

Date of Hearing: August 20, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 374 (Archuleta) – As Amended March 20, 2025

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 9 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill extends by one year the date by which the California Department of Education (CDE) must provide a report to the Legislature regarding the number and types of reports that local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to submit annually, and removes the requirement for the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt an Individuals with Disabilities (IDEA) Addendum to the Local Control and Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) relating to service improvements for students with disabilities.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No state costs.

COMMENTS:

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

School districts throughout the state are required to produce 170 reports annually, nearly equivalent to the statutorily required 180 instructional days in the school year. The sheer number of reports can be suffocating for school districts and detracts from their ability to meet the educational needs of students. In 2024, I introduced and the governor signed SB 1315, which directed the California Department of Education (CDE) to provide a report on the number and types of reports that local education agencies (LEAs) are required to submit annually in order to provide recommendations for which reports could be consolidated, eliminated, or truncated.

SB 1315 would have alleviated the administrative costs and burdens placed on school districts – especially important at a time when they are working hard to make ends meet. While the CDE continues to work on finalizing its work on providing actionable recommendations to condense or reduce the amount of reports LEAs are faced with, SB 374 would extend the sunset date of the provisions of SB 1315 by one year to 2027. It would also delete the statutory provision for the IDEA addendum, enacted to ensure that annual reporting data was provided regarding special education students to meet the oversight monitoring

requirements, which is now largely duplicative as the same information is required through annual LCAP reporting.

- 2) **Background. *Report on Reports.*** In March, 2025, the CDE provided a report to the Legislature and the Governor, pursuant to statute, on the number and types of reports that LEAs are required to annually submit. However, the report was also required to contain recommendations regarding how to consolidate or eliminate required LEA reports. As a result, interested parties among LEAs and advocacy groups have expressed concerns with the quality of the report and the lack of recommendations. Instead of recommendations for consolidation or elimination, the CDE reported a number of commitments to internally review and modify existing reports, such as confirming that what is requested of LEAs is aligned with statutory requirements, rather than making specific recommendations on which reports may no longer be necessary.

Concern about Volume of Reports. While the Legislature and federal government often attaches various reporting requirements to program funds, this accountability comes at a significant cost for many LEAs, particularly the smallest ones without in-house staff to conduct this additional work. According to the California School Boards Association (CSBA) and its 2024 report “Drowning in Documentation”:

These excessive reporting requirements have several negative impacts on LEAs. The steep costs in labor and time are particularly acute — a single new reporting requirement can generate thousands of hours of additional work annually across the state. The quality and value of reporting have also decreased as administrators struggle to meet constant deadlines, often leading to a compliance mentality rather than thoughtful planning and reflection. This diminishes the value of reporting and its intended purpose.

This bill extends the sunset on the existing requirement on CDE to submit the report to the Legislature and Governor by one year, from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2027 and removes the required IDEA addendum to the LCAP as special education students performance is now a requirement within the LCAP and Dashboard accountability process for LEAs, whereby LEAs report on multiple measures of student performance by student group.

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