

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 419 (Connolly)

As Amended September 4, 2025

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires local educational agencies (LEA) to post the "Know Your Educational Rights," Immigration-Enforcement Action at California Schools Guide (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.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Requires the governing board or body of an LEA to update the website posting of the Guide the school year following any updates published by the AG.
- 2) Incorporate additional changes proposed by AB 49 (Muratsuchi) of this Session to be operative only if this bill and AB 49 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

COMMENTS

Key provisions of the bill. 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.

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 Guide. This bill seeks to make that information more visible and accessible to immigrant students and their families.

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.

According to the Author

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."

Arguments in Support

Californians Together writes, "When students are removed from school or placed in a different academic environment due to fear of immigration action, academic performance, attendance, and student achievement often suffer. Aggressive immigration policy can set back educational achievement, and this is exacerbated in situations where students already need extra support. Undocumented students and students in mixed-status families often already face disadvantages related to language and income, and these struggles are worsened by the added obstacle of adjusting to a new academic environment. Every child deserves a public education without fear, and this bill is a step to give immigrant students and families the tools needed to navigate these changing times."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 1) 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.

VOTES:

ASM EDUCATION: 7-2-0

YES: Muratsuchi, Addis, Alvarez, Bonta, Garcia, Lowenthal, Patel

NO: Hoover, Castillo

ASM JUDICIARY: 9-1-2**YES:** Kalra, Wicks, Bryan, Connolly, Harabedian, Pacheco, Papan, Stefani, Zbur**NO:** Sanchez**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Dixon, Tangipa**ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-1-3****YES:** Wicks, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache**NO:** Dixon**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa**ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 64-8-7****YES:** 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**NO:** DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Hadwick, Hoover, Patterson, Sanchez**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Castillo, Chen, Flora, Lackey, Macedo, Ta, Tangipa**UPDATED**

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