



August 24, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1020 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Assembly Bill 1868 (L. Rivas) - Long Term English Learner Data
Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Newsom:

Californians Together and the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) respectfully urge your signature of AB 1868 (Rivas), which seeks to disaggregate data in order to strengthen California's guidance and resources to ensure Long-Term English Learner (LTEL) students are provided with targeted interventions that best meet their needs.

In the 2019-20 school year, approximately six million public school students were enrolled in California's public schools. Of these students, approximately 1.148 million are English Learners (ELs). Out of this population, roughly 200,000 are LTELs, making up nearly half of secondary ELs. Thirty-six percent of these LTELs have been dually identified as students with disabilities. Another 130,000 ELs are considered at risk of becoming LTELs, most of whom are in grades 3-5 and have needs that should be addressed to avoid falling behind in school.

AB 1868 seeks to break down special education data by English language status and type of disability. In addition, it provides for further disaggregation of achievement data for the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) by LTELs and students at risk of becoming LTELs, including in the areas of Mathematics, English Language Arts, and the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California.

The California Department of Education (CDE) estimates the initial one-time cost to implement this measure would be between \$750,000-\$900,000, with an annual overall cost of between \$60,000-\$90,000 to maintain the data integration. We believe it is vital for the data provided under AB 1868 to be displayed on existing websites and are concurrently seeking a budgetary appropriation to achieve the goals set forth under this measure.

Currently, CDE does not disaggregate and report achievement data for LTELs or students at risk of becoming LTELs. Moreover, CDE does not currently report special education identification data by English language status, which, given that 36 percent of LTELs are

dually identified as students with disabilities, it is critical to inform actions by state and LEA leaders. We believe it is imperative to garner the academic outcome and special education identification data for LTELs to ensure their needs are addressed.

Further, disaggregating CAASPP achievement data will provide the counties, districts, and schools that enroll a large majority of California's LTELs, with valuable information about the strengths, challenges, and trends related to LTEL achievement. It is projected that this disaggregation will provide public data for all tested grades to the counties enrolling 99%, districts enrolling 80%, and schools enrolling 47% of all LTELs statewide. Moreover, public data for at least all of the students tested ("All Grades") would be available for the counties enrolling nearly 99.9%, districts enrolling 98%, and schools enrolling 66% of all LTELs statewide.

With local control, the information that would be provided through the passage of AB 1868 would have a considerable impact on the ability of state leaders and LEAs to make data-driven decisions, support continuous improvement efforts, and celebrate achievements.

Californians Together and CABE believe this measure is a fundamental step California must take in order to appropriately serve our LTELs. We thank you for your support and leadership of this important issue and urge your signature on AB 1868 (L. Rivas) when the measure reaches your desk.

Should you have any questions feel free to reach out to CABE's Legislative Advocate Jennifer Baker at jbaker@m-w-h.com, or Californians Together Associate Director of Policy, Manuel Buenrosto at manuel@caltog.org.

Sincerely,



Jan Gustafson Corea
CABE, Chief Executive Officer



Martha Hernandez
Californians Together, Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Luz Rivas
Stuart Thompson, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office