



FROM THE OFFICE OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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SENATOR 33RD SENATE DISTRICT

SB 1182 (Gonzalez) Climate Resilient Schools Act

SUMMARY

Senate Bill (SB) 1182 will require the California Energy Commission (CEC) to develop a Master Plan for Healthy, Sustainable, and Climate-Resilient Schools (Master Plan).

EXISTING LAW

AB 841 (Ting, Chapter 372, Statutes of 2020) authorized the CEC to develop the California Schools Healthy Air, Plumbing, and Efficiency Program (CalSHAPE) to upgrade heating, air conditioning, and ventilation (HVAC) systems in schools and replace plumbing fixtures that fail to meet water efficiency standards.

Proposition 39 (2012) the California Clean Energy Jobs Act closed a corporate tax loophole and allotted more than \$1.7 billion over five years to K-12 schools across California to install energy efficiency upgrades and clean energy generation measures.

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM

California is home to over 1,000 school districts that utilize more than 10,000 school facilities, comprising 125,000 acres of grounds, and 730 million square feet of facilities that produce substantial Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and contribute to other environmental impacts.¹

Nationally, schools operate the largest mass transit fleet in the country with 480,000 school buses, and serve over

7 billion meals a year that generate 530,000 tons of food waste.²

California students who utilize these facilities each day are increasingly burdened by climate-related threats like extreme heat, flooding, wildfire smoke, and countless other existential impacts that can hinder their ability to learn and stay healthy in school.³ A recent report from the Legislative Analyst Office indicated that students will face learning loss, poorer academic outcomes, food insecurity, along with traumatic mental health problems that can affect their ability to learn due to the numerous impacts caused by climate change.⁴

Further, frontline and low-income communities bear a disproportionate amount of the impacts of climate change, and Black, Hispanic, and Native American students disproportionately attend school districts with lower average spending and investments on their facilities, and operations and maintenance.⁵

While school facilities play an integral part in the mission of educating California's students, there is currently no existing information on how sustainable these facilities are; no measure of their contributions to our climate crisis; and no existing plan on how to make these facilities climate resilient to protect the health and safety of students.

The \$7 billion California spends each year to build and modernize school facilities must be invested in alignment with the State's legally-required GHG reduction targets.

¹ <https://education.wellcertified.com/hubfs/IWBI%20-%20State%20of%20Our%20Schools%202021.pdf>

² <https://www.thisisplaneted.org/img/K12-ClimateActionPlan-ExecutiveSummary-Screen.pdf>

³ <https://lao.ca.gov/reports/2022/4586/Climate-Change-Impacts-K-12-Education-040522.pdf>

⁴ <https://lao.ca.gov/reports/2022/4586/Climate-Change-Impacts-K-12-Education-040522.pdf>

⁵ <https://education.wellcertified.com/hubfs/IWBI%20-%20State%20of%20Our%20Schools%202021.pdf>

This generational challenge demands broad vision and clear, multi-directional communication across state, county, and local agencies.

It is abundantly clear that for California, and its 1,000 school districts, to meet our climate goals and ensure the health and safety of students, there must be a comprehensive road map that provides guidance on how we can meet and overcome this challenge.

SOLUTION

SB 1182 will address the lack of guidance and planning around school facilities and sustainability by requiring the CEC to collaborate with various state agencies, and education stakeholders, to develop a Master Plan for Healthy, Sustainable, and Climate-Resilient Schools.

Specifically, SB 1182 requires the CEC to organize a steering team to facilitate stakeholder engagement in developing the Master Plan. This plan will recommend overall priorities for school facilities programs, identify conflicts and gaps in state policy, and ensure that state funds are deployed equitably and cost-efficiently.

The Master Plan will also provide the State and the public with substantive guidance and a policy roadmap in how we can ensure California's school facilities can be resilient in the face of climate change and its acute impacts on the health and wellbeing of our students.

This plan will position California to take full advantage of forthcoming grants and incentives for decarbonization and climate adaptation under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act.

SUPPORT

UndauntedK12 (Sponsor)
California Federation of Teachers (Sponsor)
California Labor for Climate Jobs (Sponsor)

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