

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 2496 (Solache)

As Amended August 21, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to provide a report to the Legislature that identifies duplication between the data contained in the school accountability report card (SARC) and other publicly available data sources.

Senate Amendments

- 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, as provided.
- 2) Removes a provision that would have required the CDE to develop a crosswalk that indicates where information comparable to what is required to be included in the school accountability report card can be found on the California School Dashboard or another internet website, web page, or system managed by the department, as provided. Further removes a provision that would have required the State Board of Education (SBE) to certify that all data elements required to be included in the SARC, except specified data elements, are either available in a substantially similar, but not necessarily identical, way on the CDE's website or other public data source, or are in progress toward being available on the CDE's website.
- 3) Removes SARC reporting requirements that each school annually report on the status of its school safety plan, and the results of the Physical Fitness Test.
- 4) Removes the timing requirement of on or before February 28 of each year for the superintendent of each school district and county office of education (COE) to present a report on the annual update to the local control and accountability plan (LCAP) and the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) budget overview for parents each hear as a part of a nonconsent item at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing board of the school district.

COMMENTS

SARCs. Since the passage of Proposition 98 in November 1988, state law has required that schools receiving state funding to prepare and distribute a SARC, including charter schools and nonpublic schools. A similar requirement is also contained in the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The original purpose of the SAR 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. SARCs are required to be updated annually by February 1st. This annual deadline falls at a time in the school year just prior to, or the start of, the administration of state assessments. Each SARC begins with a profile that typically summarizes the school's mission, goals, and accomplishments. State law requires that the SARC contain demographic data; school safety and climate for learning information; academic data; school completion rates; class sizes; teacher and staff information; curriculum and instruction descriptions; postsecondary preparation information; and fiscal and expenditure data. The CDE populates the majority of the electronic

SARC template tables where data are required and provides corresponding downloadable data files. The data that CDE pre-populates into the public school electronic SARC templates are data that the public schools/local educational agencies (LEAs) provided to the CDE during the school year.

Schools are required to notify parents of SARC availability. State law generally encourages schools to make a concerted effort to notify parents of the purpose of the SARC and to ensure that all parents receive a copy of the report card for the school their child attends. If 15% or more of a school's enrolled students speak a single primary language other than English, state law requires that the SARC also be prepared and made available to these parents in the appropriate primary language.

Williams v. State of California. In 2004, a settlement agreement was reached in the case of *Williams v. State of California*. SB 550 (Vasconcellos), Chapter 900, Statutes of 2004, implemented portions of the settlement agreement in the case of *Williams, et al. v. State of California, et al.* that impacted the SARC. As a component of the settlement agreement, the bill added additional reporting requirements relating to any needed maintenance to ensure "good repair" of school facilities, the number of teacher "misassignments" and "vacant teacher positions," and the availability of "sufficient textbooks and other instructional materials."

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: 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. Local measures apply at the LEA and charter school level and are based on data collected at the local level. 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.

LCAPs and the midyear update. The LCFF was established in the 2013-14 fiscal year to address the achievement gap by providing more equitable funding among LEAs, that is, to provide a higher level of funding to LEAs that enroll larger numbers of English learners, foster youth, and students eligible for free-or reduced-price meals (unduplicated pupils) so they could provide those students with additional services and support. 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, including consulting with parents and soliciting input from the public. All LEAs are required to present a

report on the annual update to the LCAP and the LCFF Budget Overview for Parents on or before February 28th of each year at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing board or body of the LEA. The mid-year report is required to include: all available mid-year outcome data related to metrics identified in the current year's LCAP, and all available mid-year expenditure and implementation data on all actions identified in the current year's LCAP.

According to the Author

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."

Arguments in Support

The California School Business Officials (CASBO) writes, "When Proposition 98 (Prop 98) established the SARC in 1988, it was a groundbreaking tool for transparency. Supporters of the ballot initiative said, "Prop 98 makes schools accountable by requiring that each school make public a progress report on test scores, dropout rates, classroom discipline, class size, instructional materials, the quality of instruction and school leadership. Since then, the educational landscape shifted in 2013 with the LCFF and the subsequent launch of the Dashboard and the LCAP. These two systems form the basis of our current accountability system and provide the same information that the supporters of Prop 98 envisioned with the SARC. As a result, California districts are maintaining two separate, largely duplicative accountability systems. This "compliance overlap" increases administrative workload without a commensurate increase in transparency. AB 2496 seeks to remedy this by beginning a process to identify the duplication in our educational data reporting structures. Specifically, AB 2496 would require the CDE to issue a report that identifies similarities and differences between each SARC data element and data contained in other education reporting systems, such as the Dashboard. This would provide the first comprehensive analysis of where the duplication exists for future conversations. In addition, AB 2496 would remove two elements of the SARC that were added following the passage of Prop 98, the Physical Fitness Test results and the status update on the school safety plan. These two elements are input into the SARC by LEAs, despite the state no longer requiring the former, and the latter being a poor substitute for providing parents with the full school safety plan each year."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

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

VOTES:**ASM EDUCATION: 8-0-1**

YES: Patel, Hoover, Bonta, Castillo, Garcia, Lowenthal, Pellerin, Zbur

ABS, ABST OR NV: Alvarez

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Bauer-Kahan, Calderon, Caloza, Ellis, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0-8

YES: 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

ABS, ABST OR NV: Calderon, Dixon, Gallagher, Lee, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Stefani, Wicks

UPDATED

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CONSULTANT: Marguerite Ries / ED. / (916) 319-2087

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