

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 677 (Bryan)

As Amended September 3, 2025

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Authorizes directory information of a student identified as a homeless child or youth to be disclosed to facilitate an eye examination by a nonprofit eye examination provider or a free oral health assessment hosted by schools, unless the parent or student accorded parental rights has provided written notice to the school that they do not consent to the physical examination.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Requires that directory information only be disclosed for the purpose of facilitating an eye examination or a free oral health assessment, as specified.
- 2) Encourages reports made to a parent, guardian, or caregiver of a pupil experiencing homelessness about a defect identified from an eye examination or oral health assessment to be made by alternative communication channels, rather than by mail, when possible.

COMMENTS

How many California students experience homelessness? California schools identify homeless students using the definition of homeless students in the federal McKinney-Vento Act, which defines "homeless children and youths" as:

- 1) Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- 2) Children and youth who may be living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or shelters;
- 3) Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- 4) Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- 5) Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are children who are living in similar circumstances as those listed above.

According to the CDE, there were 210,907 California public school students who met the federal definition of homelessness on census day for the 2024 school year, representing 3.6% of the total California public school student population. Unhoused youth in California are disproportionately from minority backgrounds, as CDE data from the 2020-21 school year identifies that 74% of the unhoused youth were of Hispanic or Latinx descent and 7% were of African American descent.

According to a 2020 report by the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Center for Transformation of Schools titled *State of Crisis: Dismantling Student Homelessness in California*, African American and Latino students are disproportionately represented among students experiencing homelessness. As of 2020, over 17% of the students experiencing

homelessness in the United States (U.S.) resided in California. (Federal Data Summary, Education for Homeless Children and Youth, 2020)

According to the Author

"AB 677 will increase access to on-campus vision and dental screenings for unhoused students by exempting these youth—solely for the purpose of these screenings—from requirements that prohibit the sharing of their directory information. This information is necessary for these screenings to be conducted by providers; however, due to current restrictions in statute, it cannot be released without written parental consent, which is often difficult to obtain in the case of unhoused students. This leads to the underutilization of on-campus vision and dental screenings amongst these vulnerable youth. AB 677 removes a barrier that will allow unhoused students to access the essential vision and dental screenings they need and deserve."

Arguments in Support

According to the Los Angeles Unified School District, "Under current law, students are required to have dental screening before enrolling in kindergarten or first grade, and vision screening upon enrollment and in grades two, five, and eight. Public schools are permitted to contract with nonprofit service providers to provide these screenings at no cost and at school sites. Current law requires that an LEA receive affirmative consent (opt in) from the parent/guardian of an unhoused child to allow the LEA to include the child in school wide dental and vision screenings. In contrast, housed students may receive the screening without additional action by the parent. In the cases where affirmative consent is not obtained, unhoused students cannot participate in screenings alongside their peers, widening health disparities for this vulnerable population.

Unhoused families remain one of the most challenging groups for LEAs to contact. At Los Angeles Unified, only about 1% of unhoused families return the opt-in form for vision screening services. For dental screening services, it's only about 4%. The end result is that the vast majority of our most vulnerable students are missing out on critical services that could greatly benefit the child's life and future health outcomes. AB 677 amends Education Code to allow unhoused students the same access to critical health screenings as other students, while maintaining parental right to opt out if desired."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

This bill has been keyed non-fiscal by the Office of Legislative Counsel.

VOTES:

ASM EDUCATION: 9-0-0

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

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0-5

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

ABS, ABST OR NV: Bauer-Kahan, Calderon, Chen, Petrie-Norris, Celeste Rodriguez

UPDATED

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CONSULTANT: Debbie Look / ED. / (916) 319-2087

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