

# SB 830 (Portantino)

## Additional Funding based on Average Daily Membership

### PURPOSE

To provide additional funding to local education agencies (LEAs), which includes school districts, charter schools and county offices of education, based on Average Daily Membership (enrollment-based funding), which is the most equitable method to fund schools.

### BACKGROUND

California has been using the Average Daily Attendance (ADA) method for calculating school funding for more than five decades. ADA is the total attendance divided by the number of school days in session. Only days in which a student is under the guidance and direction of certificated teachers are counted. ADA is always equal to or less than enrollment because students may be absent (whether excused or unexcused). The only states that still use the ADA method for calculating school funding are California, Idaho, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, and Texas.

Average Daily Membership (ADM) is the current counting method used by most states. ADM is an average of the number of students enrolled in the public school system over a period of time. Some states take an enrollment census over a period of a certain number of days during the school year and some count every instructional day.

Using ADA as the basis for funding schools is incredibly inequitable. Schools that serve children from low-income families are disproportionately impacted when schools are financially penalized for poor attendance. Families in these communities are far more likely to suffer from [health-related issues](#), including asthma, dental disease, obesity, and other chronic illnesses that may lead to absences. Lack of reliable transportation also leads to absenteeism.

On the other hand, ADM is not only the most equitable, but it is also the most appropriate method to fund public education because school districts plan their operations based on the number of enrolled students as opposed to their attendance rate. For example, if a school enrolls 1,000 students but their attendance rate is 95%, the school must still prepare staffing, facilities, equipment, and instructional materials as if 1,000 students will attend school every day.

Student absences actually cost schools money because of the demand for additional resources to track down absent students and prepare make-up assignments.

### THIS BILL

This bill allows LEAs to submit student enrollment data to the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to receive additional funding, providing the LEAs the difference between the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) based on ADA and what they would receive based on ADM. This additional funding will provide all LEAs more funding than they currently are receiving under ADA, especially those in lower income communities that tend to have higher rates of absenteeism. This includes the LCFF base grant and both supplemental and concentration grants. The total cost of this new funding is estimated to be approximately \$3.4 billion which would come from the general fund and be used to over-appropriate Prop. 98.

The data used to calculate additional funding provided by this bill would be from the same year or years that the LEA used to determine their funding based on ADA. This method accounts for possible changes in ADA calculation being contemplated by the Governor and the Legislature.

This bill does not relieve LEAs from their duties to continue to implement a system to accurately track pupil attendance and identify and address factors contributing to chronic absenteeism and habitual truancy. To ensure that schools continue to prioritize and address chronic absenteeism and habitual truancy, school districts would be required to maintain staffing levels of those staff responsible for addressing attendance, absenteeism, and truancy.

Additionally, at least 30% of the funds allocated under this bill must be dedicated to preventing absenteeism by providing services and supports that improve school attendance, addressing the root causes of chronic absenteeism and habitual truancy.

Finally, the bill will have a 5-year review provision allowing the LAO to review the effectiveness of the funding on increasing attendance and reducing chronic absenteeism.

The pandemic has also demonstrated how volatile it can be to fund public education based on ADA. Enrollment-based funding will ensure that California schools are funded equitably and have greater financial stability/predictability.

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### SUPPORT

- California School Employees Association (Sponsor)
- Los Angeles Unified School District (Sponsor)
- Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond (co-sponsor)
- AFSCME (co-sponsor)
- California Federation of Teachers (co-sponsor)
- California Teamsters Public Affairs Council (co-sponsor)
- Service Employees International Union (co-sponsor)
- GenUP (co-sponsor)
- California Labor Federation
- After School All Stars Los Angeles
- ARC
- Associated Administrators of Los Angeles (AALA)
- Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Carson
- Burbank Unified School District
- California Association of Black School Educators
- California Charter School Association
- Central American Resource Center
- Central City Association
- Charter Schools Development Center
- City of Los Angeles
- City of Oakland
- Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights
- Community Transformation Promesa Boyle Heights
- Communities In Schools of LA
- Compton Unified School District
- CORE Districts
- EduCare Foundation
- Epilepsy Foundation of Los Angeles
- Families in Schools
- Fulfillment Fund
- Glendale Unified School District
- Great Public Schools Now
- InnerCity Struggle
- Keep Youth Doing Something, Inc. (KYDS)
- KIPP SoCal Public Schools
- L.A.C.E.R. Afterschool Programs
- Learn4Life
- Los Angeles Conservation Corps
- Los Angeles United Methodist Urban Foundation
- Monrovia Unified School District
- Our Turn California
- Para Los Ninos

- Parent Engagement Academy
- Parents Supporting Teachers
- Partnership for Los Angeles Schools
- Pasadena Unified School District
- PowerMyLearning Los Angeles
- Promesa Boyle Heights
- Salesian Family Youth Center
- San Diego Unified School District
- Santa Clara County Office of Education
- South Bay Union School District
- United Parents & Students
- United Way of Greater Los Angeles
- UNITE-LA
- Woodcraft Rangers

### KEY CONTACT

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