

SENATE THIRD READING

SB 1412 (Rubio)

As Amended June 22, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Provides that a parent, guardian, or educational rights holder unable to attend an individual meeting with their child's teacher shall have the right to communicate with the teacher instead by telephone or a school-approved web conferencing platform.

Major Provisions

- 1) Prohibits a meeting conducted in this manner from being recorded or transcribed.
- 2) Requires a parent, guardian, or educational rights holder and public school to comply with existing law related to non-consensual recording.
- 3) Requires the school to notify the parent, guardian, or educational rights holder of the potential risks to privacy and confidentiality due to the meeting format arising from discussing potentially sensitive information.

COMMENTS

Parents, guardians, and educational rights holders 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 telephone or a school-approved web conferencing platform if the parent, guardian, or educational rights holder 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.

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."

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."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- 1) To the extent this bill results in local educational agencies (LEAs) needing to update policies, provide notice to parents, and purchase software license rights or memberships to allow for the use of telephone or audio-visual remote communication options to parents, the bill could create one-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs of an unknown but potentially significant amount, possibly in the tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands of dollars, collectively statewide.

VOTES

SENATE FLOOR: 33-0-7

YES: Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ABS, ABST OR NV: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Becker, Hurtado, Niello, Padilla, Stern

ASM EDUCATION: 8-0-1

YES: Patel, Hoover, Ahrens, Bonta, Castillo, Garcia, Lowenthal, Pellerin

ABS, ABST OR NV: Zbur

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

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