

AB 599 Legislation Update

Introduction

CCSESA, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, Public Advocates, and the ACLU are co-sponsoring [AB 599 \(Jones-Sawyer\)](#) to update the criteria for identifying *Williams* schools to align with our new multiple measures accountability system under Local Control Funding Formula and better integrate the school inspection process into the statewide system of support.

Background on *Williams v. State of California*

Public Advocates and the ACLU were co-counsel in the *Williams v. State of California* class action lawsuit which claimed that the state and its educational agencies denied over a million California children their fundamental right to an education under the California Constitution by failing to give them the basic tools necessary for their education—sufficient instructional materials, decent facilities in good repair, and teachers appropriately qualified and assigned to teach their subjects and their students, including English learners.

The *Williams* settlement requires all schools to meet basic educational necessity standards and requires the county offices of education to conduct inspections in the lowest performing schools and schools likely to experience basic necessity issues in order to prevent, detect and correct problems. At the time of the settlement, schools in deciles 1-3 of the Academic Performance Index (“API”) were identified every three years. API was a proxy for where these issues were most likely to occur. As proposed in AB 599, the new criteria will be a better proxy and align the list of *Williams* schools to our new multiple measures accountability system under LCFF and the federal identification system.

Bill Criteria

AB 599 would replace the API-based method for selecting schools with the following:

1. Comprehensive Support and Improvement (“CSI”) schools, per Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

- Low graduation rate (public high schools with less than 68% average graduation rate over 3 years), and
- Lowest performing 5% of schools receiving Title 1 funds, e.g., schools with all red indicators on the dashboard, all red but one, all red and orange, and majority red (for schools w/ 5+ indicators).

2. Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (“ATSI”) schools, per ESSA

- Also based on dashboard performance: if 1 or more student groups meets any of the 4 CSI criteria for lowest performing 5% of schools for 3 years in a row.

3. And schools with 15% or more of teachers holding less than a clear or preliminary teaching credential

- This criterion is based on research from the Learning Policy Institute.

- Teacher preparedness is the single most important school indicator of student academic outcomes and success and now we have the CalSAAS system yielding direct evidence of school-level teacher quality in ways that did not exist when the inspection list was originally created.
- Schools with high concentrations of under-credentialed teachers are more likely to have issues with one or more of the other basic educational necessities (facilities in good repair and sufficient instructional materials) as poor working conditions leads to higher rates of turnover and inability to attract and retain stable, prepared, and experienced educators.

Recent Amendments (Version July 15, 2021)

- The next *Williams* list will be a one-year list (to be used in 2022-23) that will rely on the 2019-2020 CSI/ATSI list and schools with 15% or more under-credentialed teachers. A new three-year list will be generated in 2023-24 and every third year thereafter in the same fiscal year that schools are identified for CSI/ATSI. **§ 1240(c)(2)(A)(i-ii).**
- “Dashboard Alternative School Status” schools excluded from *Williams* list. **§ 1240(c)(2)(A)(ii)(III).**

Impact on number of schools (for reference)

The most recent *Williams* list included 2,183 schools, based on 2012 API scores. The new list will fluctuate in size. Based on the most recent data available, the number will drop to 2015 schools.

Proposed criteria	Total Number of Schools
CSI-Low Performance	362
CSI-Grad Rate	58
ATSI	1001
General Assistance schools where 15% or more of the teachers are not fully credentialed	594
TOTAL: CSI or ATSI or 15%+ Non-Fully Credentialed Teachers	2015