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AGENDA

Wednesday, April 2, 2025 9 a.m. -- 1021 O Street, Room 2100

MEASURES HEARD IN FILE ORDER

1.	SB 225	McNerney	School nutrition: guardian meal reimbursement.
2.	SB 244	Grayson	Public postsecondary education: disabled student services: assessments.
3.	SB 608	Menjivar	Sexual health.
4.	SB 48	Gonzalez	Immigration enforcement: schoolsites: prohibitions on access and sharing information.(Urgency)
*5.	SB 271	Reyes	Public postsecondary education: students with dependent children: childcare services, resources, and programs.
6.	SB 334	Reyes	Pupil instruction: sexual harassment: Title IX safety.
7.	SB 391	Laird	Community colleges: Chancellor of the California Community Colleges: data request fee policy.
8.	SB 411	Pérez	Stop Child Hunger Act of 2025.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair 2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: SB 225 Hearing Date: April 2, 2025

Author: McNerney

Version: February 27, 2025

Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes

Consultant: Lynn Lorber

Subject: School nutrition: guardian meal reimbursement.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to establish a process for state reimbursement for federal summer meal program operators for meals served to guardians of eligible students who participate in a summer meal program.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Requires a school district or county office of education to provide two school meals free of charge during each schoolday, beginning with the 2022-23 school year, to any student who requests a meal without consideration of the student's eligibility for a federally funded free or reduced-price meal. The meals provided shall be nutritiously adequate meals that qualify for federal reimbursement. (Education Code (EC) § 49501.5)
- 2) Requires school districts and county offices of education that have a high-poverty school in its jurisdiction to apply, by June 30, 2022, to operate a federal universal meal service provision, which may include but is not limited to, the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Provision 2. (EC § 49564.3)

ANALYSIS

This bill:

Duties for CDE

- 1) Requires CDE to establish a process for state reimbursement, adjusted annually for inflation, for federal summer meal program operators for meals served to guardians of eligible students receiving a meal pursuant to a summer meal program.
- 2) Requires CDE to develop guidance for summer meal program operators participating in the federal Seamless Summer Option or the federal Summer Food Service Program on how to serve guardians a meal at summer meal program sites. The guidance must be posted on CDE's website and is not required to be mailed.

3) Requires CDE to distribute information about the Summer Electronic Benefits
Transfer for Children Program to guardians whose children are eligible for the
federal Seamless Summer Option or the federal Summer Food Service Program.

4) Requires CDE to apply for a waiver of federal law if necessary to secure federal reimbursement for meals served to guardians.

Reimbursement and reporting

- Requires that a guardian of an eligible student be present at the summer meal program site in order for the summer meal program operator to receive state-funded reimbursement for the meal served to a guardian, unless non-congregate rules are in place.
- 6) Prohibits reimbursement from beginning earlier than one year after an appropriation is made for this purpose.
- 7) Requires a summer meal program operator receiving state-funded reimbursement to report to CDE the number of meals served to guardians by meal site within 30 days after the end of summer meal site operators.

Appropriation

- Provides that the implementation of this bill is contingent upon an appropriation in the annual Budget Act or another statute for these purposes. This bill provides that an appropriation shall be made from the General Fund and be in addition to funding appropriated for purposes of satisfying the minimum funding requirements of Proposition 98.
- 9) Requires the amount of an appropriation to be in an amount equal to the estimated number of reimbursable guardian meals provided multiplied by the federal National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program meal reimbursement rate for qualified student meals under the summer meal program.
- 10) Requires, if an appropriation is not sufficient to cover reimbursements for all guardian meals, the reimbursements to be prioritized to guardians under 22 years of age and guardians caring for students participating in a summer lunch program that is located in a census tract where at least 50 percent of students are living in poverty.

General provisions

- 11) Provides that participation by a summer meal program operator in providing reimbursable meals to guardians is voluntary.
- 12) Defines "summer meal program operators" to include but not be limited to a school district, county office of education, charter school, government organization, or non-profit entity participating in a summer meal program.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) Need for the bill. According to the author, "More than one in four California households with children are food insecure. That amounts to more than 1 million households facing hunger in our state. SB 225 will help combat hunger by expanding California's free summer meals program to ensure that parents, guardians, and caregivers can also access meals during summer months. By providing meals for the whole family, we recognize that caregivers deserve support too, and that no one should have to go hungry while watching their children eat."
- 2) **Meals during the summer.** In the 2022–23 school year, California became the first state to implement a statewide Universal Meals Program for school children. California's state meal mandate requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to make available both a free nutritiously adequate breakfast and lunch for all children each school day, without consideration of the student's eligibility for a federally funded free or reduced-price meal. Two federal meals programs exist for students living in low-income areas:
 - a) Summer Food Service Program The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) administers the Summer Food Service Program, which is a federally funded program that reimburses operators for administrative and operational costs to provide meals for children 18 years of age and younger during periods when they are out of school for 15 or more consecutive school days.
 - The Summer Food Service Program is a voluntary program for schools, libraries, community-based organizations, faith-based institutions, and government agencies to host and provide free meals to children ages 18 and under during the summer. However, the program is limited to providing free, reimbursable meals at summer meal sites to children and teens ages 18 and younger; adults are not eligible to receive these meals. https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sf/sfspinfo.asp
 - b) Seamless Summer Option (component of the federal National School Lunch Program) The Seamless Summer Option is a federal- and state-funded program that encourages school food authorities participating in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program to provide meals in low-income areas during the summer. This option allows public schools to combine features of the School Nutrition Programs and the Summer Food Service Program, along with reduced paperwork requirements, making it easier for schools to feed children during the traditional summer vacation periods and long school vacation periods (longer than 10 days) for year-round schools. The Seamless Summer Option may operate at community or recreational centers, libraries, camps, schools, and other eligible summer meal sites.

Existing meal and summer food programs are not authorized to receive either federal or state reimbursement for food served to guardians of eligible students. This bill establishes a process for state reimbursement for federal summer meal

program operators for meals served to guardians of eligible students; a student would have to be eligible for the Summer Food Service Program or Seamless Summer Option in order for a guardian to receive a meal.

- 3) **Summer meal service sites.** As noted in comment # 2, summer meals may be served at schools, libraries, community-based organizations, faith-based institutions, and government agencies. CDE's website includes a map of sites, and a mobile app to find sites. https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sh/sn/summersites.asp
- 4) Federal waiver for reimbursement for meals served to guardians. This bill requires CDE to apply for a waiver of federal law if necessary to secure federal reimbursement for meals served to guardians. Committee staff notes that no such waiver currently exists.
- 5) **Non-congregate rules.** This bill requires that a guardian of an eligible student be present at the summer meal program site in order for the summer meal program operator to receive state-funded reimbursement for the meal served to a guardian, unless non-congregate rules are in place.

A non-congregate meal service is a food service model that provides meals to children to consume off site. With CDE's prior approval, summer meal program operators in rural areas may be eligible to operate a non-congregate meal service to better meet the needs of their community. Non-congregate meal service may only be operated at sites designated as rural with no congregate meal service. There are multiple meal service options for rural non-congregate meal service (multi-day meal distribution, bulk meal distribution, home delivery, or parent pick up).

6) Related legislation.

SB 411 (Pérez 2025) (1) requires the California Department of Education (CDE), with support from the Department of Social Services (DSS), to develop a statewide application that is made available through a single statewide website that enables families to submit federally required information, as specified; (2) requires CDE to establish a program designed to serve meals to students during school breaks or closures that last five or more schooldays; and, (3) requires DSS to establish the Better Out of School Time Nutrition Electronic Benefit Transfer Program to prevent child hunger during school breaks or closures that last five or more schooldays. SB 411 is scheduled to be heard by this Committee on April 2.

7) Prior legislation.

AB 2595 (Luz Rivas, 2024) was very similar to this bill. AB 2595 was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 1178 (Luz Rivas, 2023) was very similar to this bill. AB 1178 was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 558 (Nazarian, Chapter 905, Statutes of 2022) requires CDE to develop

guidance by July 1, 2023, for LEAs participating in the federal School Breakfast Program that maintain grades K-6 on how to serve eligible non-schoolaged children breakfast or a morning snack at an LEA schoolsite.

SUPPORT

California Association of Food Banks (Sponsor)

Alameda County Community Food Bank

Alchemist CDC

Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement

California Food and Farming Network

California State Council of Service Employees International Union

Center for Ecoliteracy

Ceres Community Project

Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations

Farm2people

Food Access LA

Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano

Food for People, the Food Bank for Humboldt County

Food in Need of Distribution Food Bank

Fullwell

GLIDE

Hunger Action Los Angeles

Latino Coalition for a Healthy California

Marin Food Policy Council

NextGen California

Pesticide Action Network North America

Roots of Change

Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services

San Diego Childhood Obesity Initiative

San Francisco Senior and Disability Action

Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County

Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County

Sierra Harvest

The Children's Partnership

Western Center on Law & Poverty

What We All Deserve

OPPOSITION

None received

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair 2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: SB 244 Hearing Date: April 2, 2025

Author: Grayson

Version: March 13, 2025

Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes

Consultant: Olgalilia Ramirez

Subject: Public postsecondary education: disabled student services: assessments.

NOTE: This bill has been referred to the Committees on Education and *Governmental*

Organizations. A "do pass" motion should include referral to the Committee on

Governmental Organizations.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the California State University (CSU) Trustees and requests the University of California (UC) Regents, to cover diagnostic assessment costs for learning disabilities as proof for academic accommodations for any student who receives student financial aid or who is eligible for financial assistance from the campus health or disability center. It further requires the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to oversee reimbursement with state funds provided for this purpose to CSU and UC for their documented costs for diagnostic services.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Makes legislative findings and declarations that set forth the principles for public postsecondary institutions and budgetary control agencies to observe in providing postsecondary programs and services for students with disabilities, including the principle that state-funded activity is directly related to the functional limitations of the verifiable disabilities of the students to be served. Additionally, establishes the intent of the Legislature that, as appropriate for each postsecondary segment, funds for disabled student programs and services be based on three categories of costs, including a continuing variable costs category for services that vary in frequency depending on the needs of students, such as, among other services, diagnostic assessment, including both individual and group assessment not otherwise provided by the institution to determine functional, educational, or employment levels or to certify specific disabilities. (Education Code (EC) § 67311)
- 2) Makes, under the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act, the Department of Developmental Services responsible for providing various services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities, and for ensuring the appropriateness and quality of those services and supports. (Welfare and Institutions Code § 4500-4501.5)

SB 244 (Grayson) Page 2 of 5

3) Establishes the CSAC as the state agency charged with administering state financial aid programs to qualifying students enrolled in institutions of higher education (IHE) throughout the State. (EC § 69510 et. seq.)

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Requires, commencing July 1, 2027, the CSU Trustees and requests the UC Regents, to cover diagnostic assessment costs for learning disabilities, including continuing assessments, any required documentation, and individual and group assessments provided by the institution or an outside entity if arranged directly by the institution, as proof for academic accommodations for any student who meets either of the following criteria:
 - a) The student receives student financial aid.
 - b) The student is eligible for financial assistance from the institution's health or disability center.
- 2) Requires that state funds be provided annually for the cost of diagnostic assessments covered by CSU and UC on an actual-cost basis, including wages for the individuals providing these services and expenses for attendant supplies.
- 3) Requires that each institution be responsible for documenting assessment costs for reimbursement from CSAC.
- 4) Requires CSU and requests UC to post on their respective website that assessment costs for eligible students will be covered by that institution, as described.
- Modifies the intent of the Legislature relating to diagnostic assessments by including costs for continuing assessments, required documentation, and individual and group assessments provided by the educational institution or by an outside entity, as provided. It also expands the purposes of the assessments to include defining specific disabilities of the student and as proof for academic or institutional accommodations.
- 6) Provides that the bill's provisions do not limit the educational institution's ability to refer students to an outside entity for diagnostic assessment services.

STAFF COMMENTS

Need for the bill. According to the author, "Although students with disabilities in higher education are protected by state, federal, and local laws, they continue to face significant financial and logistical barriers to academic success. Diagnostic assessments can cost thousands of dollars, leaving many students unable to access needed accommodations. SB 244 expands the Legislature's commitment to educational equity by ensuring that students with disabilities are not financially SB 244 (Grayson) Page 3 of 5

burdened when seeking the assessments necessary to access academic accommodations."

Higher education institutions can require proof of disability for academic accommodations but are not required to pay diagnostic assessment costs. Federal law, specifically Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Section 504 and Title II apply to both K-12 schools and IHE. However, unlike K-12 schools, an IHE is not required to identify a student as having a disability, assess a student's needs or, provide a free appropriate public education to them. Instead, a student with disabilities must inform an IHE of their disability and request supports. An IHE may require a student to provide documentation proving they have a disability. If the documentation a student has does not meet the IHE's requirements, a student may need to obtain further proof of disability. Once adequate proof of disability is provided to an IHE, federal law requires the IHE to provide supports to a student with disabilities.

Documentation provided to students with disabilities at their K-12 school, known as an individualized education program or Section 504 plan, is generally not sufficient documentation to secure supports at an IHE. This is because of the differences in learning between secondary and postsecondary education may necessitate further assessments.

Current state and federal law does not require an IHE to pay the costs for a student to complete an assessment and obtain necessary documentation to prove their disability and, therefore, gain supports at the IHE. Students may have health insurance to cover these costs or may apply to the state's vocational rehabilitation agency to cover costs. In other cases, a student may need to pay for an assessment and associated documents out-of-pocket. As noted by the author, the costs of these assessments and documents may cost between \$500 and \$2,500.

This bill would require that CSU and encourage that UC cover the diagnostic testing costs for students who are receiving student financial aid or are eligible for assistance through their institution's health or disability center. The criteria for qualifying for the waiver presumably accounts for students that have financial need or may be low-income as is typically the condition for qualifying for financial assistance programs. The bill further calls for the allocation of state funds on an annual basis to cover the expenses incurred by each university to cover costs and services including wages for individuals providing the services. CSAC would oversee reimbursements.

3) Finding the appropriate agency for administering reimbursement. AB 624 (Grayson, 2024) nearly identical to this bill, would have required the DGS to manage reimbursements to institutions for their documented costs related to diagnostic services. The Governor's veto message for AB 624 noted that DGS may not be the appropriate entity to administer the reimbursement. The recent amendments to this bill designates CSAC, a relatively small agency responsible for administering the state's student aid programs such as Cal Grant. CSAC may lack the capacity to verify and issue reimbursements, as this is not within their

SB 244 (Grayson) Page 4 of 5

existing functions. The author may wish to explore the feasibility for CSAC to carry out this task or consider alternative options for facilitating reimbursements to institutions in order to ensure the bill's requirements are implemented.

4) Room for improvement. The National Center for Education Statistics estimates that nationwide, 21 percent of undergraduates in 2019-20 and 11 percent of graduate students reported having a disability. These are students who reported having deafness or serious difficulty hearing, blindness or serious difficulty seeing, remembering, or making decisions because of a physical or mental or emotional condition, or serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs. Californiaspecific data was not provided. Further, information cited by the U.S. Census' American Community Survey, shows that among the 40.5 million people who are 25 or older and report having a disability, 21 percent held a bachelor's degree or higher in 2023. This is lower than the rate of 38 percent among those who did not report a disability in 2023. Among the students who reported having a disability, 45 percent received a federal Pell Grant. The Pell Grant award is meant for students who demonstrate exceptional financial need. According to the National Center for College Students with Disabilities, students with disabilities identified being unaware of their campus disability resource office and its services, challenges navigating campus procedures, and inadequate accommodations as barriers to access and participation on campus. The potential to enhance the level of support provided to students with disabilities exists.

5) Prior and related legislation.

AB 624 (Grayson, 2024), nearly identical to this bill, would have required Trustees of the CSU and requests the UC Regents, to cover the costs of diagnostic assessments as proof for academic accommodations for any student who receives student financial aid or who is eligible for financial assistance from the campus health or disability center. Further, this bill requires that DGS oversee reimbursement to institutions for their documented costs for diagnostic services. AB 624 was approved by this committee but was vetoed by the Governor, whose message read in part:

"While I support the author's goal of supporting students with learning disabilities, unfortunately, the bill creates at least \$5 million in ongoing General Fund costs that are not reflected in the state's current fiscal plan. Additionally, the Department of General Services may not be the appropriate entity to administer the reimbursement."

SUPPORT

Generation Up (co-sponsor)
Youth Power Project (co-sponsor)
State Council on Developmental Disabilities
The ARC and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration

OPPOSITION

-- END --

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair 2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: SB 608 Hearing Date: April 2, 2025

Author: Menjivar

Version: March 24, 2025

Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes

Consultant: Therresa Austin

Subject: Sexual health.

NOTE: This bill has been referred to the Committees on Education and Health. A "do

pass" motion should include referral to the Committee on Health.

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits public schools serving students in any grades 7 to 12, inclusive, from prohibiting certain school-based health centers from making internal and external condoms available and easily accessible to students. The bill also requires the aforementioned public schools to allow condoms to be made available through the course of educational and public health programs and initiatives. The bill also requires the State Department of Education (CDE) to monitor compliance with the California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA) as part of its annual compliance monitoring of state and federal programs. Finally, the bill prohibits retailers from restricting sales of nonprescription contraception solely on the basis of age.

BACKGROUND

Existing Law

California Healthy Youth Act

- 1) Establishes the CHYA which requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to provide comprehensive sexual health and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) prevention instruction to all students in grades 7 to 12, at least once in middle school and once in high school. (Education Code (EC) § 51933)
- 2) Authorizes an LEA to contract with outside consultants or guest speakers, including those who have developed multilingual curricula or curricula accessible to persons with disabilities, to deliver comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education or to provide training for school district personnel. All outside consultants and guest speakers shall have expertise in comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education and have knowledge of the most recent medically accurate research on the relevant topic or topics covered in their instruction. (EC § 51936)
- 3) Requires that pupils in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, receive comprehensive sexual health education at least once in junior high or middle school and at least once in high school. (EC § 51934)

SB 608 (Menjivar) Page 2 of 5

4) Requires that the instruction and related instructional materials be, among other things:

- a) Age appropriate.
- b) Medically accurate and objective.
- c) Appropriate for use with pupils of all races, genders, sexual orientations, and ethnic and cultural backgrounds, pupils with disabilities, and English learners.
- d) Made available on an equal basis to a pupil who is an English learner, consistent with the existing curriculum and alternative options for an English learner pupil.
- e) Accessible to pupils with disabilities. (EC § 51934)
- 5) Requires school districts, at the beginning of each school year, or, for a pupil who enrolls in a school after the beginning of the school year, at the time of that pupil's enrollment, to notify the parent or guardian of each pupil about instruction in comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education and research on pupil health behaviors and risks planned for the coming year. This notice shall do all of the following:
 - a) Advise the parent or guardian that the educational materials used in sexual health education are available for inspection.
 - b) Advise the parent or guardian whether the comprehensive sexual health education or HIV prevention education will be taught by school district personnel or by an outside consultant, as provided.
 - c) Advise the parent or guardian that the parent or guardian has the right to excuse their child from comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education and that in order to excuse their child they must state their request in writing to the LEA. (EC § 51938)
- 6) Provides that the parent or guardian of a pupil has the right to excuse their child from all or part of that education, including related assessments, through a passive consent ("opt-out") process. (EC § 51938)

ANALYSIS

This bill:

1) Prohibits any public school that serves pupils in any grades 7 to 12, inclusive, from prohibiting certain school-based health centers, as defined, from making internal and external condoms available and easily accessible to pupils at the school-based health center.

SB 608 (Menjivar) Page 3 of 5

2) Requires each public school that serves pupils in any grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to allow condoms to be made available during the course of, or in connection with, educational or public health programs and initiatives, as specified.

- 3) Requires CDE to monitor compliance with the CHYA as part of its annual compliance monitoring of state and federal programs.
- 4) Prohibits a retail establishment from refusing to furnish nonprescription contraception to a person solely on the basis of age, as specified.
- 5) Clarifies that if, under subsequent provisions of federal law, a nonprescription contraception becomes subject to restrictions on the basis of age, the above prohibition shall not apply to the refusal to furnish that contraception on the basis of age.
- 6) Finds and declares that California has an interest in promoting and expanding equitable access to tools and resources that empower youth to make healthier choices and reduce the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) by making condoms more accessible for young people.

STAFF COMMENTS

- Need for the bill. According to the author, "Young people should have greater access to medically-accurate, unbiased sex education, and readily available health resources to protect their safety and wellbeing. SB 608 aims to address that lack of access by increasing equitable access to condoms and a comprehensive, inclusive, and age appropriate sexual health education for California youth. When some high schools and retailers are enacting dangerous policies that deny young people the ability to protect themselves we contribute to the current STI epidemic hitting us in California. Investing in prevention is a fraction of the cost compared to the millions California spends on the treatment of STIs every year."
- California Healthy Youth Act. The CHYA was first enacted in 2003 under its previous name, the Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Act. Originally, the act required LEAs to provide comprehensive sexual health education in any grade, including kindergarten, so long as it consisted of age-appropriate instruction and used instructors trained in the appropriate courses. In 2016, AB 329 (Weber, Chapter 398, Statutes of 2015) renamed the act as the CHYA and required LEAs to provide comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education to all students at least once in middle school and at least once in high school. From its inception in 2003 through today, the CHYA has always afforded parents the right to opt their child out of a portion, or all, of the instruction and required LEAs to notify parents and guardians of this right. Parents and guardians can exercise this right by informing the LEA in writing of their decision.

SB 608 (Menjivar) Page 4 of 5

This bill does not make any changes to the provisions of CHYA but rather requires CDE to monitor compliance with the requirements of existing law as part of its annual compliance monitoring of state and federal programs.

3) Third time's the charm? As discussed in Comment 4 below, SB 608 is the third iteration of the author's efforts to expand access to contraceptives for California students, with the first and second being SB 541 (Menjivar, 2023) and SB 954 (Menjivar, 2024), respectively. Notably different in this iteration is the removal of a requirement for schools serving students grades 9 to 12 to make condoms available free of charge, as well as the requirement that notices and additional information about proper condom use be made available to students. The Budget Act of 2024 included a one-time allocation of \$5 million to support the implementation of SB 954. Despite this allocation, SB 954 was vetoed by Governor Newsom, citing concerns about ongoing cost pressures that were not accounted for in the budget.

4) Related Legislation.

SB 954 (Menjivar, 2024), a similar measure, would have (1) required all public serving students in grades 9 through 12 to make condoms available to students by the start of the 2025-26 school year; (2) required information to be provided to students on the availability of condoms as well as other sexual health information, upon appropriation; (3) prohibited public schools from preventing a school-based health center from making condoms available and easily accessible to students; (4) and prohibits retail establishments from refusing to provide nonprescription contraception to a person solely on the basis of age. SB 954 was vetoed by Governor Newsom with the following message:

"While this bill is contingent on an appropriation, it creates significant ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressures in the millions and these ongoing costs were not accounted for in the 2024 Budget Act. I vetoed a similar bill last year, conveying that the bill created an unfunded mandate that should be considered as part of the annual budget process. While the author successfully championed \$5 million for a similarly aligned purpose in this year's budget, one-time funding does not adequately address the fiscal concerns associated with this bill."

SB 541 (Menjivar, 2023) was a nearly identical measure to SB 954. SB 541 was vetoed by Governor Newsom with the following message:

"While evidence-based strategies, like increasing access to condoms, are important to supporting improved adolescent sexual health, this bill would create an unfunded mandate to public schools that should be considered in the annual budget process."

AB 230 (Reyes, Chapter 421, Statutes of 2023) expands the requirement that schools serving students in grades 6 to 12 stock specified restrooms with menstrual products to include schools serving students in grades 3 to 5.

SB 608 (Menjivar) Page 5 of 5

AB 329 (Weber, Chapter 398, Statutes of 2016) made instruction in sexual health education mandatory, revised HIV prevention education content, expanded topics covered in sexual health education, requires this instruction to be inclusive of different sexual orientations, and clarifies parental consent policy.

AB 367 (C. Garcia, Chapter 664, Statutes of 2021) requires all public schools serving students in grades 6 to 12 to stock specified restrooms with an adequate supply of free menstrual products, commencing in the 2022-23 school year and requires the California State University system and each community college district, and encourages the Regents of the University of California, independent institutions of higher education, and private postsecondary educational institutions, to stock an adequate supply of free menstrual products at no fewer than one designated and accessible central location on each campus.

SUPPORT

Black Women for Wellness Action Project (co-sponsor)

California School-Based Health Alliance (co-sponsor)

Essential Access Health (co-sponsor)

Generation Up (co-sponsor)

Voters of Tomorrow (co-sponsor)

Access Reproductive Justice

ACLU California Action

Aids Healthcare Foundation

Alameda County Office of Education

American Academy of Pediatrics, California

APLA Health

Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Southern California

CFT- A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO

Courage California

Equality California

GLIDE

Indivisible CA: StateStrong

Latino Coalition for a Healthy California

National Health Law Program

Reproductive Freedom for All California

San Francisco Aids Foundation

South Asian Network

The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health

Women's Foundation California

OPPOSITION

Real Impact
1 Individual

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair 2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: SB 48 Hearing Date: April 2, 2025

Author: Gonzalez

Version: March 24, 2025

Urgency: Yes **Fiscal:** Yes

Consultant: Olgalilia Ramirez

Subject: Immigration enforcement: schoolsites: prohibitions on access and sharing

information.

NOTE: This bill has been referred to the Committees on Education and *Public Safety*.

A "do pass" motion should include referral to the Committee on *Public Safety*.

SUMMARY

This bill, an urgency measure, prohibits a Local Educational Agency (LEA) and its personnel from granting United States (US) immigration authorities access to a schoolsite or its pupils or consenting to searches without a valid judicial warrant or court order. It further dictates how a LEA responds to requests from immigration authorities with or without a valid judicial warrant or court order. Lastly, this bill prohibits a LEA from disclosing any information about a student, their family and household, school employees, or teachers to immigration authorities without a valid judicial warrant or court order.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Prohibits, except as required by state or federal law or as required to administer a state- or federally supported educational program, school officials and employees of a school district, county office of education, or charter school from collecting information or documents regarding citizenship or immigration status of students or their family members. (Education Code (EC) § 234.7 et seq.)
- 2) Requires the Attorney General (AG), by April 1, 2018, in consultation with the appropriate stakeholders, to publish model policies limiting assistance with immigration enforcement at public schools, to the fullest extent possible consistent with federal and state law, and ensure that public schools remain safe and accessible to all California residents, regardless of immigration status. Existing law requires that the AG in developing the model policies consider all of the following:
 - a) Procedures related to requests for access to school grounds for purposes related to immigration enforcement.

SB 48 (Gonzalez) Page 2 of 10

b) Procedures for LEA employees to notify the superintendent of the school district or their designee, the superintendent of the county office of education or their designee, or the principal of the charter school or their designee, as applicable, if an individual requests or gains access to school grounds for purposes related to immigration enforcement.

- c) Procedures for responding to requests for personal information about students or their family members for purposes of immigration enforcement. (EC § 234.7 (f)(1)(A-C inclusive))
- 3) Requires all school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to adopt the AG's model policies or equivalent policies limiting assistance with immigration enforcement. (EC § 234.7 (g) and Government Code § 7284.8 (a))
- 4) Under the California Values Act, generally prohibits California law enforcement agencies from investigating, interrogating, detaining, detecting, or arresting persons for immigration enforcement purposes. It further provides certain limited exceptions to this prohibition, including transfers of persons pursuant to a judicial warrant and providing certain information to federal authorities regarding serious and violent felons in custody. (Government Code § 7284 -7284.21, inclusive)
- 5) Prohibits a school district from permitting access to pupil records to a person without parental consent or under judicial order, with some exceptions:
 - a) School districts are *required* to permit access to records relevant to the legitimate educational interests of specified requesters, including:
 - i) School officials and employees of the districts, members of a school attendance review board and any volunteer aide (as specified), provided that the person has a legitimate educational interest to inspect a record.
 - ii) Officials and employees of other public schools or school systems where the pupil intends to or is directed to enroll.
 - iii) Other federal, state and local officials as specified.
 - iv) Parents of a pupil 18 years of age or older who is a dependent.
 - v) A pupil 16 years of age or older or having completed the 10th grade who requests access.
 - vi) A district attorney, judge or probation officer, in relation to truancy proceedings.
 - vii) A district attorney's office for consideration against a parent for failure to comply with compulsory education laws.
 - viii) A probation officer, district attorney, or counsel of record for a minor, in relation to a criminal investigation or in regard to declaring a person a ward of the court or involving a violation of a condition of

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- probation.
- ix) A county placing agency when acting as an authorized representative of a state or LEA. (EC § 49076)
- 6) School districts are *authorized* to release information from pupil records to the following:
 - a) Appropriate persons in connection with an emergency if the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of a pupil or other person.
 - b) Agencies or organizations in connection with the application of a pupil for, or receipt of, financial aid.
 - c) The county elections official for the identification of pupils who are eligible to register to vote.
 - d) Accrediting associations in order to carry out accrediting functions.
 - e) Organizations conducting studies on behalf of educational agencies or institutions for the purpose of developing, validating or administering predictive tests, administering student aid programs, and improving instruction.
 - f) Officials and employees of private schools or school systems where the pupil is enrolled or intends to enroll.
 - g) A contractor or consultant with a legitimate educational interest who has a formal written agreement or contract with the school district regarding the provision of outsourced institutional services or functions by the contractor or consultant. (EC § 49076)
- Requires school districts to notify parents in writing of their rights, including the types of pupil records kept by the district, the position of the official responsible for the records, the policies for reviewing and expunging records, and the criteria used by the district to define "school officials and employees" and to determine "legitimate educational interest." (EC § 49063)
- 8) Under the Information Practices Act defines personal information to mean any information that is maintained by an agency that identifies or describes an individual, including, but not limited to, the individual's name, social security number, physical description, home address, home telephone number, education, financial matters, and medical or employment history. It includes statements made by, or attributed to, the individual. (Civil Code § 1798.9)
- 9) Existing federal law, the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibits federal funds from being provided to any educational agency or institution which has a policy or practice of permitting the release of a pupil's educational records to any individual, agency, or organization without the written consent of the pupil's parents. FERPA exempts from the general parental consent requirement certain kinds of disclosures, including disclosures to state

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and local officials for the purposes of conducting truancy proceedings, a criminal investigation, auditing or evaluating an educational program, or in relation to the application for financial aid. (United States Code, Title 20, Section 1232g and Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34, Sections 99.31)

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Prohibits a LEA and its personnel from doing any of the following unless pursuant to a valid judicial warrant or court order:
 - a) Grant permission to access a schoolsite to an immigration authority.
 - b) Produce a pupil for questioning by an immigration authority at a schoolsite.
 - c) Consent to a search of any kind at a schoolsite by an immigration authority.
- When immigration authority, *with* a valid judicial warrant or court order to access a schoolsite, have a pupil produced for questioning at the schoolsite or conduct a search of any type at the schoolsite, requires the responding LEA and its personnel to do both of the following:
 - Request from the immigration authority valid personal identification and a written statement of purposes, and retain a copy of the provided documentation.
 - b) As early as possible, notify the designated LEA administrator of the request and advise the immigration authority that the LEA administrator is required to provide direction before access to the schoolsite or pupil may be granted.
- When immigration authority, *without* a valid judicial warrant or court order, requests access to a schoolsite, requests a pupil be produced for questioning at a schoolsite, or demands to conduct a search of any type at a schoolsite, requires the responding LEA to do all of the following:
 - As early as possible, notify the designated LEA administrator of the request.
 - b) Deny the immigration authority access to the schoolsite.
 - c) Make a reasonable effort to have the denial witnessed and documented.
- 4) Prohibits an LEA and its personnel from disclosing or providing in writing, verbally, or in any other manner, the education records of or any information about a pupil, pupil's family and household, school employee, or teacher, including but not limited to, personal information as defined in state law,

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information about a pupil's home, and information about a pupil's travel schedule, to an immigration authority without a valid judicial warrant or court order directing the LEA or its personnel to do so. The bill requires that any disclosure of a pupil's education records pursuant to a valid judicial warrant or court order satisfy the parent notification requirements in accordance with FERPA.

- 5) States that the bill's provisions do not prohibit or restrict any governmental entity or official from sending to, or receiving from, federal immigration authorities information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of an individual, or from requesting from federal immigration authorities immigration status information, lawful or unlawful, of any individual, or maintaining or exchanging that information with any other federal, state, or local governmental entity, pursuant to federal immigration law as specified.
- Requires the AG to publish model policies to assist K-12 schools in responding to immigration issues pursuant to the bill.
- 7) Defines all of the following terms for purposes of this bill:
 - a) Immigration authority to mean any federal, state, or local officer, employee, or person performing immigration enforcement functions.
 - b) Local educational agency to mean a school district, county office of education, or charter school.
 - c) Schoolsite to mean an individual school campus of a school district, county office of education, or charter school, an area where a local educational agency's school-sponsored activity is currently being held, or a schoolbus or other transportation provided by a local educational agency.
- 8) Includes an urgency clause, based on the need to ensure that schools continue to provide children and their families guaranteed access to school campuses without contributing to fear of deportation, harassment, or intimidation by immigration authorities and to retain critically needed attendance-based funding, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.
- 9) Makes a number of related findings and declarations about the fear of deportation and its effect on children, their school attendance and learning.
- 10) Expresses the intent of the Legislature to:
 - Keep California's educational resources and personnel focused on providing a stable and secure learning environment to which our pupils have a right regardless of their immigration status.
 - b) Protect needed school revenue that will be diminished as a result of immigration enforcement threats on or near school campuses. These deportation threats cause families, including families of citizens of the US, to be afraid to send their pupils to school, thereby reducing school

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revenue and preventing pupils of all backgrounds from obtaining a quality education.

c) Assure California families that our schools are not in the business of immigration enforcement and that educational personnel can remain focused on providing quality education to pupils. Pupils' safety, well-being, and access to education are paramount. It is also critical to preserve school funding in the face of declining enrollment and other factors that reduce school revenue. By limiting interruptions in instructional time and fostering an environment where pupils feel safe learning, California will protect pupils, families, and school employees and preserve schools' attendance-based revenue.

STAFF COMMENTS

1) **Need for the bill.** According to the author, "All children, regardless of immigration status, have the constitutional right to a free education. With each day that passes, the federal government's efforts to target immigrant communities further jeopardize California's ability to uphold that constitutional right.

"Raids and threats of deportation across our state have ignited fear and anxiety among families. Parents are scared to send their children to school, and children themselves are fearful that they will return home after the school day to never to see their loved ones again. These actions have alarming impacts on student learning, mental health, well-being, and attendance—which in turn impacts school funding and the quality of education students receive. Our schools must not be a battleground for immigration enforcement. Senate Bill 48 sends a clear message: California is committed to protecting our students and their families.

"Specifically, SB 48 would prevent school personnel from permitting immigration law enforcement officers access to a school campus without a judicial warrant. The bill will also prevent school personnel from disclosing educational records or any information about a pupil, pupil's family and household, school employees, or teacher to an immigration law enforcement officer without a judicial warrant.

"Schools shape the next generation of leaders and must continue to be a safe, nurturing environment for students to learn and grow together—without disruption and without living in fear that their families will be torn apart."

AG model policies instruct schools how to respond to immigration enforcement activity. AB 699 (O'Donnell and Chiu, Chapter 493, Statutes of 2017) required the California AG to issue and publish model policies by April 2018 that limit assistance with immigration enforcement at public schools, thereby ensuring that public schools remain safe and accessible to all California residents regardless of their immigration status. It further mandated that all LEAs adopt these model policies or equivalent policies by July 2018. The AG's guidance and model policies were initially issued in 2018 and subsequently updated in December 2024. Recent concerns and news regarding potential mass arrests, detention, and deportations under the Trump administration prompted

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the update. The updated policies provide LEAs with guidance on managing and responding to various situations, including instances when immigration officials request to access school grounds for enforcement purposes. The model policies also instruct LEAs on how to identify categories of student information not subject to release and ways to protect student information from unauthorized disclosure of their information. The AG's updated guidance is a detailed document that outlines each model policy for adoption, presents background information on governing law, outlines appropriate actions for various circumstances, and includes practical examples to assist schools in understanding and protecting the rights of students and their families. This bill attempts to further prescribe how LEAs manage interactions with immigration authorities and requests for information from immigration authorities. It also seeks to ensure consistency with AG model policy and the bill's provisions by requiring the AG to publish model policies to assist K-12 in responding to immigration issues specified in this bill.

- 3) Enforcement actions in or near protected areas. On January 20, 2025, the acting director of the US Department of Homeland Security issued a memo, effectively rescinding special protection of immigration enforcement activity in or near certain areas. The formerly protected areas included, among other areas, places where children gather, such as schools, daycares, pre-schools, and other early learning programs, primary and secondary schools, college campuses as well as education-related activities. This news raised concerns by state lawmakers regarding the safety of students in educational settings. This bill aims to provide clear instructions to LEAs for handling situations that involve immigration enforcement activities, dictating action steps based on whether a valid judicial warrant or court order is presented.
- 4) Student's right to education. According to the AG's "Guidance and Model Policies to Assist California's K-12 Schools in Responding to Immigration Issues," although California cannot control the actions of federal immigrationenforcement agencies, federal and California laws empower schools to welcome all students and to reassure them of their educational rights and opportunities. Under the US Constitution, all students have a right to receive an education without discrimination based on immigration status. In Plyler v. Doe, the US Supreme Court recognized that undocumented immigrants are guaranteed due process and equal protection rights under the US Constitution and that children cannot be denied equal access to a public education on the basis of their immigration status. Therefore, schools must provide free public education to all students, regardless of their immigration status and regardless of the citizenship status of the students' parents or guardians. Similarly, California law affirms the equal educational rights of immigrant students. Under the California Constitution. all students and staff regardless of immigration status have the inalienable right to attend campuses, which are safe, secure, and peaceful. State statute further prohibits discrimination based on a student's immigration status.

The Migration Policy Institution estimates that 133,000 undocumented children between the ages of 3 and 17 years are enrolled in California public schools, and 750,000 K-12 students have an undocumented parent. In addition to upholding their right to education, the state has demonstrated a willingness to invest in their

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college education through creating pathways to qualify for state aid programs and resident tuition as Californians in public postsecondary institutions.

5) Student information and privacy. Under current state law, a school district, county office of education, or charter school is prohibited from collecting or soliciting social security number information from students or their parents unless otherwise required by state or federal law. It directly prohibits school officials and employees from collecting information or documents about the immigration or citizenship status of students or their family members. Educational institutions are also subject to federal and state privacy laws that limit the type of information they may disclose. As noted in the background section of this analysis, federal statute under FERPA mandates that educational institutions must not disclose education records or personally identifiable information unless under limited circumstances. It provides certain rights for parents regarding their children's educational records. Under FERPA, a school generally may not disclose personal information from a student's education records to a third party unless the student's parent has provided prior written consent. However, there are a few exceptions (see the background section of this analysis). As it relates to information sharing, this bill prohibits LEAs and its staff from sharing with immigration authorities a student's education records or any other information about the student. This includes personal information about the student's home, their travel plans, and their family. Consistent with FERPA rules, the LEA and its staff must have a valid court order or warrant to do so. Any release of a student's education records that is allowed by a valid court warrant or order would have to meet the parent notification standards so that a parent may seek protective action as outlined in FERPA. This bill additionally prohibits information sharing as specified about a school employee or a teacher.

6) Related legislation.

AB 49 (Muratsuchi, 2025) prohibits, except as required by state or federal law or as required to administer a state- or federally supported educational program or childcare program, school officials and employees of a school district, county office of education, charter school or day care center from allowing an officer or employee of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement to enter a schoolsite or day care center for any purpose without providing valid identification, a written statement of purposes, and a valid judicial warrant, and receiving approval from the specified school or day care center official. AB 49 has been referred to the Assembly Education and Judiciary Committees.

SB 98 (Pérez, 2025) requires the governing boards of local educational agencies, CSU, each California Community College District, and each Cal Grant qualifying independent institution of higher education and requests the UC Regents to issue a notification to specified individuals when the presence of immigration enforcement is confirmed on their respective campuses or schoolsites. SB 98 is set to be heard on April 8 in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

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SUPPORT

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond (co-sponsor)

CFT- A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals AFT, AFL-CIO (co-sponsor)

Alameda County

Alameda County Office of Education

Alliance College-Ready Public Schools

Alum Rock Union Elementary School District

Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California

Aspire Public Schools

Berryessa Union School District

California Alliance of Child and Family Services

California Association for Bilingual Education

California Association of Food Banks

California Charter Schools Association

California Civil Liberties Advocacy

California School Employees Association

California State Council of Service Employees International Union

California State PTA

Californians Together

Cambrian School District

Campbell Union High School District

Children Now

Children's Institute

Chinese for Affirmative Action

Church State Council

City of Santa Ana

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights

County of Alameda

County of Monterey

County of Santa Cruz

Democrats of Rossmoor

Drug Policy Alliance

El Rancho Unified School District

Ella Baker Center for Human Right

First 5 California

Fremont Union High School District

Friends Committee on Legislation of California

KIPP SoCal Public Schools

Los Altos School District

Los Angeles County Democratic Party

Los Angeles County School Trustee Association

Mexican-American Legal Defense and Ed Fund

Milpitas Unified School District

Morgan Hill Unified School District

Mount Pleasant Elementary School District

Mountain View Los Altos High School District

Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition

Oak Grove School District

Oakland Privacy

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Orchard School District

Pacific Juvenile Defender Center

Pomona Unified School District

Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee

Santa Clara County Office of Education

Santa Clara County School Boards Association

Santa Clara Unified School District

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

Santa Monica Alternative Schoolhouse PTSA

Seneca Family of Agencies

Sunnyvale School District

The Lincoln Middle School Parent-Teachers Association

Thirty-Third District PTA

Vision y Compromiso

Western Center on Law & Poverty

OPPOSITION

None received

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair 2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: SB 271 Hearing Date: April 2, 2025

Author: Reyes

Version: March 20, 2025

Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes

Consultant: Olgalilia Ramirez

Subject: Public postsecondary education: students with dependent children: childcare

services, resources, and programs.

SUMMARY

This bill requires each California State University (CSU) and California Community College (CCC) and requests each University of California (UC) financial aid office, childcare development center, and basic needs center to refer their respective students with dependent children to local resource and referral agencies, local planning councils, and each other for purposes of connecting and informing students of existing childcare services and resources.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the CSU, under the administration of the Trustees of the CSU, the UC, under the administration of the Regents of the UC, the CCC, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, and independent institutions of higher education as four segments of postsecondary education in the state. (Education Code (EC) § 66010, § 70900, § 66600, and California Constitution, Article IX, Section 9)
- 2) Authorizes public postsecondary institutions to establish and maintain child development programs on or near their campuses. (EC § 66060)
- 3) Specifics roles and responsibilities for child care resource and referral programs established to serve a defined geographic area. (Welfare and Institutions Code § 10219)
- 4) Establishes the supplemental Cal Grant award, administered by the California Student Aid Commission, for students with dependent children who attend a CSU, UC, CCC, or independent nonprofit college or university receiving a Cal Grant A, B, or C award. Eligible Cal Grant A or B students may receive an additional \$6,000, and \$4,000 for Cal Grant C recipients. (EC § 69465 (a)-(h), inclusive)
- 5) Requires each CCC campus and each CSU campus, and requests each UC campus, to establish the position of the Basic Needs Coordinator to assist students, among other responsibilities, with basic needs services and resources,

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including childcare, and to establish a Basic Needs Center where basic needs services, resources, and staff are made available to students, as provided. Existing law requires each Basic Needs Center to, among other things, connect students to the financial aid department or financial aid office, as appropriate, to ensure that students are receiving all available financial aid. (EC § 66023.4 and 66023.5)

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Requires each CCC and CSU and requests each UC financial aid office to provide all of the following to students with dependent children:
 - a) Information on the campus' childcare development center and childcare offerings, if applicable.
 - b) Referral to the campus Basic Needs Centers for support accessing information, including but not limited to information and connections to local resource and referral agencies and the local planning council, and support in applying for state and federal childcare subsidies and programs.
 - c) Information on any supplemental awards, such as the awards for those students with dependent children, established in state law.
- 2) Requires each CCC and CSU and requests each UC child development center or preschool established pursuant to state law for higher education institutions to provide students with dependent children seeking childcare with both of the following:
 - a) Referral to the campus Basic Needs Center for support access information, including but not limited to information and connections to local resource and referral agencies and the local planning council, and support in applying for state and federal childcare subsidies and programs.
 - b) Referral to the campus' financial aid office, including information on the awards for students with dependent children.
- 3) Expands the definition of basic needs services and resources that a basic needs coordinator and Basic Needs Center on a CCC, CSU, or UC campus is responsible for brokering for students to include childcare services and resources.
- 4) Adds supplemental awards for students with dependent children as a reason a Basic Needs Center on a CCC, CSU, or UC campus refers a student to the financial aid department or office.

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Defines childcare services and resources, as it relates to basic needs services, resources, and centers to include, but be not limited to, providing information on affordable childcare options on or near the campus, information and connections to local resource and referral agencies and the local planning council, and support in applying to state and federal childcare subsidies and programs, including but not limited to, the California State preschool program, Head Start, the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids (CalWORKS) childcare program, and general child care and development programs.

STAFF COMMENTS

- Need for the bill. According to the author, "SB 271 requires that when a student parent on a higher education campus is identified at one of the following campus locations: a financial aid office, a child development center, or a basic need center, the student parent shall be notified about the childcare and financial aid resources available to them. This type of direct notification process is needed because student parents are hindered by the communications silos within higher education campuses. While juggling the demands of parents and earning their degrees, student parents should not be further delayed by communication gaps on their campuses. SB 271 bridges gaps, ensuring student parents are connected to the resources they need rather than being left in the dark about relevant services. This bill is a step towards making all student parents feel welcomed, supported, and cared for by fostering an environment where their needs are intentionally met."
- Off-campus resources- Resource and referral programs and Local Child Care Development Planning councils. Resource and referral programs, funded by the California Department of Social Services, Child Care and Development Division, help families find child care that best meets their needs, recruit and train child care providers, and collect data from parents and child care providers. Specifically, resource and referral programs provide information to all parents and the community about the availability of child care in their area. The programs assist potential providers in the licensing process, provide direct services, including training, and coordinate community resources for the benefit of parents and local child care providers. Every county in California is served by at least one resource and referral agency.

Local child care development planning councils also exist in every county in California. They assess childcare needs in every county at least every five years, foster local partnerships between subsidized and non-subsidized child care programs, local government partners, and others, and coordinate part-day programs, including state preschool and Head Start with other child care programs to offer full-day.

On-campus resources for student parents. Student parents attending a California public higher education institution have access to a range of resources and services designed to support their needs, including child care programs. Within the CCC system of the 73 community college districts, 20 operate 42 child care centers; all but three CSU campuses have childcare centers, and all UCs have child care centers. However, enrollment capacity varies, and it's common

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for centers to have a waitlist for parents seeking to enroll their children. As it relates to financial aid, eligible student parents at any of the three public systems of higher education can receive a supplemental award, up to \$6,000, on top of their Cal Grant payment. Additionally, on-campus basic needs centers established to address basic needs insecurity among college students assist any student with basic needs services and resources, including childcare, food, and housing assistance.

4) **Streamlining information and connections**. Given the various services and resources available to student parents, this bill attempts to improve communication among campus locations that offer benefits or support their needs. It additionally seeks to ensure student parents are aware of a statefunded services designed to help any parent find child care in their area.

SUPPORT

Cal State Student Association (co-sponsor)
Early Edge California (co-sponsor)
Student Senate for California Community Colleges (co-sponsor)
University of California Student Association (co-sponsor)
California Catholic Conference
California Family Resource Association
California WIC Association
Campaign for College Opportunity
Child Abuse Prevention Center
Children Now
Faculty Association of California Community Colleges
Michelson Center for Public Policy
Unite-LA
Western Center on Law & Poverty

OPPOSITION

None received

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair 2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: SB 334 Hearing Date: April 2, 2025

Author: Reyes

Version: March 24, 2025

Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes

Consultant: Lynn Lorber

Subject: Pupil instruction: sexual harassment: Title IX.

NOTE: This bill has been referred to the Committees on Education and *Judiciary*. A

"do pass" motion should include referral to the Committee on Judiciary.

SUMMARY

This bill (1) requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to post on its website specified training materials relative to Title IX that were developed pursuant to an agreement between the Attorney General and Redlands Unified School District; (2) encourages school districts to provide, as part of sexual health education, instruction that includes information on procedures for complaints and investigations relative to sexual harassment and abuse; (3) requires the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) to consider including in the next revision of the Health Education Framework information on procedures for complaints and investigations relative to sexual harassment and abuse; and, (4) establishes the first two full weeks in April and the first two full weeks in September as "Title IX Safety Weeks."

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

Title IX

- 1) Provides that, in part, "no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Enforcement of compliance is initiated upon the filing of a complaint alleging a violation of Title IX. (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to the 1964 Civil Rights Act)
- 2) Requires each school district and county office of education, or a local public or private agency that receives funding from the state or federal government, to designate a person to serve as the Title IX compliance coordinator to enforce compliance at the local level, including coordinating any complaints of noncompliance. (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to the 1964 Civil Rights Act)
- 3) Requires public schools, private schools that receive federal funds and are subject to the requirements of Title IX, school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to post in a prominent and conspicuous location

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on their websites all of the following:

a) The name and contact information of the Title IX coordinator for that public school, private school, school district, county office of education, or charter school, which shall include the Title IX coordinator's phone number and email address.

- b) The rights of a student and the public and the responsibilities of the public school, private school, school district, county office of education, or charter school under Title IX, which shall include but not be limited to, web links to information about those rights and responsibilities located on CDE's Office for Equal Opportunity's website and the United States Department of Education Office of Civil Rights' website, and the list of specified rights which are based on the relevant provisions of the federal regulations implementing Title IX.
- c) A description of how to file a complaint under Title IX, which shall include all of the following:
 - i) An explanation of the statute of limitations within which a complaint must be filed after an alleged incident of discrimination has occurred, and how a complaint may be filed beyond the statute of limitations.
 - ii) An explanation of how the complaint will be investigated and how the complainant may further pursue the complaint, including but not limited to, web links to this information on the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights' website.
 - iii) A web link to the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights complaints form, and the contact information for the office, which shall include the phone number and email address for the office. (Education Code (EC) § 221.61)

Sexual harassment

- 4) Requires each educational institution in California (K-12 and postsecondary education) to have a written policy on sexual harassment and:
 - a) Display the policy in a prominent location in the main administrative building or other area of the campus or schoolsite;
 - b) Provide the policy as part of any orientation program for new students, and provide it to each faculty member, administrative staff and support staff; and.
 - c) Place the policy in any publication of the school that sets forth the rules, regulations, procedures and standards of conduct. (EC § 231.5 and § 66281.5)

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5) Requires each high school to create a poster that notifies students of the applicable written policy on sexual harassment, and requires the poster to display, at a minimum, all of the following:

- a) The rules and procedures for reporting a charge of sexual harassment.
- b) The name, phone number, and email address of an appropriate schoolsite official to contact to report a charge of sexual harassment.
- c) The rights of the reporting student, the complainant, and the respondent, and the responsibilities of the schoolsite in accordance with the applicable written policy on sexual harassment. (EC § 231.6)
- Requires the poster to be prominently and conspicuously displayed in each bathroom and locker room at the schoolsite, and authorizes the poster to be prominently and conspicuously displayed in public areas at the schoolsite that are accessible to, and commonly frequented by, students, including but not limited to, classrooms, classroom hallways, gymnasiums, auditoriums, and cafeterias. (EC § 231.6)
- 7) Requires school districts that require completion of a course in health education for graduation from high school to include instruction in sexual harassment and violence. (EC § 51225.36)
- 8) Requires the State Board of Education (SBE), based upon recommendations by the IQC, consider including information in sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention in the Health Framework when next revised (after 2014). (EC § 51900.6)

Comprehensive sexual health education

- 9) Requires each school district to ensure that all students in grades 7 to 12 receive comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education from instructors trained in the appropriate courses. Each student must receive this instruction at least once in junior high or middle school and at least once in high school. Specified topics must be included in the instruction. (EC § 51934)
- 10) Provides the option for a parent or guardian with the right to excuse their child from all or part of comprehensive sexual health education, HIV prevention education, and assessments related to that education through a passive consent ("opt-out") process. A school district shall not require active parental consent ("opt-in") for comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education. (EC § 51938)

ANALYSIS

Attorney General and Redlands Unified

1) Requires CDE to post on its website related to gender equity and Title IX the training materials that were developed by the Redlands Unified School District,

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once approved by the Attorney General, pursuant to the stipulated judgment entered into on June 10, 2024, between the Attorney General and the Redlands Unified School District that required the district to provide draft training materials that are age-appropriate and related to sexual harassment for use by students and parents or guardians.

- 2) Requires CDE to update these materials, as necessary, to ensure the materials are up to date and reflect changes in law.
- 3) States legislative intent that every high school in the state provide an annual training for high school students that is based on the training materials described in #1.

Sexual health education

- 4) Encourages school districts to provide, as part of comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education, instruction that includes all of the following information:
 - a) The Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP), Title IX, and any policy regarding adult-student boundaries, including where to locate the relevant procedures on the local educational agency's internet website.
 - b) The authority of CDE and the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights to investigate and enforce the UCP and Title IX, respectively.
 - c) The definition of sexual harassment and any legal prohibitions regarding that term.
 - d) What a student should do if they believe another student has been subjected to sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual harassment, or retaliation, including how to make a report and how to file a complaint with the local educational agency's Title IX coordinator.
 - e) Any interim and supportive measures available to students who report sexual harassment or retaliation for reporting an incident and the remedies available to them following a finding of sexual harassment or retaliation.
 - f) The positive outcomes associated with reporting incidents, including creating a safer school environment and changing the school culture.
 - g) Information about the range of disciplinary consequences that may be imposed on a student for carrying out any of the following acts in order to deter such behavior:
 - i) Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing a sexual battery.

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- ii) Cyber sexual bullying.
- iii) Sexual harassment.

Health framework

Requires the IQC, when the "Health Education Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve" (Health Framework) is next revised after January 1, 2026, to consider including in that curriculum framework all of the following information:

- a) The UCP and Title IX.
- b) The authority of CDE and the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights to investigate and enforce the UCP and Title IX, respectively.
- c) The definition sexual harassment and legal prohibitions regarding that term.
- d) What a student should do if they believe another student has been subjected to sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual harassment, or retaliation, including how to make a report and how to file a complaint with the local educational agency's Title IX coordinator.
- e) Any interim and supportive measures available to students who report sexual harassment or retaliation for reporting an incident and the remedies available to them following a finding of sexual harassment or retaliation.
- f) The positive outcomes associated with reporting incidents, including creating a safer school environment and changing the school culture.
- g) Information about the range of disciplinary consequences that may be imposed on a student for carrying out any of the following acts in order to deter such behavior:
 - i) Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing a sexual battery.
 - ii) Cyber sexual bullying.
 - iii) Sexual harassment.

Reviews of regulations, surveys, and consequences

Requires CDE to evaluate and assess, by January 1, 2028, the regulations pertaining to the UCP to ensure the regulations provide for efficient and transparent processes for whistleblowers to elevate Title IX concerns to CDE for investigation.

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7) Requires CDE to review, by January 1, 2028, the existing "California School Climate, Health, and Learning Survey System" to identify areas of the surveys where age-appropriate questions related to Title IX safety can be incorporated in order to ensure a safe campus climate.

- 8) Requires LEAs, in order to identify ways to achieve rehabilitative outcomes, to periodically review consequences (including suspensions and alternatives to suspensions) that the LEA may impose on a student for carrying out any of the following acts:
 - a) Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing a sexual battery.
 - b) Cyber sexual bullying.
 - c) Sexual harassment.

Title IX Safety Weeks

- 9) Establishes the first two full weeks in April and the first two full weeks in September as "Title IX Safety Weeks," during which time schools shall focus on fostering a safe and secure environment for all members of the school community, with emphasis on Title IX safety, resources, and awareness.
- 10) Encourages schools to do the following throughout their Title IX Safety Weeks:
 - a) Host interactive activities that cover school policies related to Title IX, which may include any of the following:
 - i) A meeting or listening session between students and administrators to facilitate conversation on Title IX culture and policy on campus.
 - ii) Guest speaker events in collaboration with experts in the subject of Title IX, school staff, and trusted community leaders and organizations.
 - iii) Title IX student assemblies or guided classroom presentations with Title IX representatives and school resource officers.
 - iv) Engagement with parents or guardians and providing a space for feedback, such as a Title IX community oversight committee or a school climate advisory committee.
 - b) Prominently post resources and information about Title IX safety throughout the campus and on the school's digital platform, as specified.

STAFF COMMENTS

1) **Need for the bill**. According to the author, "Title IX education, particularly focused on sexual harassment prevention, is crucial for our students. SB 334

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would empower them with knowledge about their rights and the protections they are entitled to under the law. By understanding Title IX, students can recognize and address instances of sexual harassment, creating a safer and more supportive environment.

"I am deeply concerned by the repeated failure to protect our students from sexual harassment. One striking example took place at Redlands USD in my district, where the California Department of Justice determined that the District systemically violated laws in place to protect against and address complaints related to sexual assault, harassment, and abuse, including Title IX, the Child Abuse and Neglect and Reporting Act (CANRA), and provisions of the California Education Code. Furthermore, the US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights also "identified several areas needing improvement regarding their Title IX processes" and entered into an agreement responding to 35 identified reports of sexual harassment at the school district. There have also been other instances recently in other school districts in California.

"What has taken place here must be stopped and prevented from continuing anywhere in the state. I believe that incorporating into the Health and Education Curriculum Framework information about Title IX resources, the Uniform Complaint Procedures, expanded definitions related to sexual harassment, and how students can respond to such instances, will create a safer and healthier school environment."

2) Redlands Unified stipulated judgment. On May 29, 2024, California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced that the California Department of Justice (DOJ) has entered into a proposed stipulated judgment with the Redlands Unified School District "to address critical and systemic shortfalls in the District's policies and practices regarding their response to allegations and complaints of sexual harassment, assault, and abuse of students. The stipulated judgment is the result of a comprehensive civil rights investigation into the District's handling of these complaints. The investigation followed concerning reports raised in a number of high-profile cases involving sexual abuse of minor students by the District's personnel, several of whom have been convicted of related offenses."

A five-year plan memorialized in a stipulated judgment that enjoins Redlands Unified from violating any law or regulation and requires Redlands Unified to, among other things:

- a) Hire, train, and provide appropriate oversight authority to an Assistant Superintendent of Compliance and Sexual Harassment Prevention to investigate and resolve complaints and establish prevention systems.
- b) Develop an electronic centralized tracking and response system/database for all oral and written reports and complaints of sexual harassment, abuse, and assault, including those submitted anonymously.
- c) Provide DOJ all oral and written complaints regarding sexual harassment, assault, and abuse and the District's responses to all oral and written

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- complaints for DOJ to review to ensure legal compliance.
- d) Revise policies and procedures for responding to a notice or complaints of sexual harassment, assault, or abuse to comply with law and regulation.
- e) Provide compensatory education and mental health services to victims.
- f) Provide age-appropriate annual training to students and parents on how to report sexual assault, harassment, and abuse and their right to a prompt and effective response and a discrimination-free school environment.
- g) Provide annual training to staff and investigators regarding their duties to address reports of sexual assault, harassment, and abuse.
- h) Provide an anonymous Climate Survey at the end of each academic semester to assess students' experiences with sexual harassment, assault, and abuse and use the results to further strengthen prevention and response.
- i) Establish a School Climate Advisory Committee that will study the District's efforts to prevent and respond to sexual harassment, abuse, and assault and make recommendations to the District for improving those efforts.
- j) Provide timely proof of compliance with all provisions of the judgment to DOJ to establish compliance.
- k) Provide DOJ with an affirmation from all District administrators, including the Superintendent, that they understand and will follow the requirements of the Child Abuse and Neglect and Reporting Act.
- Implement an auditing process at schools to ensure that all required notices, policies, and posters informing students and staff about their rights and responsibilities are in all required locations.

 https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press-docs/Notice%20of%20Entry%20of%20Judgment%20-%2024STCV13334.pdf

This bill requires CDE to post on its website the training materials developed by the Redlands Unified School District, once approved by the Attorney General, relative to training materials that are age-appropriate and related to sexual harassment for use by students and parents or guardians.

This bill states legislative intent that every high school in the state provide an annual training for high school students that is based on the training materials.

3) **Training for K-12 students and school employees.** Existing law requires each educational institution in California (K-12 and postsecondary education) to have a written policy on sexual harassment and, among other things, provide the policy as part of any orientation program for new students, and provide it to each faculty

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member, administrative staff and support staff. State law does not require any training for students relative to sexual harassment.

This bill does not require training, and instead states legislative intent that every high school in the state provide an annual training for high school students that is based on the training materials developed by Redlands Unified. This bill encourages instruction about sexual harassment as part of sexual health education courses, and encourages specified activities during Title IX Safety Weeks.

4) **Instruction about sexual harassment.** Existing law requires school districts that require completion of a course in health education for graduation from high school to include instruction in sexual harassment and violence.

In 2015, legislation was enacted to require the SBE to consider including information in sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention in the Health Framework when next revised. The Health Framework was revised and adopted in 2019, with the inclusion of information about how students can learn about healthy relationships, child sexual abuse, and human trafficking, which includes sex trafficking (in age-appropriate ways), and learn about related topics, such as affirmative consent, relationship violence, bullying, sexual harassment, and media influences, and specifically includes definitions, examples, and impacts related to sexual assault and sexual harassment.

This bill does not require instruction relative to sexual harassment, and instead states legislative intent that every high school in the state provide an annual training for high school students that is based on the training materials developed by Redlands Unified. This bill encourages instruction about sexual harassment as part of sexual health education courses, and encourages specified activities during Title IX Safety Weeks.

This bill encourages instruction that includes information about what a student should do if they believe another student has been subjected to sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual harassment, or retaliation, including how to make a report and how to file a complaint with the local educational agency's Title IX coordinator. The author may wish to consider clarifying that the information is to cover situations where a student believes they have been subjected to sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual harassment, or retaliation (in addition to when a student believes that another student has been victimized).

5) **Health Education Framework.** The Health Education Framework was last updated and adopted by the State Board of Education on May 6, 2019. While there is not a set timeframe in which curricular frameworks are updated, frameworks were historically revised on an eight-year cycle.

In 2015, legislation was enacted to require the SBE to consider including information in sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention in the Health Framework when next revised. The current Health Education Framework includes information about how students can learn about healthy relationships, child sexual abuse, and human trafficking, which includes sex trafficking (in age-

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appropriate ways), and learn about related topics, such as affirmative consent, relationship violence, bullying, sexual harassment, and media influences., and specifically includes definitions, examples, and impacts related to sexual assault and sexual harassment. This information was included in the 2019 Health Framework.

https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/he/cf/documents/healthedframework2019.pdf

While the current Health Framework contains some information students can learn related to sexual harassment, it does not include information specific to the topics required by this bill, such as the Uniform Complaint Procedures, the authority of the federal Office for Civil Rights, and other information about Title IX.

This bill requires the Instructional Quality Commission to consider including in the next revision of the Health Framework information about what a student should do if they believe another student has been subjected to sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual harassment, or retaliation, including how to make a report and how to file a complaint with the local educational agency's Title IX coordinator. The author may wish to consider clarifying that the information is to cover situations where a student believes they have been subjected to sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual harassment, or retaliation (in addition to when a student believes that another student has been victimized).

6) **Surveys**. This bill requires CDE to periodically review the existing "California School Climate, Health, and Learning Survey System" to identify areas to incorporate age-appropriate questions related to Title IX safety and ensuring a safe campus climate.

The survey system includes the California Healthy Kids Survey, California School Staff Survey, and School Parent Survey. There has been some concern with the Healthy Kids Survey because it asks about drug use and sexual activity, among other topics. Existing law requires parental consent before this survey may be administered (and any survey that asks about personal beliefs or practices that include health behavior and risks). The CDE recommends that this survey be administered to students in grades 5-12; school districts that receive Tobacco-Use Prevention Education funding are required to conduct the Healthy Kids Survey biennially. The state does not provide funding specifically for schools to administer these surveys.

The state has identified priorities as part of the Local Control Funding Formula to inform and support Local Control and Accountability Plans. Priority 6 is School Climate, which is measured by suspension and expulsion rates, and local measures that may include surveys. Schools are encouraged, but not required, to conduct school climate surveys. *This bill does not require schools to administer any surveys*.

7) **Title IX Safety Week.** This bill declares the first two full weeks in April and the first two full weeks in September as "Title IX Safety Weeks," requires all public schools to focus on fostering a safe and secure environment, and encourages schools to undertake certain activities and share the specified information

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throughout their Title IX Safety Weeks. This bill appears to require all schools to participate in Title IX Safety Weeks, as it requires all public schools to focus on fostering a safe and secure environment for all members of the school community with an emphasis on Title IX safety, resources, and awareness.

The Education Code identifies the following as weeks of special significance:

- a) The last two full weeks in April and the last two full weeks in September shall be known as "high school voter education weeks," during which time persons authorized by the county elections official shall be allowed to register students and school personnel on any high school campus in areas designated by the administrator of the high school, or his or her designee, which are reasonably accessible to all students.
- b) In observance of the importance of educational leadership at the school, school district, and county levels, the second full week in the month of October of each year shall be designated as "Week of the School Administrator." Schools, school districts, and county superintendents of schools are encouraged to observe the week with public recognition of the contribution that school administrators make to successful pupil achievement.
- c) The third full week in May is designated as Classified School Employee Week. All public schools shall annually observe that week in recognition of classified school employees and the contributions they make to the educational community. The observances required by this section shall be integrated into the regular school program. All community colleges shall annually observe that week in recognition of classified school employees and the contributions they make to the educational community. The observances required by this section shall be integrated into the regular community college program.
- d) The week of each year that includes April 28, shall be known as "Workplace Readiness Week." All public high schools, including charter schools, shall annually observe that week by providing information to pupils on their rights as workers, as specified.

8) Related legislation.

SB 848 (Pérez, 2025) among other things, strengthens policies around professional boundaries and adult-to-student interactions, addresses school employee misconduct and child abuse prevention, and improves oversight of staff conduct through clearer policy guidance and stronger administrative safeguards. SB 848 is pending in this committee.

9) Prior legislation.

AB 2961 (Addis, 2024) required minors who obtain a work permit to receive training on sexual harassment prevention, retaliation, and reporting resources using the online training course made available on the Civil Rights Department's

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website, by expanding the "intent to employ a minor" notification that a prospective employer must send to the school official who issued the work permit to include certification that the minor has completed the training. AB 2961 was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SUPPORT

California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls
California State PTA
Californians for Justice
CFT- A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
Children's Law Center of California
Courage California
Los Angeles County Office of Education

OPPOSITION

None received

-- END --

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair 2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: SB 391 Hearing Date: April 2, 2025

Author: Laird

Version: February 14, 2025

Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes

Consultant: Olgalilia Ramirez

Subject: Community colleges: Chancellor of the California Community Colleges: data

request fee policy.

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes the California Community College (CCC) Chancellor to implement a data request fee policy for researchers applying for access to individually identifiable data or student data, or both.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the CCCs under the administration of the Board of Governors (BOG), as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in California. The CCC system shall be comprised of community college districts. (Education Code (EC) § 70900)
- Authorizes the California Department of Education (CDE)to impose reasonable fees or charges upon researchers applying for access to individually identifiable data, in order to cover costs of responding to time-intensive requests and requires that fees or charges equal the actual costs incurred by the department in responding to the applicant's request. Current law further prohibits fees or charges from being imposed on any state agency except to the University of California (UC), the California State University (CSU), or the Chancellor of the CCCs for fees or charges related to the release of data for research purposes. (EC § 49079.7 (a)-(c) inclusive)
- Authorizes the governing board and the managing entity of the Cradle to Career Data System to implement a data request fee policy to compensate for excessive use of the data system, to recover costs that would otherwise typically be borne by the requesting data researcher, or both. Current law provides that the data request fee policy that is implemented be reviewed and approved by the governing board, revised periodically, and made publicly available and posted in a prominent location on the data system's website. (EC § 10869)
- 4) Prohibits, under the Information Practices Act, a state agency from disclosing any personal information in a manner that would allow the identification of the individual to whom the information pertains with specific exceptions such as nonprofit educational institutions conducting scientific research provided that the

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Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects, of the California Health and Human Services Agency, has approved the request for information. (Civil Code 1798.24 (a)-(w) inclusive)

5) Under federal law, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, imposes specific requirements on postsecondary institutions concerning the handling of educational records. The statute mandates that these institutions must not disclose education records or personally identifiable information without the consent of the student, except under specified exceptions. One such exception includes instances in which the disclosure is in connection with financial aid for which the student has applied. Furthermore, the Act conditions the receipt of federal funds on adherence to these privacy protections. Institutions in violation of FERPA may face penalties, including the possible loss of federal funding. (20 United States Code Annotated § 1232g)

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- Authorizes the Chancellor of the CCCs to implement a data request fee policy for researchers applying for access to individually identifiable data or student data, or both.
- 2) Requires that the data request fee policy be reviewed and approved by the CCC BOG, revised periodically, and made publicly available and posted in a prominent location on the Chancellor's website.
- 3) Provides that the fees or charges imposed upon applicants who are requesting data from the Chancellor compensate for significant data compilation, extraction, or programming use of the data system to recover costs that would otherwise typically be borne by the requesting data researcher or both.
- 4) Prohibits fees or charges from being imposed upon either of the following:
 - a) A state agency, except for fees or charges related to the release of data for research purposes to the UC, the CSU, or the State Department of Education.
 - b) An undergraduate or graduate student seeking data for the student's individual studies.

STAFF COMMENTS

Need for the bill. According to the author, "The California Community Colleges system is the largest higher education system in the country, and there is significant interest from research organizations in data sharing with the community college system to explore critical topics from affordability to developmental education reform to transfer and more. The Chancellor's Office voluntarily fulfills these research requests, but doing so is both time and labor

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intensive, and has become a significant portion of the Chancellor's Office workload. Mirroring the authorization to impose fees granted to the California Department of Education and Cradle to Career, Senate Bill 391 will provide the Community College Chancellor's Office the ability to impose research fees on research requests to cover the actual costs incurred by the Office for fulfilling data requests. With fair compensation, this bill will ease the capacity of the Chancellor's Office to provide this essential service."

- 2) Data requests. According to the CCC Chancellor's Office privacy statement, it collects and retains personal information from individuals using its website and from other sources that are provided to them as authorized by applicable law. The CCC Chancellor's Office indicates that it manages at any given time 25-40 Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with various research partners to provide compilation of specific student data and receives two to three requests per month. According to information provided by the author's office, "the fulfillment of these data requests has become a significant portion of the Chancellor's Office workload and is in addition to its duty to manage a complex, statewide data management information system and to fulfill data requests for annual and biennial legislative reports and provide data to monitor multiple different statelevel programs or initiatives. The fulfillment of an average data request requires time and labor investments from the Chancellor's Office attorneys, Vice Chancellor, Research Data Managers, Research Data Specialists, Information Technology Specialists, Information Technology Managers, Associate Governmental Programs Analysts, Executive Vice Chancellor, and Communications Information Officers."
- 3) Other state educational agencies that impose data request fees. Current law authorizes the CDE and the Office of Cradle to Career Data to impose fees or charges for data requests. The provisions in this bill are modeled after CDE's statutory authority to impose data request fees. Specifically, CDE has the authority to impose fees on, including on CCC, CSU, and UC researchers, who request access to individually identifiable data, based on the actual costs incurred. In practice, CDE only accepts requests from qualified researchers at universities, non-profit institutions or other governmental agencies. It reviews each request, and determines whether it is aligned with its research priorities and whether it satisfies other requirements determined by CDE. This bill allows the CCC Chancellor to develop a similar policy for charging researchers applying for access to student data. As mentioned, the Chancellor's Office currently collaborates with various research partners. However, it is not authorized to impose charges on those partners for work related to these requests.
- 4) **Student privacy**. The CCC Chancellor's Office is subject to federal and state privacy laws. As noted in the background section of this analysis, federal statute under FERPA mandates that institutions must not disclose education records or personally identifiable information without the consent of the student or under certain circumstances. Individually identifiable information is any information that, combined with publicly available information, allows the recipient to easily recognize an individual student's identity. Educational records are generally defined as records that are directly related to a student and maintained by an educational institution (higher education and local educational agency). FERPA

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allows educational institutions to release aggregate data without restrictions. They may not release individual identifiable information to anyone except students, their parents if under 18 or if over 18 in some cases or personnel who have a legitimate educational interest within an educational institution without consent. Other exceptions to the general consent rule include other schools to which a student is transferring, appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student, and researchers conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the educational institutions. The CCC Chancellor's Office privacy statement indicates that its practices are also subject to state law under the Information Practices Privacy Act. The Act builds on FERPA requirements by further requiring that any release of individually identifiable data from a state department or agency to a researcher be approved by the California Health and Human Services Agency's Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects (CPHS) or an institutional review board that has a signed agreement with the CPHS. This bill does not alter privacy requirements for the CCC Chancellor's Office, nor does it change what data may be disclosed or to whom the data may be disclosed. Rather, it attempts to enable the CCC Chancellor to establish a process for recovering costs associated with the compiling, extracting, or programming of data by Chancellor's office staff that are already permissible for disclosure under current federal and state privacy laws.

Amendment. Although it may be redundant to state that the bill's provisions must be implemented in accordance with federal and state privacy laws, it may be prudent to hold that the CCC Chancellor responsible for ensuring that the adopted policy is compliant. As such, staff recommends that the bill be amended to require the Chancellor of the California Community College to ensure that the data request fee policy implemented pursuant to the provisions of this bill is in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws to protect individual privacy, including but not limited to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and Section 1798.24 of the Civil Code.

SUPPORT

California Community Colleges, Chancellor's Office (sponsor) RAND

OPPOSITION

None received

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair 2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: SB 411 Hearing Date: April 2, 2025

Author: Pérez

Version: March 20, 2025

Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes

Consultant: Lynn Lorber

Subject: Stop Child Hunger Act of 2025.

NOTE: This bill has been referred to the Committees on Education and *Human*

Services. A "do pass" motion should include referral to the Committee on

Human Services.

SUMMARY

This bill (1) requires the California Department of Education (CDE), with support from the Department of Social Services (DSS), to develop a statewide application that is made available through a single statewide website that enables families to submit federally required information for meal eligibility, as specified; (2) requires CDE to establish a program designed to serve meals to students during school breaks or closures that last five or more schooldays; and, (3) requires DSS to establish the Better Out of School Time Nutrition Electronic Benefit Transfer Program for school breaks or closures that last five or more schooldays.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Requires local educational agencies (LEAs), beginning with the 2022-23 school year, to make available a nutritionally adequate breakfast and a nutritionally adequate lunch (that qualify for federal reimbursement) free of charge during each schoolday to any student who requests a meal without consideration of the student's eligibility for a federally funded free or reduced-price meal. (Education Code (EC) § 49501.5)
- 2) Requires CDE to work with DSS to maximize participation in the federal Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children (Summer EBT) program. CDE is required to share all data determined by the departments to be necessary. (EC § 49506)
- Requires LEAs to make paper applications for free or reduced-price meals available to students at all times during each regular schoolday, and are authorized to also make an application electronically available online, as specified. Online applications must comply with the following requirements, among other things:

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 Require completion of only those questions that are necessary for determining eligibility.

- b) Comply with specified privacy rights and disclosure protections.
- c) Include links to all of the following:
 - i) The online application to CalFresh.
 - ii) The online single state application for health care.
 - iii) The Department of Public Health's web page entitled "About WIC and How to Apply," or another web page that connects families to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.
 - iv) The website of a summer lunch program authorized to participate within the city or school district. (EC § 49557)

ANALYSIS

Statewide web-based application

- 1) Requires CDE, with support from DSS, to develop, and provide families with, a statewide application that is made available through a single statewide website that enables families to submit federally required information.
- 2) Requires the statewide application to adhere to all of the following:
 - a) Is made available with sufficient time for families to apply for summer of 2027 benefits.
 - b) Has the ability to, upon completion of the application, be routed to the applicant family's LEA to determine Summer EBT eligibility.
 - c) Meets the requirements for CDE's new student benefit form that is in an alternative electronic format that meets the requirements and purposes of the Local Control Funding Formula, and also the federal requirements to determine eligibility for the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and Summer EBT Program (SUN Bucks).
 - d) Is limited, with regard to information requested, to minimum requirements under federal law and guidance.
 - e) Is translated with accessible language into at least all threshold languages that are required for the CalFresh program.

New state program to serve meals during school breaks

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3) Requires CDE to establish a program designed to serve meals to students during either the circumstances described below, with regard to school breaks or closures, that last five or more schooldays:

- a) A regularly scheduled school break.
- b) The closure of a school campus caused by a condition for which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor.
- 4) Requires this meal program to be made available in school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools that participate in, and comply with the requirements of, the federal National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs, and any applicable state laws and regulations.
- 5) Authorizes the meals under this program to be made available through congregate or non-congregate settings or for individual pickup.
- 6) Requires DSS to support CDE in developing, and providing families with, a statewide application made available through a single statewide website for the Summer EBT program.
- 7) Provides that implementation of this new meal program is subject to an appropriation for this purpose.

Better Out of School Time (BOOST) Nutrition EBT Program

- 8) Requires DSS to establish the Better Out of School Time (BOOST) Nutrition EBT Program to prevent child hunger during either of the following circumstances that last five or more schooldays:
 - a) A regularly scheduled school break, other than a summer period during which the Summer EBT program is implemented.
 - b) The closure of a school campus caused by a condition for which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor.
- 9) Requires DSS to issue BOOST Nutrition EBT benefits to an eligible student, using the infrastructure of the Summer EBT program, in the amount described in # 10, for each day during either of the circumstances described above that last five or more schooldays.
- 10) Requires DSS to set the amount of the daily BOOST Nutrition EBT benefit at the beginning of each school year in an amount that equals the reimbursement rate of a free breakfast under the federal School Breakfast Program, a free lunch under the National School Lunch Program, and an after-school snack.
- 11) Requires student eligibility for the BOOST Nutrition EBT Program to follow the same criteria set forth for student eligibility for the Summer EBT program.

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12) Requires DSS to issue BOOST Nutrition EBT benefits to an eligible student according to the following timelines:

- a) By the seventh schoolday before the start of a regularly scheduled break.
- b) If feasible, by the seventh schoolday before the start of the closure of a school campus caused by a condition for which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor, or otherwise as soon as possible.
- 13) Prohibits BOOST Nutrition EBT benefits from being considered as income or resources in determining other public benefits, to the extent permitted by federal law.
- 14) Provides that implementation of this new BOOST Nutrition EBT benefits program is subject to an appropriation for this purpose.

Income verification form

- 15) Requires the governing board of each school district and each county superintendent of schools, to the extent allowed by federal law and guidance, to provide alternative income verification forms instead of the application for free- or reduced-price meals.
- 16) Requires the alternative income verification form to be made available in paper form at all times during each regular school day and be made electronically available online.
- 17) Requires that information collected on the form comply with the requirements described under # 3 in the existing law portion of this analysis, and comply with the protections afforded to students and their family members pursuant to existing Education Code provisions relative to immigration and citizenship status.
- 18) Requires the governing board of each school district and each county superintendent of schools to use the model alternative income verification form, after CDE has developed and adopted to, to meet the requirements of # 15.
- 19) Prohibits an alternative income verification form from requiring questions to be answered that are determined by CDE to be unnecessary.

Applications for free- or reduced-price meals

- 20) Modifies the existing requirement that LEAs make paper applications for free- or reduced-price meals available to students at all times during each regular school day to specify this requirement is only if required by federal law and guidance.
- 21) Expands the links required to be included in an online application for free- or reduced-price meals to also include links to:

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a) The website providing information about the federal Summer EBT program.

- b) The website providing information about the BOOST Nutrition EBT Program established pursuant to # 8.
- 22) Specifies that an application submitted through the website developed pursuant to # 1 constitutes an application for free- or reduced-price meals.
- Clarifies that the plan LEAs must formulate to ensure students eligible for free- or reduced-price meals are not treated differently from other children, are only for schools that do not serve meals universally to all students.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) **Need for the bill.** According to the author, "Although California has undertaken tremendous efforts to provide and expand access to school meals, there are still existing gaps in accessibility on three major fronts. First, while California enrolled 5 million eligible students for SUN Bucks, there are still approximately 1.8 million eligible children yet to apply due because these students are not directly determined and eligible and enrolled. The second factor contributing to gap in access to school meals is reservations from families to apply for meals if their student's school is using a third party platform application. There are examples of third party based applications collecting sensitive information, which can be sold or compromised without notification. Lastly, school meal accessibility is also being impacted by the lack of access to either the SUN Bucks and on-site school meals during unanticipated school site closures due to disasters.
 - "SB 411 addresses the aforementioned gaps in school meal access by creating an accessible and secure year-round child nutrition safety net program by: establishing a statewide website for families to apply for SUN Bucks; requiring school meal applications to include the SUN Bucks application; codifying key child privacy protections to protect personal data; establishing the Better Out of School Time (BOOST) Nutrition benefit to address child hunger during regularly scheduled school breaks and emergency school campus closures; as well as supporting school nutrition professional opportunities to work additional hours providing on-site meal options during school breaks and emergency closures."
- Meal programs for students. The National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program are federal school meal programs that support LEAs in serving meals to students during the school day. These federal programs have many requirements that LEAs must follow, such as serving meals that meet certain nutritional standards. These federal nutrition programs reimburse LEAs based on the number of meals they serve, with the per-meal reimbursement rate varying by student household income (such as eligibility for free- or reduced-price meals). To receive state reimbursement for school meals, state law requires schools to participate in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. The state supplements federal funds with additional state funds for each meal served.

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California's Universal Meal Program

Beginning with the 2002-23 school year, all LEAs are required to provide two nutritionally adequate meals to all students who request meals. LEAs must participate in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs to receive the state meal reimbursement for these meals. While the state provides reimbursement for meals served to all students, federal funds only provide reimbursement for meals served to students who are income-eligible (notwithstanding Community Eligibility Provision and Provision 2 for schools with a high percentage of students who are low-income). As a result, there continues to be a need for LEAs to collect information about family income and determine eligibility for federal reimbursement.

Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program is a federally funded program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture that reimburses "sponsors" for administrative and operational costs to provide meals for children through age 18 in low-income areas during traditional summer vacation periods and during school vacation periods of more than 15 days for year-round schools. Eligible sponsors include public or private non-profit school food authorities; public or private non-profit colleges or universities; public or private non-profit residential summer camps; units of local, county, municipal, state, or federal governments; or any other type of tax-exempt private non-profit organizations.

National School Lunch Program's Seamless Summer Option
Schools participating in the National School Lunch or School Breakfast
Program are eligible to apply for the Seamless Summer Option to provide meals
for children through age 18 in low-income areas during traditional summer
vacation periods and during school vacation periods of more than 10 days for
year-round schools. The Seamless Summer Option may be operated at
community or recreational centers, libraries, camps, schools, and other eligible
summer meal sites. Participating in the Seamless Summer Option reduces
paperwork and administrative burdens for schools, as schools must already be
participating in the National School Lunch or School Breakfast programs.

SUN Bucks – Summer EBT

In 2023, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture was required to establish a permanent summer electronic benefits transfer for children program (Summer EBT) for the purpose of ensuring continued access to food when school is not in session for the summer. This program, known as the SUN Bucks program, provides eligible students with an EBT card with \$120 during the summer to purchase eligible groceries from eligible providers. In California, SUN Bucks is administered by DSS, in partnership with CDE.

SUN Bucks is a unique summer meal program because it provides an EBT card that students and their families can use to purchase their own food at grocery stores and farmers markets (similar to CalFresh), while the summer meal programs described above provide complete meals to students in area-eligible communities in a congregate setting and in some cases, in non-congregate settings.

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This bill creates two additional state-funded nutrition programs – one administered by CDE for LEAs to provide meals to students during school breaks or closures lasting longer than five school days, and one administered by DSS to provide EBT cards to students during school breaks or closures lasting longer than five school days.

3) **School meal applications and forms.** Student eligibility for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast program is determined based on a family's income, as reported by families via the National School Lunch Program meal application, and verified by the LEA. LEAs are reimbursed with federal and state funds for meals served to eligible students at either the Free, Reduced-Price or Paid category. For schools operating the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs under standard meal counting and claiming, the National School Lunch Program application can also be used to identify low-income students for purposes of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). Federal regulations prohibit schools operating the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs under a federal provision (see next below) from collecting meal applications. These schools can use the Alternative Income Form for LCFF purposes. The Alternative Income Form cannot be used for determining eligibility for the National School Lunch or School Breakfast programs or for SUN Bucks. While state law now requires LEAs to offer two meals per day free of charge to all students, income eligibility information is still needed for the purposes described above.

This bill requires the governing board of each school district and each county superintendent of schools, to the extent allowed by federal law and guidance, to provide alternative income verification forms instead of the application for free- or reduced-price meals.

The federal SUN Bucks program requires that each student be individually identified for eligibility (even while LEAs may be approved to provide meals to all students under the federal Community Eligibility Provision or Provision 2, which allow schools with a high percentage of low-income students to serve all students at that schoolsite free of charge). Therefore, the information required for the National School Lunch Program and for SUN Bucks is not aligned.

Due to the need for updated applications to accommodate the information required to determine eligibility for SUN Bucks, SB 153 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 38, Statutes of 2024) required CDE to develop a student benefit form in an alternative electronic format that meets the requirements and purposes of the LCFF, and also the federal requirements to determine eligibility for the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and Summer EBT Program (SUN Bucks). CDE recently released the new Universal Benefits Application template for these purposes. Federal regulations require states to make a Summer EBT application available to households whose children are enrolled in the National School Lunch or School Breakfast programs and who do not already have an individual eligibility determination; however, federal regulations do not require the application to be an interactive web-based tool.

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Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, schools participating in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program that are approved to operate a federal provision, such as the Community Eligibility Provision or Provision 2, must collect Universal Benefits Applications for SUN Bucks eligibility on an annual basis. This will ensure that the estimated 1.8 million students who attend schools serving meals to all students under the federal Community Eligibility Provision or Provision 2 can apply for SUN Bucks eligibility.

The author notes that, while the new Universal Benefits Application is an important step, it is a static PDF that does not allow families to complete and submit it online. This bill requires CDE to develop a statewide application that is made available through a single statewide website that enables families to submit federally required information.

- 4) New state program to serve meals during school breaks. Existing meal programs for students provide meals during the summer or school breaks and closures lasting at least 10 or 15 school days (depending on the program), and provide a \$120 EBT card during the summer. Many schools have breaks of five or more days during the fall, winter and spring. For example in the Sacramento City Unified School District, there are four full weeks during the school year when campuses are closed (one week in late November for fall break, two weeks in late December for winter break, and one week in April for spring break). This bill requires CDE to establish a program designed to serve meals to students during regularly scheduled school breaks lasting at least five school days, and school closures lasting at least five school days caused by a condition for which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor.
- Better Out of School Time (BOOST) EBT Program. As noted above, existing meal programs for students provide meals during the summer or school breaks and closures lasting at least 10 or 15 school days (depending on the program), and provide a \$120 EBT card during the summer. This bill requires DSS to establish the BOOST EBT Program for students during regularly scheduled school breaks lasting at least five school days, and school closures lasting at least five school days caused by a condition for which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor. The amount of BOOST EBT a student receives would be determined at the beginning of each school year, to be equal to the reimbursement rate for a free breakfast (under the federal School breakfast Program) and a free lunch (under the National School Lunch Program), and an after school snack. As an example, for the 2024-25 school year, this would amount to \$9.60 per day.

BOOST is similar to SUN Bucks (which is administered by DSS), but BOOST is for school breaks or closures of five or more school days, while SUN Bucks is for the summer break.

6) Related legislation.

SB 225 (McNerney, 2025) requires CDE to establish a process for state reimbursement for federal summer meal program operators for meals served to guardians of eligible students who participate in a summer meal program. SB

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225 is scheduled to be heard by this Committee on April 2.

7) Prior legislation.

SB 364 (Skinner, 2022) would have required DSS to establish the BOOST EBT program. SB 364 was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SUPPORT

California Association of Food Banks (co-sponsor)

California State Council of Service Employees International Union co-sponsor)

GRACE/End Child Poverty California (co-sponsor)

Alchemist CDC

American Academy of Pediatrics, California

Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement

California Catholic Conference

California Food and Farming Network

Ceres Community Project

Community Action Partnership of Orange County

Community Foodbank of San Benito

Early Matters Fresno

Farm2people

Feeding San Diego

Food Access LA

Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano

Friends Committee on Legislation of California

Fullwell

GLIDE

Hunger Action Los Angeles

Latino Coalition for a Healthy California

Marin Food Policy Council

National Council of Jewish Women-California

NextGen California

Parent Voices California

Pesticide Action Network North America

Roots of Change

Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services

Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County

Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County

Second Harvest of Silicon Valley

Sierra Harvest

What We All Deserve

OPPOSITION

None received