
THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1412
Author: Rubio (D)
Amended: 3/25/26
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/15/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SUBJECT: Parental communication: teacher meetings

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: 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.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) 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.
(Education Code (EC) § 51101)
- 2) Provides that parents and guardians of students enrolled in public schools are mutually supportive and respectful partners in the education of their children within the public schools. (EC § 51101)

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 This bill also deletes an obsolete reference to a program that has since been repealed.

Comments

- 1) *Need for the bill.* 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."
- 2) *Parents and guardians of children enrolled in public schools have the right to participate in the education of their children.* State law provides that parents and guardians of children enrolled in public schools have the right, and should have the opportunity, to participate in the education of their children in specified ways, including observing the classrooms in which their child is enrolled, being notified on a timely basis if their child is absent from school without permission, and being informed of their child's progress in school and the appropriate school personnel to be contacted if problems arise with their child.

One of these rights includes meeting with their child's teacher and the principal of the school in which their child is enrolled, within a reasonable time of their request. This statute was last amended in 2004, and with the widespread adoption of smartphones and remote audiovisual platforms such as Zoom, this bill provides an additional right for a parent or guardian of a student to communicate and meet with their child's teacher with a phone call or audiovisual system if the parent or guardian of a student is unable to attend an in-person meeting with a teacher, allowing for greater flexibility for the parent or guardian.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

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.

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/14/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/14/26)

None received

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