
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 640 (Muratsuchi) - Local educational agencies: governance training

Version: June 30, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 18, 2025

Policy Vote: ED. 7 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill Summary: This bill requires school board members to be trained on K-12 public education governance laws by January 1, 2027, and at least once during their tenure serving as a local educational agency (LEA) official.

Fiscal Impact:

- This bill could result in additional Proposition 98 General Fund costs, likely in the hundreds of thousands of dollars each year, for LEAs to provide training to their governing board members once in their tenure. However, a precise amount would depend on the number of board members that receive the training each year and how LEAs elect to provide the training. The bill's costs could be less to the extent that governing board members have longer tenures, resulting in less frequent training, and if the training is offered online which would be less expensive. The bill's requirements could be deemed to be a reimbursable state mandate.
- The Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) and the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE) indicate that the costs to develop the curricula would be minor and absorbable as these activities are aligned with their missions and both entities are already resourced for this scope of work. However, the bill is silent as to whether FCMAT and CCEE are eligible to charge a fee to participants should they deliver the training to board members.
- Any costs to the California Department of Education (CDE) are likely to be minor and absorbable within existing resources.

Background: Existing law requires each local agency official who, as of January 1, 2025, is a member of the governing board of a school district, a county board of education, or the governing body of a charter school, to receive ethics training before January 1, 2026, and at least once every two years thereafter.

Existing law requires each local agency official who commences service with a local agency on or after January 1, 2006, to receive ethics training no later than one year from the first day of service with the local agency. Thereafter, each local agency official is required to receive the training at least once every two years.

Existing law authorizes a local agency official who serves more than one local agency to satisfy the ethics training requirements once every two years without regard to the

number of local agencies with which he or she serves.

Existing law requires a local agency that requires its local agency officials to complete ethics training to maintain records indicating the dates that local officials satisfied the ethics training, and the entity that provided the training.

Proposed Law: This bill requires each LEA official to receive training in K–12 public education governance laws, as specified. .

This bill requires an LEA or consortium of LEAs to only use the following methods:

1. Offer one or more training course using LEA employees or contracted legal counsel with demonstrable experience in the applicable topic for which it will provide training.
2. Arrange for its officials to receive one or more training courses through an entity that meets specified requirements.
3. Arrange for its LEA officials to receive one or more training courses through a non-profit statewide education association led by officials who govern school districts and county offices of education (COEs).
4. Offer their own sets of self-study materials with tests, or arrange through a different entity that meets the requirements.

This bill requires that LEA officials only receive training from an entity with demonstrable experience supporting school districts and COEs with technical assistance and expertise, as specified. The bill requires that charter school officials or a charter management entity only receive training from an entity with demonstrable experience supporting charter schools with technical assistance and expertise, as specified.

This bill authorizes these courses to be taken at home, in person, or online, and exempts from the training requirements an LEA official who has successfully completed the California School Boards Association's Masters in Governance program and provides their LEA with proof of their participation and completion of the program.

This bill limits training courses on either school finance or school governance laws to no more than four hours in length, and limits training courses on both school finance and school governance laws to no more than eight hours in length. The bill also requires a provider of a training course to provide participants with proof of participation.

This bill requires an LEA to provide information to its officials at least annually on available training, and requires each LEA official in service as of April 1, 2027, except for officials whose term of office ends before April 1, 2028, to receive the training before April 1, 2028. This bill requires each LEA official who begins their initial service (or who begins a subsequent non-consecutive term) on or after April 1, 2027, to receive the training within one year. The bill encourages each LEA official to begin the training before the first meeting of the governing board or body that occurs after the election or appointment of the official, and deems an official who received training during their initial term, and who then serves one or more consecutive terms, to have complied with the

training requirements of this bill.

This bill requires FCMAT, in consultation with the CDE, to develop a curriculum for the following public school finance laws, by October 1, 2026: laws related to the creation and approval of a LEA budget to support student learning and achievement and laws related to fiscal penalties for non-compliance with various statutory requirements, such as minimum instructional minutes. The bill requires FCMAT to solicit input from experts in public education school finance laws, and the public, in developing the curriculum, and also requires the curriculum to be posted on FCMAT's website and CDE's website.

This bill requires CCEE, in consultation with CDE, to develop a curriculum for the following public school accountability laws, by January 1, 2027:

1. For all LEAs, public school accountability laws related to student learning and achievement, local control and accountability plan (LCAP) development, and required parent and community engagement.
2. For school districts and COEs, public school accountability laws, including, but not limited to, the LCAP and Statewide System of Support.
3. For charter schools, public school accountability laws, including, but not limited to, the LCAP, charter petitions, and charter renewals.

This bill requires CCEE to solicit input from experts in public school accountability laws, and the public, in developing the curriculum. It also requires the curriculum to be posted on CCEE's website and CDE's website, and that the curricula developed by FCMAT and CCEE to be updated periodically to reflect statutory changes to the laws that are the subject of the training.

This bill requires LEAs to maintain records showing the dates on which each LEA official satisfied the training requirements and the entity that provided the training.

This bill requires LEAs to maintain these records for at least five years after a LEA official receives the training, and provides that these records are public records subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

Related Legislation: AB 1390 (Solache, 2025) increases the maximum monthly compensation by five times that may be provided to the governing board members of school districts and county boards of education. AB 1390 is pending in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 1917 (Muratsuchi, 2024) was similar to this bill and moved to the inactive file on the Senate Floor.

AB 2158 (Mike Fong, Chapter 279, Statutes of 2022) requires each member of a governing board of a school district, county board of education, or the governing board of a charter school, to receive ethics training before January 1, 2026, and at least once every two years thereafter.

Staff Comments: Existing law requires school governing board members to receive ethics training before January 1, 2026, and at least once every two years thereafter. School board members are required to receive at least two hours of training in general ethics principles and ethics laws relevant to the official's public service. This bill requires additional training relative to specified K-12 public education governance laws which shall be developed by FCMAT (public education school finance law curriculum) and the CCEE (public school accountability laws related to pupil learning and achievement curriculum). The bill provides that an entity offering one or more training courses shall use the curricula developed by the FCMAT and the CCEE. According to the author, "AB 640 is a simple and long overdue measure that requires governing board and body members of school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to receive training in public education governance laws at least once during their tenure as a local agency official. Current law requires these school officials to receive training in ethics, but no training requirements exist for other school governance topics. Since these governing board and body members are charged with guiding the academic and socioemotional wellbeing of our students, as well as are stewards of billions of dollars in public funds, receiving training on the public education governance laws they are required to follow is imperative."

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