
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: AB 2726 **Hearing Date:** June 3, 2026
Author: Fong
Version: April 13, 2026
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** No
Consultant: Ian Johnson

Subject: School facilities: disposal of surplus technology property.

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes school districts, county offices of education (COEs), and community college districts to establish streamlined processes for disposing of surplus technology property, including through online auctions, trade-in or buyback programs, negotiated sales, and donations, while requiring governing boards to adopt policies addressing competition, data security, and environmentally responsible disposal practices.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Authorizes the governing board of a school district or community college district to sell personal property that is no longer needed, is being replaced, or is unsuitable for school use, subject to specified notice and bidding requirements.
- 2) Authorizes school districts to conduct sales of personal property through public auction, including auctions conducted by private auction firms.
- 3) Authorizes school districts to sell low-value personal property through private sale or donate property that lacks sufficient value to justify sale costs.
- 4) Authorizes school districts to dispose of personal property for replacement purposes through bid processes that include trade-in credits toward replacement equipment.
- 5) Requires proceeds from the sale of school district personal property to be deposited into specified district funds.
- 6) Prohibits a county superintendent of schools from disposing of COE personal property valued over \$25,000 without an independent valuation, public advertisement, county board review, and county board approval.
- 7) Requires county superintendents of schools to report dispositions of COE personal property valued under \$25,000 to the county board of education through quarterly reports.

- 8) Requires school districts to maintain an inventory of equipment exceeding specified value thresholds, including information regarding acquisition, location, and disposal.

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Authorizes school districts, COEs, and community college districts to declare district-owned technology to be “surplus technology property.”
- 2) Authorizes surplus technology property to be disposed of through any of the following methods if authorized by locally adopted governing board policy:
 - a) Public auction, including online auctions;
 - b) Sealed bid sales;
 - c) Structured trade-in or buyback programs with vendors or manufacturers;
 - d) Negotiated sales to public agencies, nonprofit organizations, or private entities when determined to be in the best interest of the educational agency and reasonably calculated to yield fair market value; and
 - e) Donations to public agencies or nonprofit public benefit corporations.
- 3) Requires governing boards, prior to disposing of surplus technology property, to adopt policies and procedures that address:
 - a) Determinations that technology is no longer needed or suitable for use;
 - b) Competition or market testing requirements;
 - c) Compliance with state and federal student and employee data privacy requirements, including device wiping and data sanitization; and
 - d) Compliance with restrictions attached to state or federal categorical funding sources.
- 4) Requires school districts, COEs, and community college districts, to the extent practicable, to structure technology disposal practices in ways that:
 - a) Maximize financial return or value; and
 - b) Minimize electronic waste while promoting recycling, refurbishment, and reuse.
- 5) Specifies that the bill does not limit any existing authority related to the disposal of personal property.

- 6) Defines “technology” broadly to include electronic, digital, or electromechanical equipment and associated software, licenses, or services used for instructional, administrative, operational, facilities, public safety, laboratory, or related purposes.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, “Today’s students rely on technology to learn and teachers use multimedia channels for teaching. School districts that do not upgrade technology disadvantage teachers and students when equipment break down, operate inefficiently, or do not contain the most modern programs. Existing law establishes a process for disposing surplus real property such as school buildings or land, but does not provide a process for disposing surplus technology such as computers or laptops. AB 2627 establishes a process for school districts, county offices of education and California Community College Districts to dispose surplus technology, including the opportunity to participate in trade-in or buy back programs. These programs help reduce waste while allowing school districts to leverage surplus property to reduce costs for new equipment.”

- 2) ***Modern technology procurement cycles may not align neatly with traditional surplus property statutes.*** Existing law governing the disposal of school and community college personal property was largely developed around conventional surplus assets and traditional public sale processes. Educational technology, however, operates differently than many other forms of district property. Devices such as laptops, tablets, servers, networking equipment, and instructional technology systems often depreciate rapidly, are replaced on short refresh cycles, and may retain more value within vendor trade-in or buyback arrangements than through traditional auction processes.

As schools and colleges have become increasingly dependent on technology for instruction, administration, testing, communication, and campus operations, local educational agencies (LEAs) have begun using procurement practices that resemble those commonly used in the private sector and broader public procurement environments. This bill appears intended to clarify that LEAs may use more flexible and modern disposal methods for outdated technology equipment, while still requiring local governing board oversight and policy adoption.

- 3) ***The bill reflects the growing scale of technology management responsibilities within LEAs.*** LEAs now manage large inventories of devices and technology infrastructure that, in many cases, did not exist when California’s surplus property statutes were originally enacted. One-to-one student device programs, classroom technology integration, cybersecurity infrastructure, audiovisual systems, surveillance systems, and remote learning investments have significantly increased both the volume and complexity of technology assets maintained by schools and colleges.

Managing these assets involves more than simply disposing of obsolete equipment. LEAs must balance fiscal stewardship, data security, environmental

considerations, and operational continuity when replacing technology systems. This bill attempts to create a more tailored statutory framework specifically for surplus technology property, rather than relying exclusively on broader personal property disposal statutes that may not fully contemplate the operational realities of modern educational technology management.

- 4) ***Data security considerations distinguish technology disposal from other forms of surplus property.*** Unlike many other forms of district property, surplus technology may contain sensitive student, employee, or operational data. Improper disposal practices can create cybersecurity and privacy risks, particularly when devices contain stored records, login credentials, communications, or access to cloud-based systems.

For this reason, the bill requires governing boards to adopt policies addressing secure data deletion, device wiping, and verification of sanitization prior to transfer to third parties. These provisions recognize that technology disposal is not solely a property management issue, but also a data governance and information security issue. As LEAs continue to experience increased cybersecurity threats and heightened responsibilities regarding student data privacy, these requirements may help ensure that more flexible disposal authority is accompanied by appropriate safeguards.

- 5) ***This bill raises broader questions regarding sustainability and lifecycle management of educational technology.*** California schools and colleges replace substantial quantities of electronic equipment on a recurring basis. As technology refresh cycles accelerate, educational agencies face increasing pressure to manage electronic waste responsibly while also maximizing the residual value of aging equipment.

This bill encourages recycling, refurbishment, reuse, and trade-in arrangements that may both reduce disposal costs and extend the useful life of technology equipment. In practice, some devices that no longer meet the operational needs of a school district or community college may still retain educational or charitable value elsewhere. The bill's authorization for negotiated sales and donations may create additional pathways for reuse while also helping educational agencies recover value from outdated equipment.

At the same time, the bill maintains guardrails requiring competition or market testing and fair value considerations, reflecting the Legislature's longstanding interest in ensuring public assets are disposed of transparently and in the public interest.

SUPPORT

Foothill-De Anza Community College District (sponsor)

OPPOSITION

None received

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