

## CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 640 (Muratsuchi and Wicks)

As Amended August 29, 2025

Majority vote

**SUMMARY**

Requires governing board members of school districts, county offices of education (COEs), and the governing body members of charter schools to be trained on K-12 public education school finance governance laws by April 1, 2028, and at least once during their tenure serving as a local educational agency (LEA) official. Requires the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) to write the school finance training curriculum.

**Senate Amendments**

- 1) Remove the requirement for LEA officials to be trained on public school accountability laws.
- 2) Authorize the FCMAT to charge a fee to participating LEAs for providing the training on school finance laws.
- 3) Require that one of the trainer's primary functions is supporting LEAs with technical assistance and expertise in school finance.
- 4) Require a training entity to have demonstrable experience supporting LEAs with technical assistance and expertise.
- 5) Require a training entity to have trainers that each possess demonstrable experience in public school finance.
- 6) Specify that LEA officials of school districts and COE shall only receive training from an entity with demonstrable experience supporting school districts and COE with technical assistance and expertise.
- 7) Authorize that training may be taken through a nonprofit statewide education association led by officials who govern school districts and COEs.
- 8) Clarify that LEA officials who have successfully completed the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Masters in Governance (MIG) program are exempt from the training requirement of this bill.
- 9) Clarify that student board members are not required to complete the training requirement.
- 10) Clarify that a LEA official who serves in nonconsecutive terms will be required to re-take the training once they reassume office for a subsequent term.

**COMMENTS**

*Key provisions of the bill.* This bill requires each member of the governing board of a school district, county board of education, member of the governing body of a charter school, and member of the governing body of an entity managing charter schools, in LEA service as of April 1, 2027, except for officials whose term of office ends before April 1, 2028, to receive training in

K–12 public education school finance laws, including, but not necessarily limited to, laws related to the creation and approval of an LEA budget before April 1, 2028. Governing board and governing body members will be required to receive the training at least once during their tenure serving as an LEA official. The K–12 public education governance laws training is required to include all of the following:

The FCMAT will be required to develop the curriculum for K-12 public education school finance laws, with input from the public. Training providers will be required to use the FCMAT-developed trainings. Trainings may be no longer than four hours.

*Governing board members are required to receive ethics training.* In 2005, AB 1234 (Salinas), Chapter 700, Statutes of 2005, established new provisions for ethics training for local government officials and designated employees. The measure requires all local agency officials (primarily county supervisors and city councilmembers) to receive ethics training if a local agency provides any type of compensation, salary, or stipend to a member of a legislative body, or provides reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred by a member of a legislative body in the performance of official duties. Each local agency official is required to receive at least two hours of training in general ethics principles and ethics laws relevant to his or her public service every two years. AB 2158 (Mike Fong), Chapter 279, Statutes of 2022, extended the ethics training requirement to each member of a 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.

*LEA officials.* Governing board members of school districts, COEs, and charter schools are stewards of public funds and therefore have tremendous responsibilities related to the governance of their LEA. All governing boards or bodies must contemplate and vote upon actions related to student academic achievement, well-being, personnel, the use of public funds, and supporting the community-at-large.

Given the role and responsibilities that a governing board member of a school district or COE, and a governing body member of a charter school undertake when serving as a school official, completing a training in public school governance laws related to their office is reasonable in order to ensure appropriate conduct and build the trust of the public they serve.

### **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."

### **Arguments in Support**

The Association of California School Administrators writes, "Like other local governing entities, such as city councils, county boards of supervisors, and special district boards of directors, school board members are made up of individuals who bring a wide array of experiences from their professional and personal lives, which may or may not include public education. AB 640 would establish an essential, foundational training similar to what is already required for other

local government agencies, benefiting both individual board members and the broader school community.

Finally, we also appreciate the bill's balanced approach to the development and delivery of training. By leveraging the expertise of the FCMAT and the CCEE, AB 640 ensures high-quality content, flexible delivery methods, and cost-effective implementation. This approach will promote compliance while maximizing available school resources."

### **Arguments in Opposition**

The California School Boards Association writes, "The overall effectiveness of the bill's limited training courses on the very technical subjects of school finance, budgets and state and federal accountability will depend heavily on the access to and the quality of those delivering the training. Unfortunately, the methods used in the bill to implement its core provisions are problematic. Despite requiring the use of the state-developed curriculum, the bill lacks crucial standards for trainer quality and experience, and important safeguards against ideological influence in the training. It also limits the options through which board members may arrange training. We ask that the committee consider including criteria that takes into account the experience an entity has in training and delivering high quality instruction to board members. To provide board members with greater access and flexibility to training opportunities, the bill should also be amended so they have the option to select their preferred training method both as LEA governing members and as governing members of their statewide organization."

### **FISCAL COMMENTS**

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 1) 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.
- 2) The Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) indicates that the costs to develop the curriculum would be minor and absorbable as these activities are aligned with its mission and 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.
- 3) Any costs to the California Department of Education (CDE) are likely to be minor and absorbable within existing resources.

### **VOTES:**

**ASM EDUCATION: 7-0-2**

**YES:** Muratsuchi, Addis, Alvarez, Bonta, Castillo, Garcia, Lowenthal

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Hoover, Patel

**ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 13-0-2**

**YES:** Wicks, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache, Ta

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Sanchez, Tangipa

**ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0-5**

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

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Gallagher, Hoover, Macedo, Patterson, Tangipa

**UPDATED**

VERSION: August 29, 2025

CONSULTANT: Marguerite Ries / ED. / (916) 319-2087

FN: 0001971