

Date of Hearing: April 26, 2017

**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Patrick O'Donnell, Chair

AB 617 (Gomez) – As Amended April 18, 2017

**SUBJECT:** English learners: school district and school advisory committees: pupil members

**SUMMARY:** Authorizes school district and school site advisory committees on programs and services for English learners (ELACs and DELACs) to each include a student member who is an English learner.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Requires that parent advisory committees in existence pursuant to statutes or regulations as of January 1, 1979 continue as prescribed by the appropriate law or regulation in effect as of January 1, 1979, subsequent to the termination of funding.
- 2) Existing regulations require DELACs to be established in each school district with more than 50 English learners in attendance, and require ELACs to be established in each school with more than 20 English learners in attendance. (5 CCR § 11308)
- 3) Existing regulations require parents or guardians of English learners to elect the parent members of the ELAC, and require that parents be provided the opportunity to vote in the election.
- 4) Existing regulations require that each ELAC have the opportunity to elect at least one member to the DELAC, except that school districts with more than 30 school advisory committees may use a system of proportional or regional representation.
- 5) Existing regulations require DELACs to advise the school district governing board on at least the following tasks:
  - a) development of a district master plan for education programs and services for English learners
  - b) conducting of a district wide needs assessment on a school-by-school basis
  - c) establishment of district program, goals, and objectives for programs and services for English learners
  - d) development of a plan to ensure compliance with any applicable teacher and/or teacher aide requirements
  - e) administration of the annual language census
  - f) review and comment on the school district reclassification procedures

- g) review and comment on the written notifications required to be sent to parents and guardians
- 6) Existing regulations require school districts to provide all members of ELACs and DELACs with appropriate training materials and training which will assist them in carrying out their responsibilities.
- 7) Requires governing boards of school districts to establish English learner parent advisory committees for the purpose of advising the school district on the implementation of Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs), if the enrollment of the school districts includes at least 15 percent English learners and the school districts enroll at least 50 pupils who are English learners. (EC 52063)

**FISCAL EFFECT:** This bill has been keyed non-fiscal by the Office of Legislative Counsel.

**COMMENTS:**

***Need for the bill.*** The author's office states: "While ELACs can contain membership from a diverse range of stakeholders, the students for whom these committees are developing goals and policies may not be given a seat at the table.

The desire of pupils to take an active role in the direction of their school's curriculum should not be underestimated, as students represented 17% of the total 1,177 respondents to Los Angeles Unified School District's 2015-16 LCAP survey. As the second largest school district in the United States, the significant participation of students in the Los Angeles Unified School district survey should be understood as a desire to participate."

***Which ELAC?*** Current law and regulations authorize two kinds of English learner advisory committee. One kind of ELAC advises the school and the DELAC on a range of services for English learner, as specified above. The other type of English learner advisory committee advises specifically on the implementation of the LCAP. This bill applies to the former kind of ELAC.

***Election and rights of a student member.*** Existing regulations require parents or guardians of English learners to elect the parent members of the ELAC, and require that parents be provided the opportunity to vote in the election. This bill does not indicate whether a student member would be elected, or whether student would have the same voting rights granted to parents.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

California School Boards Association

**Opposition**

None on file

**Analysis Prepared by:** Tanya Lieberman / ED. / (916) 319-2087