
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 1412 (Rubio) - Parental communication: teacher meetings

Version: March 25, 2026
Urgency: No
Hearing Date: April 27, 2026

Policy Vote: ED. 7 - 0
Mandate: Yes
Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill Summary: This bill provides that a parent or guardian has the right to communicate with their child’s teacher using a two-way telephonic service or a two-way audiovisual platform if the parent or guardian is unable to attend a meeting in person.

Fiscal Impact: By requiring schools to allow the use of telephones or audiovisual systems when parents are unable to meet with teachers in person, this bill could result in one-time General Fund costs for schools to update their policies and issue guidance to parents. The extent of these costs is unknown but could be in the tens of thousands to low hundreds of thousands of dollars. These activities could be determined to be reimbursable by the Commission on State Mandates.

Background: Existing law provides that parents and guardians of students enrolled in public schools have the right and should have the opportunity to be informed by the school and to participate in the education of their children, as specified, including meeting with their child’s teacher or teachers and the principal of the school in which their child is enrolled, within a reasonable time of their request.

Proposed Law: This bill provides that a parent or guardian of a student has the right to communicate with their child’s teacher using a two-way telephonic service or a two-way audiovisual platform if the parent or guardian is unable to attend a meeting in person with a teacher. This bill also deletes an obsolete reference to a program.

Staff Comments: This bill is intended to provide an additional mechanism for parents to communicate and meet with their child’s teacher with a phone call or audiovisual system if they cannot meet with the teacher in person. This would provide great flexibility, especially with the availability of smartphones and remote audiovisual platforms such as Zoom. According to the author, “existing law does not require schools to provide remote or virtual options for parent-teacher conferences outside of the special education context, leaving such decisions to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs). ... As a result, parents and guardians who are unable to attend conferences in person due to work schedules, transportation barriers, or other constraints may face challenges in engaging with educators. ... SB 1412 ensures that schools provide remote participation options, helping families who may struggle with transportation or are navigating the complexities of immigration to actively participate in their child’s education. ... By expanding access in this way, the bill supports equity, strengthens school-family communication, and helps ensure every student has the support needed to reach their full potential.”

- END -