

SSDA's 2025 Legislative Wrap-up

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With the first year of the 2025-26 Legislative Session having wrapped up and the Governor having dispensed with the bills that made it to his desk, we wanted to look back at some of the significant bills on which SSDA took a position this year, and where they ultimately ended up.

Overall, 2025 was a good legislative year for small schools, with many of the bills SSDA supported being signed into law. Below we detail the outcomes of SSDA's position bills that made it to the Governor's Desk.

Signed Legislation

Civic Center Act - [AB 503 \(Gonzalez, Mark\)](#). After it inadvertently expired on January 1, 2025, AB 503 permanently restores the authorization under the Civic Center Act allowing a school district to recover direct costs for the use of nonclassroom school facilities and grounds by nonprofit organizations and groups promoting youth and school activities inadvertently. An urgency statute, the bill took effect immediately upon the Governor's signature on October 1. (*SSDA Position: Support*)

Resource Specialist Ratios - [AB 560 \(Addis\)](#). Originally drafted to establish set limits on a resource specialist's caseloads depending on the services being provided, the final version of AB 560 requires the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), on or before July 1, 2027, to recommend a maximum adult-to-pupil staffing ratio for special classes. In developing the recommendation, the SPI is required to consider specific factors, including conditions in small and rural local educational agencies (LEA). (*SSDA Position: Oppose*)

Williams Inspection Extension - [AB 927 \(Sharp-Collins\)](#). In response to the increase in the number of schools identified for Williams' inspections following the COVID-19 Pandemic, AB 927 gives county superintendents a temporary extension on the timeline by which a county superintendent must complete its inspections. Specifically, for schools identified on the list established in the 2024-25 fiscal year, and only in the fiscal years in which that list is used, a county superintendent must complete its inspections by the eighth week of the school year, rather than the traditional fourth week deadline. (*SSDA Position: Support*)

Administrative Internship Programs - [AB 959 \(Hadwick\)](#). Looking to expand access to high-quality administrative training at the local level and enable more schools to “grow-their-own”, this bill authorizes a school district or county office of education (COE) to offer a one-year internship program for candidates for a preliminary administrative credential. *(SSDA Position: Support)*

Use of Smartphones during Emergency - [AB 962 \(Hoover\)](#). In order to avoid potential conflicts between a school’s comprehensive school safety plan and the smartphone use policy schools are required to adopt by July 1, 2026, AB 962 clarifies that the use of a smartphone by a student may be prohibited in the case of an emergency or in response to a perceived threat of danger if that circumstance is explicitly addressed in a comprehensive school safety plan. *(SSDA Position: Support)*

Teacher Preparation Programs - [AB 1306 \(Muratsuchi\)](#). This bill authorizes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to approve a teacher education program offered by a school district or COE administered for the purposes of earning a cross-cultural language and academic development certificate, English learner authorization, or a bilingual authorization certificate. *(SSDA Position: Support)*

Licensed Vocational Nurses - [SB 389 \(Ochoa Bogh\)](#). SB 389 clarifies that a licensed vocational nurse (LVN), under the supervision of a credentialed school nurse, may provide suctioning and other basic respiratory services to students with exceptional needs who require specialized health care services during the school day. *(SSDA Position: Support)*

Vetoed Legislation

Itemized Statements - [AB 374 \(Nguyen\)](#). Sponsored by the California Federation of Teachers and the California School Employees Association, this bill would have required a public school employer to provide a classified school employee an itemized written statement showing specific information, including gross wages earned, net wages earned, and total hours worked by the employee, at the time of each wage payment. In his veto message, the Governor noted that the bill’s “associated costs of implementation are estimated at tens of millions of dollars and are not accounted for in the state budget” and encouraged the bill’s sponsors to “work with school employers to find a less costly solution.” *(SSDA Position: Oppose)*

Nonclassroom Based Charter Schools - [SB 414 \(Ashby\)](#). With the current moratorium on new nonclassroom-based (NCB) charter schools set to expire on January 1, 2026, this bill would have made changes to the oversight, auditing, and funding determination process for NCB charters, including updating and expanding audit procedures and increasing accountability for charter authorizers. In vetoing the bill, the Governor wrote:

This bill makes changes to the oversight, auditing, and funding systems for nonclassroom-based (NCB) charter schools, expands local educational agencies' auditing procedures, and establishes a new Office of the Education Inspector General.

In the wake of several high-profile cases of fraud by NCB charter schools, in partnership with the Legislature, we charged the Legislative Analyst's Office and the Fiscal Crisis Management and Assistance Team with studying ways to improve oversight and accountability, and to provide policymakers with recommendations to address those issues.

I deeply appreciate the efforts of the author and the negotiating parties to develop legislation that builds on these recommendations and the findings from the State Controller. However, this bill falls short. While the oversight and auditing provisions are meaningful, other sections are unworkable, would face legal challenges, and require hundreds of millions of dollars to implement. Additionally, provisions added late in the legislative process undermine important agreements my Administration made during my first term.

While I cannot sign this bill, I remain committed to improving oversight of our education system while preserving the ability of high-quality charter schools to continue educating the students they serve. As such, I am calling on all interested parties to work together in the coming months to find a swift resolution on remaining unresolved issues, so that follow-up legislation can be introduced and passed when the Legislature returns early next year. This legislation must ensure that public funds are properly utilized, address fraud and malfeasance, improve accountability and oversight, and acknowledge our fiscal reality to allow for successful implementation.

(SSDA Position: Oppose)

60-Day Substitutes - [AB 1224 \(Valencia\)](#). Citing the bill's lack of mandated training and mentoring, the Governor vetoed this bill that would have allowed an LEA to place a substitute in a single assignment for up to 60 days (up from the normal 30-days, or 20-days for special education classes.) (*SSDA Position: Support*)

ADA Protection for Immigration Enforcement Activities - [AB 1348 \(Bains\)](#). Introduced in response to reports of immigration enforcement activity in nearby communities impacting school attendance, this bill would have added "immigration enforcement activity" to the list of specified emergency situations for which a school district, COE, or charter school may seek a J-13A waiver for a material decrease in attendance. In his veto message, the Governor called out the fact that "current law already provides opportunities for [LEAs] to utilize attendance recovery and independent study programs to recoup lost attendance-based funding, while also ensuring students receive instruction and support."
(*SSDA Position: Support*)

What's Next?

The Legislature is now on recess until January 5, 2026, when members will return to Sacramento to kick off the second year of the 2025-2026 Legislative Session.