

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2496 (Solache) – As Amended April 27, 2026

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 8 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the California Department of Education (CDE), by March 1, 2027, to develop a crosswalk indicating where information comparable to information required in the School Accountability Report Card (SARC) is found on the California School Dashboard and notify the State Board of Education (SBE). The SBE must, by January 1, 2029, certify that all elements of the school accountability report card, as specified, are available on CDE's internet website.

The bill also repeals the requirement on a local educational agency (LEA) to present a midyear update on its Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

Minor and absorbable costs to CDE.

**COMMENTS:**

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

By streamlining duplicative reporting requirements, AB 2496 would alleviate the increased reporting burden schools face while maximizing our educational resources. Designating the California School Dashboard as the state's definitive tool for school accountability and public transparency would refine duplicative and outdated statutory requirements placed upon our education agencies. Because it is important that we use our educational resources efficiently to ensure the best outcomes for our children. Much of the information historically reported through SARC is now reported through the Dashboard and related LCFF tools.

2) **Background.** Current law requires that schools receiving state funding, including charter schools and nonpublic schools (NPS), prepare and distribute a SARC. The original purpose of SARC was to provide information about each school so parents could make meaningful comparisons between public schools, enabling them to make informed decisions on the school in which to enroll their children. The public may also use a SARC to evaluate and compare schools on a variety of indicators. SARCs are required to be updated annually by February 1st. Since the enactment of the SARC as part of Proposition 98 in 1988, the

Legislature has placed many additional accountability and reporting requirements on LEAs, which has led to duplicative workload on LEA staff and unclear benchmarks and standards.

- 3) **Support.** The bill is supported by several education management groups and individual LEAs. According to the California Association of School Business Officials:

AB 2496 seeks to remedy this by prioritizing and strengthening the Dashboard as the state's primary transparency and accountability tool. The Dashboard already contains much of the same information required in the SARC, including academic performance, academic engagement, classroom discipline, and teacher assignments. It also reflects California's current accountability system, including critical student group data, and is released over three months before the SARC, ensuring timely sharing of information. AB 2496 would require the CDE to maintain a historical archive of the SARC and a crosswalk that identifies where to find the data that makes up each component of the most recent SARC template. If key information is not readily available in another location, the bill would require CDE to flag those items for the State Board of Education to consider incorporating into the Dashboard.

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