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59th Assembly District



AB 599: School Facility, Instructional Material and Teacher Assignment Inspections

SUMMARY

AB 599 updates Williams list eligibility under the Education Code by replacing references to the outdated Academic Performance Index (API) with the current accountability measures used under the Local Control Funding Formula.

BACKGROUND

In 2013, the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) established priority 1 of the Local Control Accountability Plan as the basic conditions of a qualified teacher, sufficient instructional materials, and facilities in good repair. These “basic educational necessities” were established in law for the first time in 2004 as part of the settlement in *Williams v. State of California*.

The class-action lawsuit claimed that the state and its educational agencies denied hundreds of thousands of California children their fundamental right to equal educational opportunities under the California Constitution by failing to give them the basic tools necessary for an education.

The *Williams* settlement requires that county offices of education conduct inspections and focus on the lowest-performing schools based on the API. When LCFF was enacted, funding for the county offices of education’s responsibilities was rolled into the LCFF allocations.

The list of schools inspected by counties has been frozen in place since 2013 when the API was last produced. As such, the same schools are being evaluated annually as were in 2013, even though there has been much change in school performance over the last 6 years.

AB 599 will align the way schools are identified for inspections by county offices of education with the schools identified in the state’s new system of support.

THIS BILL

AB 599 strikes references to the Academic Performance Index and replaces it with the multiple measures accountability system for the purposes of inspecting California’s lowest-performing schools for quality facilities, instructional material, and accurately assigned educators. Specifically, the metrics that will be used to determine schools in need of inspection will be those that are eligible for CSI (Comprehensive Support and Improvement), ATSI (Additional Targeted Support and Improvement), or have 15% or more non-fully credentialed teachers.

SUPPORT

Public Advocates (Sponsor)
American Civil Liberties Union (Sponsor)
California County School Educational Services Association (CCSESA) (Sponsor)
Los Angeles County Office of Education (Sponsor)

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