
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2555 (Patel) - English learners: reclassification

Version: June 10, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 13, 2026

Policy Vote: ED. 7 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill Summary: This bill makes various changes to the system for reclassifying English learners as English proficient, including the establishment of a standardized reclassification process based on demonstrated English language proficiency and limiting the reclassification criteria to the assessment of English language development (ELD).

***** ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *****

The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on August 13, 2026

Fiscal Impact:

- This bill could result in Proposition 98 General Fund apportionment revenue losses to local educational agencies (LEAs) associated with reduced supplemental Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) funding for students no longer designated as English learners. The extent of these costs is unknown and would depend on the number of students that are reclassified as English proficient based on the new reclassification criteria. Additionally, these costs may be offset by savings associated with LEAs no longer needing to provide English Language Development resources to English learners that have been reclassified as proficient.
- The California Department of Education (CDE) estimates General Fund costs of \$3.5 million and a minimum of 8.0 positions across multiple divisions in the department to comply with the bill's requirements. However, staff notes that not all of these costs are attributed to this bill as CDE indicates that some of these divisions have been under-resourced with meeting existing workload.
- This bill could result in one-time General Fund cost pressures, potentially in the hundreds of thousands to low millions of dollars, for the state to provide funding for CDE to contract for the development of content-aligned rubrics and sample alternative coursework, and an evaluation of the bill's reclassification reforms. These provisions are subject to an appropriation.

Author Amendments: Provide that the bill's requirements would be subject to the availability of the development of rubrics and sample alternate pupil work and performance tasks, as specified; require LEAs to submit a reclassification by alternate coursework code within the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System, and for CDE to generate a department report and an LEA report and make the pupil as reclassified; add an urgency clause; and make clarifying and technical changes.

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