

Date of Hearing: March 26, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Al Muratsuchi, Chair  
AB 642 (Muratsuchi) – As Amended March 5, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Emergencies proclaimed by the Governor: school employee catastrophic leave: enrollment reporting.

**SUMMARY:** Authorizes school employees to transfer catastrophic leave to another employee impacted by a declared state of emergency; and, requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to collect enrollment and disenrollment information for students displaced due to a declared state of emergency. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Authorizes the governing board of a school district or county office of education (COE) to establish a catastrophic leave program to permit employees of that school district or COE to donate eligible leave credits to an employee when that employee is impacted by a state of emergency, in the same manner as currently established for illness or injury.
- 2) Defines “State of emergency” to mean a state of emergency that has been proclaimed by the Governor.
- 3) Requires, commencing with the 2026–27 school year, the CDE to collect, and school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to report, as part of the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS), enrollment and disenrollment information for pupils displaced by the impacts of a state of emergency that has been proclaimed by the Governor.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Authorizes the governing board of a school district or COE to establish a catastrophic leave program to permit employees of that district or COE to donate eligible leave credits to an employee when that employee or a member of his or her family suffers from a catastrophic illness or injury. (Education Code (EC) 44043.5)
- 2) Requires the CDE to develop and maintain the CALPADS, which must be used to accomplish all of the following goals:
  - a) To provide school districts and the CDE access to data necessary to comply with federal reporting requirements delineated in the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001;
  - b) To provide a better means of evaluating educational progress and investments over time;
  - c) To provide local educational agencies (LEAs) information that can be used to improve pupil achievement;
  - d) To provide an efficient, flexible, and secure means of maintaining longitudinal statewide pupil level data;

- e) To facilitate the ability of the state to publicly report data, as required by the federal government; and
  - f) To ensure that any data access provided to researchers, as required pursuant to the federal Race to the Top regulations and guidelines, is provided only to the extent that the data access is in compliance with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974. (EC 60900)
- 3) Recognizes that a longitudinal pupil data system provides direct and tangible benefits to pupils, educators, policymakers, and the public. States that the Legislature intends to make statewide longitudinal education data accessible to, and used to inform and engage, authorized stakeholders in an effort to support the continuous improvement of instruction, operations, management, and resource allocation in a manner that complies with all federal and state privacy laws. Further states that the Legislature intends to make statewide longitudinal education data available and accessible to researchers so they may evaluate the effectiveness of instructional materials, strategies, and approaches for educating different types of pupils in a manner that complies with federal and state privacy laws. (EC 49079.5)

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown

**COMMENTS:**

***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, "As we continue to face more frequent and severe natural disasters, it is important that we provide school employees with the support they need during emergencies and ensure that displaced students can continue their education with minimal disruption. AB 642 will help ensure that California's education system can respond quickly and effectively to the challenges posed by state-declared emergencies."

***Catastrophic leave policies.*** Existing law authorizes school districts and COEs to establish catastrophic leave programs to allow employees to transfer leave to each other in the case of catastrophic illness or injury to the employee or a member of their family.

During the recent wildfires in Los Angeles county, it was discovered that the existing statute authorizing catastrophic illness policies does not extend to employees who are displaced due to natural disasters. This bill seeks to authorize an employee who is impacted by a declared state of emergency to be eligible to receive leave credits donated by their fellow employees in the same manner as the existing program.

***How many employees were impacted by the 2025 LA wildfires?*** While the total number of employees affected by the wildfires is currently unknown, according to the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), the following districts have employees out of leave who could benefit from the catastrophic leave policy established by this bill:

<i>School District</i>	<i>Number of staff members on leave due to the recent wildfires</i>
<b>Pasadena</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Arcadia</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Glendale</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Duarte</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>San Gabriel</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Azusa</b>	<b>1</b>

(Source: LACOE)

***California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS).*** CALPADS is California’s longitudinal data system used to maintain individual-level data, including student demographics, course data, discipline, assessments, staff assignments, and other data for state and federal reporting. Participation of LEAs, including charter schools, in CALPADS is mandatory. In order to comply with federal law as delineated in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 6301 et seq.), California EC 60900 requires LEAs to use unique pupil identification numbers (Statewide Student Identifiers or SSIDs) for students enrolled in California public K-12 LEAs, and retain all data required by ESSA, including, but not limited to, data required to calculate enrollment and dropout and graduation rates. The CDE uses this information to generate school, LEA, county and state-level demographic reports on their website, including the California School Dashboard (Dashboard). Many de-identified data files are available to researchers and the public to facilitate independent data analyses.

LEAs are required to submit student-level information regarding the reason a student entered or exited a school and local educational agency on an ongoing basis to CALPADS. For example, entrance and exit categories include student dropout, completion of high school, transfer to/from another school district, transfer to/from another state, and student death. This bill would require the CDE to collect, and LEAs to report, students entering or exiting a school and LEA due to a displacement from a natural disaster. Given the increasing frequency of natural disasters, policymakers and emergency management entities would benefit from the collection of this data element to inform future decisions and resource distribution.

***Arguments in support.*** The Los Angeles County Office of Education states, “The recent wildfires and windstorms in Los Angeles have underscored the urgent need to improve support systems for both school employees and students affected by natural disasters and other emergencies. Many teachers and school staff were unable to access adequate leave to recover or support their families, while thousands of students were displaced without a clear mechanism to track their enrollment status, leading to challenges in providing essential educational resources and services. Current catastrophic leave programs do not explicitly allow for leave donations to employees affected by such emergencies, leaving many struggling without the necessary time off to handle the aftermath of these crises. Additionally, the lack of a consistent, statewide system for tracking displaced students hampers efforts to ensure they receive continued educational support.”

***Recommended Committee Amendments. Staff recommends the bill be amended to:***

- 1) Include charter schools in the catastrophic leave authorization.
- 2) Add an urgency so that these policies can assist staff currently on leave due to the 2025 LA wildfires, pending Rules Committee approval.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

Los Angeles County Office of Education

**Opposition**

None on file

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