
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2651 (Bonta) - Informed Parents, Healthy Schools Act

Version: June 25, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: HEALTH 9 - 2, ED. 4 - 2

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 2651 would require the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to annually inform a private or public elementary or secondary school, childcare center, day nursery, nursery school, family day care home, or development center, and the county public health department and the local health officer, when, at that school or institution, an immunization rate for one or more vaccines against one or more diseases is determined to fall below a relevant immunization rate, to be established by the CDPH.

Fiscal Impact:

- The CDPH estimates annual General Fund costs of \$1,152,000 in 2027-28 through 2029-30 and ongoing costs of \$1,059,000 beginning in 2030-31 for state administration. Costs would cover the need for staffing resources to provide research and program support to assess disease risk categorization based on immunization rates and prepare and post annual data files. Costs would also cover translations of template communications into relevant languages and the cost of promulgating regulations.
- Unknown potential Proposition 98 General Fund costs to school districts for administration to provide the notices. Costs would be potentially reimbursable by the state, subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates.

Background: State law prohibits the governing authority of a school or other institution from unconditionally admitting any person as a pupil of any private or public elementary or secondary school, child care center, day nursery, nursery school, family day care home, or development center, unless, prior to his or her first admission to that institution, he or she has been fully immunized against diphtheria, haemophilus influenzae type b, measles, mumps, pertussis, poliomyelitis, rubella, tetanus, hepatitis b, and varicella. The CDPH may add to this list any other disease deemed appropriate, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians. Current law exempts children with legally compliant medical exemptions from immunization requirements.

The governing authority of each school or institution must file a written report with the CDPH and the local health department, at least annually, on the immunization status of new entrants to the school or institution. The local health department must have complete health information as it relates to immunization of each student in the schools or institutions to determine immunization deficiencies.

Current law requires CDPH to annually review immunization reports from all schools and institutions in order to identify medical exemption forms that must be subject to review if they are from any of the following:

- Schools or institutions with an overall immunization rate of less than 95 percent.
- Physicians and surgeons who have submitted five or more medical exemptions in a calendar year.
- Schools or institutions that do not provide reports of vaccination rates to the department.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Require CDPH to establish, and update as needed, the immunization rate necessary to prevent the spread of each communicable disease, as specified.
- Require CDPH to establish notification procedures to annually inform a private or public elementary or secondary school, childcare center, day nursery, nursery school, family day care home, or development center, and the county public health department and the local health officer, when, at that school or institution, an immunization rate for one or more vaccines against one or more diseases is determined to fall below the relevant immunization rate established by CDPH; and require the notification to be written by the CDPH, as specified.
- Require CDPH to apply existing data de-identification standards and methodologies to protect individual privacy, including, but not limited to, when reporting immunization rates for a school or institution with low enrollment could reasonably risk the identification of an individual child.
- Provide that a child is excluded from the immunization-rate calculation if the child meets one of the following criteria:
 - The child has a permanent or temporary medical exemption, as specified.
 - The child has been conditionally admitted to the school or institution, whereby the child who has not been fully immunized against one or more of the diseases is admitted on condition that within certain time periods he or she presents evidence that he or she has been fully immunized against all of the diseases.
 - The child is enrolled in an independent study program, as specified, and does not receive classroom-based instruction.
- Require that when a school or institution receives the above notification from the CDPH, the school or institution must, within 10 business days of receiving that notification, distribute that notification to the parents or guardians of enrolled children in a manner determined by the school or institution.