



**Legislative Update
December 14, 2020**

Monday, December 7, 2020, the California State Legislature officially convened the 2021–22 Legislative Session. **

The floor session on the seventh was primarily organizational, designed to **swear in the 80 Assembly Members and 20 Senators** who were elected this past November, lawmakers also used this opportunity to introduce legislation that represented their highest priorities.

Monday's agenda included the **election of Senate and Assembly leadership positions** where Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) were reelected to their leadership posts. The Legislature approved a couple of housekeeping resolutions and then adjourned for the month and will return to Sacramento on Monday, January 4, 2021.

In 2020, the pandemic forced the Legislature to take several unplanned or extended recesses and **reduced the number of budget and legislative hearings**. The shortened process affected the number of bills presented to Governor Gavin Newsom, with **only one-third** of the number he would typically receive during a legislative year. Some of the significant issues that we expect the Legislature to tackle this upcoming year include **COVID-19 (liability, testing, and school reopening), early childhood education, enrollment, affordable housing, homelessness, and police reform**.

Bills:

Assemblymember and Chair of the Assembly Education Committee Patrick O'Donnell (D-Long Beach) introduced Assembly Bill (AB) 75, the 2022 statewide school bond that will provide state matching funds for K-12 and community college construction projects. As introduced, the bill would **place a bond on the 2022 ballot** providing an unspecified amount of funds that focus primarily on **new construction, modernization, career technical education, and charter school projects**.

School Reopening:

AB 10 seeks to return students to classroom-based learning, but is part of a larger legislative working group effort to ensure quality education for all students and ongoing support for teachers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Beginning March 1, 2021, this urgency bill would require schools in the Red, Orange, or Yellow tiers to reopen and implement a plan to do so within two weeks, in accordance with

public health parameters, setting a clear threshold when in-person instruction must resume. Local districts would continue to determine what in-person model best fits their student and workforce needs.

Current law that allows Distance Learning for individual students due to COVID-19 vulnerability or self-quarantine would continue, and this bill would expand such individual allowances to eligible certificated employees as well. This bill would also require a Tiered Reengagement Plan for students deemed to be performing below grade level and specify that these already-mandated plans must be implemented within 30 days.

**** Source: School Services, www.sscal.com, December 8, 2020**