
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2496 (Solache) - Local educational agencies: reports: school accountability report card: California School Dashboard: local control accountability plan: local control funding formula budget overview

Version: July 6, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: ED. 7 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill Summary: This bill requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to provide a report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), the Governor, and the Legislature that identifies duplication between the data contained in the school accountability report card (SARC) and other publicly available data sources.

Fiscal Impact: The CDE estimates one-time General Fund costs of \$50,000 to hire temporary staff to complete the report.

Background: Existing law requires any school district maintaining an elementary or secondary school to develop and cause to be prepared an annual audit accounting for such funds and to adopt a SARC for each school. It also requires every local school board to prepare a SARC to guarantee accountability for the dollars spent.

Existing law requires the governing board of each school district maintaining an elementary or secondary school to develop and cause to be implemented for each school in the school district a SARC. It requires the governing board of each school district annually to issue a SARC for each school in the school district, publicize those reports, and notify parents or guardians of pupils that a hard copy will be provided upon request. The law also requires each school district to make hard copies of its annually updated report card available, upon request, on or before February 1 of each year.

Existing law requires the SARC provide data by which a parent can make meaningful comparisons between public schools that will enable him or her to make informed decisions on the school in which to enroll his or her children.

Existing law requires the SARC to include, but be limited to, assessment of numerous school conditions, including pupil achievement by grade level, as measured by the standardized testing and reporting programs; progress toward reducing dropout rates; estimated expenditures per pupil and types of services funded; progress toward reducing class sizes and teaching loads, including the distribution of class sizes at the schoolsite by grade level and the average class size for the most recent three-year period; and the total number of the school's fully credentialed teachers, the number of teachers relying upon emergency credentials, the number of teachers working without credentials, any assignment of teachers outside their subject areas of competence, misassignments, including misassignments of teachers of ELs, and the number of vacant teacher positions for the most recent three-year period.

Proposed Law: This bill removes the existing requirement for a school to report on the status of its comprehensive school safety plan in its annual SARC.

This bill requires the CDE, on or before March 1, 2027, to provide a report to the SPI, the Governor, and the Legislature that identifies duplication between the data contained in the SARC and other publicly available data sources.

This bill requires the CDE, in complying with the report above, to do the following for each table in the most recent SARC template adopted by the SBE:

1. Identify the statutory requirement that requires the data to be submitted by school districts and note each instance where the template exceeds statutory requirement.
2. Identify the other publicly available data sources that provide substantially similar information, including the California School Dashboard, CDE's DataQuest internet website, and any data element that is required to be included in another plan or report, including but not limited to, a LCAP or the School Plan for Student Achievement.
3. Analyze how closely the data identified above aligns with or differs from the current data available in the SARC, as specified.

This bill requires the CDE to also identify any instance where data provided by school districts in SARC is used to satisfy other state or federal requirements, and what other alternatives may exist to satisfy those same requirements.

This bill specifies that the reporting requirement shall only remain in effect until January 1, 2028, and as of that date is repealed.

This bill removes the existing requirement that each school within the jurisdiction, if a school district or COE, include the results of physical fitness testing of pupils in the SARC. It also removes the existing requirement for the governing board of a school district to report the aggregate results of its physical performance testing in its SARC.

This bill removes the existing requirement for a governing board of a school district, a county board of education, or a governing body of a charter school to present a midyear update report on the LCAP and the LCFF budget overview, and instead provides an authorization to do so.

Staff Comments: This bill seeks to facilitate the eventual phase out of the SARC by requiring the CDE to compile a report identifying areas where reporting requirements for the SARC overlap with the Dashboard and other CDE data platforms. 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. As a result, the SARC largely duplicates existing reporting systems, creating unnecessary administrative workload for districts. In addition, separate requirements such as the mid-year LCAP update further contribute to reporting demands beyond the annual LCAP adoption process. Collectively, these overlapping requirements divert time and resources away from student-focused efforts and underscore the need to consolidate duplicative reporting statutes while preserving public access to essential information.”

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