
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Benjamin Allen, Chair

2017 - 2018 Regular

Bill No: SB 720 **Hearing Date:** January 10, 2018
Author: Allen
Version: January 3, 2018
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** No
Consultant: Brandon Darnell

Subject: School accountability: the California School Dashboard.

SUMMARY

This bill, in provisions relating to school accountability, changes references to “evaluation rubrics” to “the California School Dashboard.”

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt evaluation rubrics, by October 1, 2016, for all of the following purposes:
 - a) To assist a school district, county office of education or charter school in evaluating its strengths, weaknesses, and areas that require improvement.
 - b) To assist a county superintendent of schools in identifying school districts and charter schools in need of technical assistance, and the specific priorities upon which the technical assistance should be focused.
 - c) To assist the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) in identifying school districts for which intervention is warranted. (EC § 52064.5)
- 2) Requires the evaluation rubrics to reflect a holistic, multidimensional assessment of school districts and individual schoolsite performance and include all of the state priorities. Existing law requires, as part of the evaluation rubrics, the SBE to adopt standards for school district and individual schoolsite performance and expectations for improvement in regard to each of the state priorities. (EC § 52064.5)
- 3) Requires local educational agencies to adopt and annually revise local control and accountability plans, establishing annual goals and identifying specific actions for all pupils and specific subgroups of pupils, in the eight state priority areas. (EC § 47605, 47606.5, 52060, 52066)
- 4) Requires the county superintendent of schools or the SPI to provide technical assistance using the evaluation rubrics to any school district or county office of education, respectively, that fails to improve pupil achievement across more than one state priority for one or more pupil subgroups. (EC § 52071, 52071.5)

- 5) Requires a chartering authority to provide technical assistance using the evaluation rubrics to any charter school that fails to improve pupil achievement across more than one state priority for three or more pupil subgroups, or all of its pupil subgroups if it has fewer than three, in three out of four consecutive school years. (EC § 47606.5)
- 6) Authorizes the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to identify school districts and county offices of education in need of intervention if certain conditions are met, including if the California Collaborative for Education Excellence has provided advice and assistance and submits findings to the SPI that the inadequate performance of the school district or county office of education, based on the evaluation rubrics, is either so persistent or acute as to require intervention by the SPI. (EC § 52072, 52072.5)

ANALYSIS

This bill, in provisions relating to school accountability, changes references to “evaluation rubrics” to “the California School Dashboard.”

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***The California School Dashboard.*** The California School Dashboard (Dashboard) is a medium for public displaying data from the evaluation rubrics. According to the State Board of Education (SBE), “The SBE approved the creation of a web-based system that will allow local educational agency (LEA) and school staff, parents/guardians and other stakeholders to review performance data on the new accountability tool and upload additional local information, including the information needed to measure and report progress on the local performance indicators... Parents/guardians, educators and the public can use the Dashboard to see how districts and schools are meeting the needs of California’s diverse student population. The Dashboard includes a series of easy-to-use reports, including a top-level summary report for LEAs and schools, called the Equity Report, that shows performance in all local control funding formula priority areas and identifies the instances where any student group is in the two lowest performance levels for the state indicators (currently Red or Orange).” The Dashboard officially launched in December 2017.
- 2) ***The evaluation rubrics continue to exist.*** The Dashboard is separate and apart from the evaluation rubrics themselves, and the associated indicators and cut scores. For example, the SBE has adopted the following state indicators: academic, chronic absenteeism, college and career readiness, English learner progress, graduation rate, and suspension rate. According to the SBE, “In May 2016, the SBE approved the design for the Dashboard that included the establishment of a unique set of cut scores for each indicator, using distributions based on LEA-level data, which includes charter schools, and applying the LEA cut scores to all schools, where appropriate.” These cut scores translate into color-coded designations. Just recently, in November 2017, the SBE adjusted the cut scores for the academic indicator. Accordingly, ***staff recommends that the bill be amended*** to retain all references to the evaluation rubrics and instead

add the following language at the end of the evaluation rubric reference: “as displayed on the California School Dashboard.”

SUPPORT

None received

OPPOSITION

None received

-- END --