 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill Summary: This bill establishes the Supporting Inclusive Practices (SIP) Project in statute and assigns responsibility for statewide universal technical assistance to the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE) and responsibility for targeted compliance-related support to the California Department of Education (CDE).

Fiscal Impact:

- This bill could lead to one-time General Fund cost pressure of at least \$30 million for the project. The bill's provisions are contingent upon an appropriation and includes legislative intent to appropriate at least \$30 million over five years to the CCEE, in addition to separate funding for CDE. The AB 126 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 65, Statutes of 2026), the education trailer bill, includes \$30 million for this purpose.
- The CCEE estimates General Fund costs ranging from \$1.8 million to \$2.9 million over five years to administer and coordinate the universal support components of the SIP Project. The higher end of the range includes the cost for 3.0 positions and resources necessary to collaborate with an institution of higher education to support evaluation of the project, including the use of evidence-based practices, for the purpose of continuous improvement of the project.
- The CDE estimates ongoing General Fund costs of \$378,000 and 2.0 positions to oversee the new activities of coordinating with the CCEE and the new governance administration.

Background: Existing law requires each local educational agency (LEA) to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to eligible pupils with disabilities in accordance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). It requires pupils with disabilities to be educated in the least restrictive environment (LRE), such that they are educated alongside nondisabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate and removed from the general education environment only when necessary.

Existing law requires California to develop and implement a State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR) measuring the state's performance under IDEA, including indicators related to LRE placements.

Existing law establishes the CCEE to advise and assist LEAs in achieving the goals established in local control and accountability plans through the statewide system of support, including differentiated assistance and direct technical assistance.

Proposed Law: This bill establishes the SIP Project and requires it to be jointly administered by the CDE and the CCEE, through contracts or a memorandum of understanding with one or two county offices of education (COEs).

This bill assigns responsibility to CDE for targeted technical assistance provided to LEAs identified through IDEA SPP indicators and the department's general supervision process, and assigns responsibility to CCEE for universal statewide technical assistance, including professional learning, demonstration sites, educator resources, inclusion academies, teacher preparation partnerships, and project evaluation.

This bill requires CDE and CCEE to coordinate implementation through shared referral processes, data-sharing protocols, and annual joint reviews, and also requires annual reports to the Legislature describing project activities, participation, outcomes, and recommendations.

This bill requires both agencies to ensure implementation is consistent with existing federal and state special education rights, including individualized education program (IEP) requirements and protections for pupils who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind.

This bill conditions implementation upon an appropriation and expresses legislative intent to appropriate at least \$30 million over five years to CCEE, in addition to separate funding for CDE.

Staff Comments: The SIP Project has operated administratively for about 10 years through CDE and COEs. This bill establishes the project in statute and specifies how it must be administered and includes the activities it must conduct, the agencies responsible for implementation, coordination requirements, and annual reporting. It is intended to integrate inclusive instructional practices in the state's broader statewide system of support. The bill also assigns responsibility for universal supports, including statewide professional learning, educator resources, inclusion academies, demonstration sites, and teacher preparation partnerships, to CCEE, while CDE would continue administering targeted technical assistance connected to its federal monitoring responsibilities.

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