
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2496
Author: Solache (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 7/1/26

AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26

AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/18/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Local educational agencies: reports: school accountability report card: California School Dashboard: local control accountability plan: local control funding formula budget overview

SOURCE: Association of California School Administrators
California Association of School Business Officials
California School Boards Association

DIGEST: 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.

Senate floor amendments of 8/21/26: 1) strike the requirement for the CDE to submit the specified report to the SPI and the Governor and 2) make clarifying changes to the type of data that must be identified to determine where local educational agency reported or published information may be duplicative.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) 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. Requires every local school board to prepare a SARC to guarantee accountability for the dollars spent. (California Constitution, Article XVI, § 8.5)
- 2) 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. 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. Requires, commencing with the 2008–09 school year, each school district to make hard copies of its annually updated report card available, upon request, on or before February 1 of each year. (Education Code (EC) § 35256)
- 3) Requires that 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. (EC § 33126)
- 4) Requires the SARC to include, but be limited to, assessment of the following school conditions:
 - a) Pupil achievement by grade level, as measured by the standardized testing and reporting programs;
 - b) Progress toward reducing dropout rates;
 - c) Estimated expenditures per pupil and types of services funded;
 - d) 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;
 - e) 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;

- f) Quality and currency of textbooks and other instructional materials, including whether textbooks and other materials meet state standards and are adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) for kindergarten and grades 1 to 8, inclusive, and adopted by the governing boards of school districts for grades 9 to 12, inclusive, and the ratio of textbooks per pupil and the year the textbooks were adopted;
 - g) The availability of sufficient textbooks and other instructional materials for each pupil, including English learners (ELs);
 - h) The availability of qualified personnel to provide counseling and other pupil support services, including the ratio of academic counselors per pupil;
 - i) Safety, cleanliness, and adequacy of school facilities, including any needed maintenance to ensure good repair;
 - j) The annual number of schooldays dedicated to staff development for the most recent three-year period;
 - k) Suspension and expulsion rates for the most recent three-year period;
 - l) For secondary schools, the percentage of graduates who have passed course requirements for entrance to the University of California (UC) and the California State University (CSU), including the course requirements for high school graduation, and the percentage of pupils enrolled in those courses;
 - m) The number of advanced placement (AP) courses offered, by subject;
 - n) The Academic Performance Index (API);
 - o) Contact information pertaining to organized opportunities for parental involvement; and
 - p) Career technical education data measures for secondary schools. (EC § 33126)
- 5) Requires, commencing in July 2000, and every July thereafter, each school to report on the status of its school safety plan, including a description of its key elements in the annual SARC. (EC § 32286)
- 6) Requires the CDE to develop and recommend for adoption by the SBE a standardized template intended to simplify the process for completing the

SARC and make the SARC more meaningful to the public by July 1, 2006.
(EC § 33216.1 and 332126.15)

- 7) Requires the results of the physical fitness testing of students to be included in the SARC. (EC § 33352)
- 8) Requires a superintendent of a school district, county superintendent, or charter school, as applicable, to present a report on the annual update to the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) budget overview for parents on or before February 28 of each year as part of a nonconsent item at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing board of the school district, county governing board, or governing body of the charter school, as applicable. Requires the report to include both of the following:
 - a) All available midyear outcome data related to metrics identified in the current year's LCAP; and
 - b) All available midyear expenditure and implementation data on all actions identified in the current year's LCAP. (EC §§ 47606.5, 52062, and 52068)
- 9) Requires the governing board of a school district to report the aggregate results of its physical performance testing administered on its SARC. (EC § 60800)
- 10) Requires LEAs to adopt and annually revise LCAPs. (EC §§ 47604.33, 52060, and 52066)

This bill:

- 1) Requires the CDE, on or before August 31, 2027, to provide a report to the Legislature that identifies duplication between the data contained in the SARC and other publicly available data sources.
- 2) 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:
 - a) Identify the statutory requirement that requires the data to be submitted by school districts and note each instance where the template exceeds statutory requirement.

- b) Identify the other publicly available data sources that provide substantially similar information. Specified that sources of other data include, but is not limited to, all of the following:
 - i) The California School Dashboard, as specified.
 - ii) The CDE's DataQuest internet website.
 - iii) Any other internet webpage or system managed by the CDE.
 - iv) Any other internet webpage or system managed by other state entities, as specified.
 - v) Any data related to measures on the most recent SARC template adopted by the SBE that a school district is also required by statute or regulation to do any of the following with that data:
 - (1) Post on its internet website.
 - (2) Present at a governing board meeting
 - (3) Include in another plan or report, including, but not limited to, an LCAP or the School Plan for Student Achievement.
 - c) Analyze how closely the data identified in b) above aligns with or differs from the current data available in the SARC. This may include, but is not limited to, an indication that the data is identical, that the information is similar but not identical with a notation of the differences, or that the information addresses the same topic but is available at a different level, such as at a school district level when the SARC requires schoolsite-level information.
- 3) Requires the CDE, in complying with the report above in #1, to identify any instance where data provided by school districts in a SARC is used to satisfy other state or federal requirements and what other alternative may exist to satisfy those same requirements.
 - 4) States the Legislature's intent that the CDE makes a broad interpretation of the similarity of other publicly available data sources so as to promote a robust analysis of the degree of duplication. However, differences should be thoroughly described, as specified.

- 5) Requires the CDE to exclude from its report tables or data elements that have been removed from statute but not yet removed from the SARC.
- 6) Specifies that the reporting requirement above shall only remain in effect until January 1, 2028, and as of that date is repealed.
- 7) Removes the existing requirement that each school within the jurisdiction, if a school district or county office of education (COE), include the results of physical fitness testing of pupils in the SARC.
- 8) 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.
- 9) Removes the existing requirement for a school to report on the status of its comprehensive school safety plan (CSSP) in its annual SARC.
- 10) Removes the February 28 deadline for the 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.
- 11) Makes a series of findings and declarations related to the utility of the SARC in light of newer accountability systems.
- 12) States that it is the intent of the Legislature to (1) consolidate, truncate, or replace duplicative or obsolete reports that increase the reporting burden of local educational agencies (LEAs) and do not benefit accountability, transparency, parent and family engagement in local planning and accountability, and pupil achievement, and (2) Ensure that reporting mechanisms provide information in meaningful, accessible, and efficient ways to enable the active involvement of parents and guardians, pupils, educators, community leaders, school boards, and schoolsite teams in local decision making.

Comments

Need for the bill. 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.”

California School Dashboard. The Dashboard is an online tool that shares school and LEA performance and progress on both state and local measures that are drawn from the eight priority areas of the LCFF. State measures apply to LEAs, charter schools, and student groups, and are based on data that is collected annually across the state. The state measures are as follows: Academic Performance (reported separately for English language arts and Math assessments); Chronic Absenteeism; College/Career; English Learner Progress; Graduation Rate; Suspension Rate; and Science. LEAs receive one of five color-coded performance levels on the state indicators. From highest to lowest, the five performance levels are: Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange, and Red.

Local measures apply at the LEA and charter school level and are based on data collected at the local level. Provided an LEA satisfies the performance standards for each local measure, the Dashboard will automatically assign a performance level of Met. If an LEA does not meet the performance standards, the Dashboard will automatically assign a performance level of Not Met or Not Met for Two or More Years, as applicable.

The Dashboard is updated annually. For LEAs and schools in need of additional assistance or intervention, the Dashboard helps identify specific areas in need of targeted assistance.

DataQuest. DataQuest is the CDE’s web-based data reporting system for publicly reporting information about California students, teachers, and schools. DataQuest provides access to a wide variety of reports, including school performance, test results, student enrollment, EL, graduation and dropout, school staffing, course enrollment, and student misconduct data.

SARC. Since the passage of Proposition 98 in 1988, state law has required that schools receiving state funding prepare and distribute a SARC. A similar requirement is also contained in the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The purpose of the SARC is to provide parents and guardians with important information about each school and its progress in achieving its goals. Parents can also use this information to make meaningful comparisons between public schools that will enable them to make informed decisions on the school in which to enroll their children. SARCs are required to be annually updated, approved by the governing board of a school district, and issued by February 1st.

While there may be variations with each school's design of its SARC, each generally begins with a profile that provides background information about the school and its students. The profile usually summarizes the school's mission, goals, and accomplishments.

State law requires schools to notify all parents about the availability of the SARC and provide parents with instructions about how the SARC can be obtained through the internet and on paper upon request. The CDE maintains a web page that allows parents and the public to view the current and two prior years of SARC reports that have been submitted to the Department by the schools and LEAs.

LCAPs and mid-year updates. In 2013, California's education funding system was fundamentally changed with the enactment of the LCFF. The LCFF is designed to improve student outcomes by providing more resources to meet the educational needs of low-income students, ELs, and foster youth. The reforms to the funding system were accompanied by changes to the state accountability system, including LCAPs. The LCAP is a three-year plan that describes the goals, actions, services, and expenditures to support positive student outcomes that address state and local priorities. The LCAP provides an opportunity for LEAs (school districts, COEs, and charter schools) to share their stories of how, what, and why programs and services are selected to meet their local needs.

Current law requires that, before the governing board of a school district considers the adoption of an LCAP, numerous and specific steps be taken to ensure public input in the development of the LCAP. This includes consulting with teachers, principals, administrators, other school personnel, local bargaining units of the school district, parents, and pupils.

Existing law also requires all LEAs to present a report on the annual update to the LCAP and the LCFF Budget Overview for Parents on or before February 28 of each year at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing board or body of the LEA. These reports must include both of the following: (1) all available mid-year outcome data related to metrics identified in the current year's LCAP, and (2) all available mid-year expenditure and implementation data on all actions identified in the current year's LCAP.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

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

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

Association of California School Administrators (co-source)
 California Association of School Business Officials (co-source)
 California School Boards Association (co-source)
 California Association of Suburban School Districts
 California State PTA
 Fresno County Office of Education
 Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office
 Los Angeles Unified School District
 Office of the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools
 San Joaquin County Office of Education
 Santa Clara County Office of Education
 Small School Districts Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/18/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez,

Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache,
Soria, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Calderon, Dixon, Gallagher, Lee, Quirk-Silva, Celeste
Rodriguez, Stefani, Wicks

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