

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 1048 (Becker) – As Amended July 2, 2026

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 8 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), by July 1, 2027, to recommend to the State Board of Education (SBE) criteria for awarding a State Seal of Climate Literacy to pupils demonstrating mastery in climate literacy disciplines. The bill requires the SBE to adopt, or adopt with modifications, all criteria recommended by the SPI by July 1, 2028.

Specifically, the bill requires a participating local educational agency (LEA), beginning with the 2028-29 school year, to identify which pupils have earned a State Seal of Climate Literacy, affix the appropriate insignia to a pupil's diploma or transcript, and provide information to pupils regarding available options to meet the seal's criteria. The bill also requires the SPI to determine the best design for the insignia and prepare and deliver it to each participating LEA along with guidance to support implementation.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

- 1) Minor, ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund costs to high schools to verify whether a student has demonstrated climate literacy as prescribed by the criteria to be set forth by the SBE pursuant to this bill.
- 2) Ongoing General Fund costs, likely minor, for CDE to send out additional seals authorized under this new designation.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

California has long led the nation in climate action. SB 1048 ensures we are also leading in climate education by preparing the next generation with the knowledge and real-world experience they need to meet the challenges of a changing climate.

- 2) **Background.** Diploma seals are badges that are affixed to the diplomas of qualifying high school graduates to indicate excellence in certain areas. CDE sends out the seals to California schools to affix. Currently, there are three established state seals: the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma (GGSM), the State Seal of Biliteracy (SSB), and the State Seal of Civic Engagement (SSCE). Thousands of California high school graduates are awarded a seal each year, for example, according to CDE, 23,040 SSCEs were awarded to graduates from 492

participating schools in the 2024-25 school year. This bill would establish a fourth seal for recognizing pupils achieving mastery in climate literacy, which the bill defines as understanding of the essential principles of the earth's climate system, assessing scientifically credible climate information, learning to communicate about the climate in a meaningful manner, and making informed and responsible decisions regarding actions that may affect the climate.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Aaron Heredia / APPR. / (916) 319-2081