

Date of Hearing: June 17, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Darshana R. Patel, Chair

SB 1412 (Rubio) – As Amended March 25, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 33-0

SUBJECT: Parental communication: teacher meetings

SUMMARY: States that if a parent or guardian is unable to attend a meeting in person with a teacher, they have the right to communicate with their child's teacher using a two-way telephonic service or a two-way audiovisual platform.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) States that parents and guardians of pupils enrolled in public schools have the right and should have the opportunity, as mutually supportive and respectful partners in the education of their children within the public schools, 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) States 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)

FISCAL EFFECT:

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee: 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.

COMMENTS:

Need for the bill. According to the author, "Parent teacher conferences are a vital way for families to stay engaged in their child's education, yet many parents, particularly working-class families and immigrant parents face barriers such as demanding work schedules, transportation challenges, childcare needs, and language obstacles. As a teacher, I have seen firsthand what a lack of access can do to a student. Some families are unable or unwilling to attend conferences due to these challenges, including language barriers. Student success is deeply rooted in the active participation of parents, but too often, economically disadvantaged families do not have the flexibility to miss work or overcome logistical hurdles.

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. This bill is about providing equitable access to parents who might otherwise be excluded, ensuring that all families, regardless of circumstance, can engage with educators. 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."

Parents and guardians of children enrolled in public schools have the right to participate in the education of their children. Current law provides that parents and guardians of children enrolled in California public schools have the right, and should have the opportunity, to participate in the education of their children in specified ways. Current law includes 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 of the appropriate school personnel to contact if problems arise with their child.

One of the rights listed in current law 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. This proposal will create additional local flexibility, authorizing both teachers and parents to meet via alternative formats. Further, this authorization may be particularly helpful for working parents or those with disabilities.

Arguments in support. The California State PTA writes, "A parent's ability to engage in their child's education should not depend on their job, schedule, or access to transportation. Parents work multiple jobs or caring for other children are not lacking commitment, they lack access. We know that when parents are involved, students do better, and this flexibility is already recognized in special education meetings. SB 1412 extends that same opportunity to all families. This is not about technology, but about fairness, access, and meaningful family engagement. By removing barriers, the bill supports stronger communication, stronger relationships, and better outcomes for students, ensuring every parent has a seat at the table, even if that seat is virtual."

Recommended Committee Amendments. *Staff recommends that the bill be amended as follows:*

- Clarify that parents, guardians, or educational rights holders may attend an individual meeting about their child to communicate with their child's teacher by phone or an LEA-approved web conferencing platform.
- Prohibit a meeting conducted in this manner from being recorded or transcribed.
- Require a parent or guardian and public school to comply with existing law related to non-consensual recording.

- Require the public school to notify the parent or guardian of the potential risks to privacy and confidentiality due to the meeting format arising from discussing potentially sensitive information.

Related legislation. AB 1665 (Torlakson), Chapter 864, Statutes of 1998, expands current law regarding the rights and responsibilities of parents and guardians of pupils enrolled in public school including a list of sixteen parental and guardian rights and responsibilities, including the right to observe the classroom in which the pupil is enrolled, the right to meet with their child's teacher and principal, the right to volunteer time and resources for the improvement of school facilities and school programs, and the right to request a particular school or teacher for their child.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California State PTA

Opposition

None on file

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