
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 419
Author: Connolly (D)
Amended: 3/27/25 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 6-1, 6/25/25
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Cortese, Gonzalez, Laird
NOES: Choi

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-1, 7/8/25
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Arreguín, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Stern, Wahab,
Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Niello
NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/29/25
AYES: Caballero, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 64-8, 6/2/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Educational equity: immigration enforcement

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires local educational agencies (LEA) to post the “Know Your Educational Rights,” Immigration-Enforcement Action at California Schools Guide, in the administrative building of each schoolsite and to post the guide on its website and on the websites of each school site in every language that the Attorney General (AG) provides.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) States that it is the policy of the State of California to afford all persons in public schools, regardless of their disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic that is contained in the definition of hate crimes set forth in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code, including immigration status, equal rights and opportunities in the educational institutions of the state. (Education Code (EC) § 200)
- 2) Prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic that is contained in the definition of hate crimes set forth in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code, including immigration status, in any program or activity conducted by an educational institution that receives, or benefits from, state financial assistance or enrolls students who receive state student financial aid. (EC § 220)
- 3) Establishes the Safe Place to Learn Act which requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to assess whether LEAs have adopted a policy prohibiting discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on specified characteristics, including immigration status, and established a process for receiving and investigating complaints of discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying based on those characteristics. (EC § 234.1)
- 4) Prohibits school officials and employees of an LEA from collecting information or documents regarding citizenship or immigration status of students or their family members except as required by state or federal law, or as required to administer a state or federally supported educational program. (EC § 234.7)
- 5) Requires a superintendent of a school district or county office of education (COE), or principal of a charter school to report to their respective governing board or body of the LEA of any requests for information or access to a schoolsite by an officer or employee of a law enforcement agency for the purpose of enforcing the immigration laws and requires the reporting to ensure the confidentiality and privacy of any identifying information. (EC § 234.7)

- 6) Requires schools to exhaust any parental instruction relating to a student's care in the emergency contact information it has for the student in the event that a student's parent or guardian is not available to care for the student. (EC § 234.7)
- 7) Encourages schools to work with parents or guardians to update the emergency contact information and not to contact Child Protective Services (CPS) to arrange for the pupil's care when the parent or guardian is unavailable, unless the school is unable to arrange for care through the use of emergency contact information or other information or instructions provided by the parent or guardian. (EC § 234.7)
- 8) Requires LEAs to:
 - a) Provide information to parents and guardians regarding their children's right to a free public education, regardless of immigration status or religious beliefs. This includes information relating to "know your rights" immigration enforcement established by the AG and may be provided in the annual notification to parents and guardians or any other cost-effective means determined by the LEA; and
 - b) Educate pupils about the negative impact of bullying other pupils based on their actual or perceived immigration status or their religious beliefs and customs.
- 9) Requires the AG, in consultation with stakeholders, to publish model policies limiting assistance with immigration enforcement at public schools, to the fullest extent possible consistent with federal and state law by April 1, 2018. Requires the AG to consider all of the following issues in developing the model policies:
 - a) Procedures related to requests for access to school grounds for purposes related to immigration enforcement;
 - b) Procedures for LEA employees to notify the superintendent of the school district, or the COE, or the principal of the charter school if an individual requests or gains access to school grounds for purposes related to immigration enforcement; and

- c) Procedures for responding to requests for personal information about students or their family members for purposes of immigration enforcement. (EC § 234.7)
- 10) Requires all LEAs to adopt the model policies developed by the AG by July 1, 2018. (EC § 234.7)
- 11) Requires schools and school districts to provide all notices, reports, statements, or records sent to parents or guardians of enrolled students to be written in the primary language of the family if 15% or more of the students enrolled in the school speak a language other than English. (EC § 48985)

This bill:

- 1) Requires the governing body of a LEA to provide information to parents and guardians relating to the Immigration-Enforcement Actions at California Schools Guide for Students and Families, also known as “Know Your Educational Rights,” developed by the AG.
- 2) Authorizes the information to be provided in the annual notification to parents and guardians or any other cost-effective means determined by the LEA.
- 3) Requires that the “Know Your Educational Rights” guide be posted in the administrative buildings and on the LEA’s website and each of its schoolsites in every language that the AG provides.

Comments

- 1) *Need for this bill.* According to the author, “Every child in California deserves to pursue a public education without fear. In light of recent federal direction to conduct immigration enforcement even in locations like schools, hospitals, and places of worship, students should be aware of the confidentiality of their personal information and armed with resources for emergencies. This legislation will ensure that immigrant students and families know what their rights are, what information is required for school enrollment, and what steps can be taken to protect sensitive information about students and families.”

- 2) *What is it?* On January 6, 2025, the AG issued guidance advising immigrant students and their families of their educational rights and protections under the law, including the right to receive a free public education and to confidentiality of their personal information. The guidance is a two-page document available on the AG’s website. This bill requires that this guidance be publicly posted on school websites and buildings in every available language.
- 3) *Enforcement actions in or near protected areas.* On January 20, 2025, the acting director of the US Department of Homeland Security issued a memo, effectively rescinding special protection of immigration enforcement activity in or near certain areas. The formerly protected areas included, among other areas, places where children gather, such as schools, daycares, preschools, and other early learning programs, primary and secondary schools, college campuses, as well as education-related activities. Months after the announcement, a team of homeland security agents entered the front office of two Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) campuses—Russell Elementary School and Lillian Street Elementary School seeking to question students they identified as unaccompanied minors. In both cases, principals followed LAUSD protocols and AG’s guidance by requesting identification and judicial warrants. The principals denied access, citing student privacy protections under federal law, including FERPA. Current law requires LEAs to inform families of their right to a free public education regardless of immigration status including through the “Know Your Educational Rights” document. This bill seeks to make that information more visible and accessible to immigrant students and their families.
- 4) *Right to public education.* As cited in the AG’s “Guidance and Model Policies to Assist California’s K-12 Schools in Responding to Immigration Issues,” although California cannot control the actions of federal immigration-enforcement agencies, federal and California laws empower schools to welcome all students and to reassure them of their educational rights and opportunities. Further, under the U.S. Constitution, all students have a right to receive an education without discrimination based on immigration status. In *Plyler v. Doe*, the U.S. Supreme Court recognized that undocumented immigrants are guaranteed due-process and equal-protection rights under the U.S. Constitution and that children cannot be denied equal access to a public education on the basis of their immigration status. Therefore, K-12 schools must provide free public education to all students regardless of their immigration status and regardless of the citizenship status

of the students' parents or guardians. Similarly, California law affirms the equal educational rights of immigrant students. It further affirms that all students and staff, regardless of immigration status, have the right to attend campuses that are safe, secure, and peaceful. Further, the education code prohibits discrimination on the basis of a student's immigration status.

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

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee analysis, this bill would have the following fiscal impact:

- This bill could result in one-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars statewide for LEAs to post the "Know Your Educational Rights" guide at every schoolsite, administrative building, and on their internet websites. There are approximately 2,300 LEAs and 10,000 schoolsites in the state. Additionally, the bill's requirements could be deemed to be a reimbursable state mandate which could put pressure on the state to provide additional funding through the K-12 Mandate Block Grant.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/29/25)

California Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
 California Alliance of Child and Family Services
 California Association for Bilingual Education
 California Federation of Labor Unions
 California State Council of Service Employees International Union
 California Teachers Association
 California Undocumented Higher Education Coalition
 Californians Together
 CFT- A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
 Chinese for Affirmative Action
 Delta Kappa Gamma International - Chi State
 Fresno Unified School District
 Los Angeles County Office of Education
 Partnership for Los Angeles Schools
 Teach Plus - California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/29/25)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 64-8, 6/2/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Hadwick, Hoover, Patterson, Sanchez

NO VOTE RECORDED: Castillo, Chen, Flora, Lackey, Macedo, Ta, Tangipa

Prepared by: Olgalilia Ramirez / ED. / (916) 651-4105

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