

Date of Hearing: April 22, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Darshana R. Patel, Chair  
AB 2060 (Muratsuchi) – As Amended April 15, 2026

**SUBJECT:** California Teacher Mentor Grant Program

**SUMMARY:** Establishes the California Teacher Mentor Grant program. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Establishes, subject to an appropriation of one-time funds by the Legislature, the California Teacher Mentor Grant Program under the administration of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to compensate teacher mentors' nonevaluative coaching and support to beginning teachers.
- 2) Requires the CTC to issue a request for applications to all local educational agencies (LEAs) to solicit applications for funding and to adopt criteria for the selection of LEAs to participate in the grant program.
- 3) Requires the CTC to, on or before January 1 of each year, report to the education policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature regarding the status of the grant program, including, but not limited to, the number of teacher mentors paid, the degree to which the student teacher candidates meet the teacher shortage needs of the LEA, and the ethnic and racial composition of the participants in the program.
- 4) Defines "local educational agency" to mean a school district, charter school, or county office of education (COE).

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Establishes the Student Teacher Stipend Program (STSP) and requires the CTC to award funding to LEAs that host student teachers or teacher residents or that employ teacher apprentices. (Education Code (EC) 44400.01)
- 2) Requires LEAs awarded funding to provide stipends to prospective educators during their completion of 500 or more hours of student teaching. Requires stipends for each prospective educator to be \$10,000 and paid during the school year in which the credential applicants are completing their student teaching. (EC 44400.02)
- 3) Appropriates, for 2025–26 fiscal year, the sum of \$300,000,000 for the General Fund to the CTC to support the STSP. States that these funds shall be available for encumbrance until June 30, 2030. States that up to \$6,000,000, and shall be available for the Kern County Superintendent of Schools to conduct a multimedia campaign beginning no later than April 1, 2026, and ending no sooner than July 1, 2028, to encourage students enrolled in California-based institutions of higher education and individuals employed in related fields to pursue a career in public school employment, become a credentialed teacher, and enroll in a program of professional preparation accredited by the CTC. (EC 44400.03)

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown

**COMMENTS:**

***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, “California continues to face persistent challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified teachers, disproportionately impacting its most vulnerable students. A critical yet under-supported component of the teacher pipeline is the role of experienced classroom teachers who mentor student teacher candidates during clinical practice, often with little or no compensation. Strong mentorship is essential to improving teacher preparedness, increasing retention, and ensuring new teachers are successful in the classroom. AB 2060 establishes the California Teacher Mentor Grant Program to compensate mentor teachers who support teacher preparation, helping improve long-term retention and strengthen the state’s educator workforce.”

***California Student Teacher Stipend Program (STSP).*** The California state budget signed by the Governor in July 2025 included \$300 million to establish the STSP. Commencing July 1, 2026, LEAs may apply for STSP grant funding to provide stipends of \$10,000 to be paid to credential candidates during the school year in which they are completing their student teaching. \$100 million will be available in fiscal year 2026-27, and to the extent that funds are available, \$100 million will be made available annually for this grant program.

Unlike other grant programs administered by the CTC, authorizing legislation states that grant funds will be disbursed on a first come, first served basis. Authorizing legislation included funding for the Kern County Superintendent of Schools to collaborate with the CTC to develop a grants management system to streamline the application process. There will be space within the online application process for both educator preparation programs and local education agencies to communicate to the CTC the number of student teachers completing their clinical practice within the LEA during the academic year, and to provide required information about each student teacher outlined in authorizing legislation.

***Required clinical practice for teachers.*** According to the CTC, the CTC’s adopted standards for preliminary multiple and single subject teacher preparation programs set forth the expectations for programs to provide candidates with appropriate supervised clinical practice. In adopting the program standards related to supervised clinical practice, the CTC signals the critical role that a high-quality and extensive clinical practice experience plays in preparing effective educators. The standards related to clinical practice are, at times, specific and directive while also allowing for flexibility for institutions to design experiences that work well for their candidates and the TK-12 schools they serve.

The program’s clinical practice experiences are designed to provide the candidate with a developmental and sequential set of activities that are integrated with the program’s coursework and extend the candidate’s learning through application of theory to practice with TK-12 students in California public school classrooms. Clinical practice is a developmental and sequential set of activities integrated with theoretical and pedagogical coursework and must consist of a minimum of 600 hours of clinical practice across the arc of the program. The range of clinical practice experiences provided by the program includes supervised early field experiences, initial student teaching (co-planning and co-teaching with both general educators and education specialists, as appropriate, or guided teaching), and final student teaching. Student teaching includes a minimum of four weeks of solo or co-teaching or its equivalent. For interns, early field experience would take place in an experienced mentor’s classroom.

***Are teacher mentors currently compensated?*** Typically, in California, teachers who serve as induction mentors receive an annual stipend between \$1,500 and \$2,500. For example, mentor teachers through the Yolo Solano Center for Teacher Credentialing receive a \$2,000 stipend. Santa Rosa City Schools provides a \$1,500 stipend for induction mentors. Sacramento City Schools provides a \$2,100 stipend for induction mentors. Elk Grove Unified School District provides an annual induction mentor stipend of \$6,000 for supporting up to three teachers, a stipend of \$7,000 for supporting four teachers, and a stipend of \$8,000 for supporting five teachers.

Teachers who serve as mentors for student teachers typically do not receive a stipend. This bill creates a grant program to provide student teacher mentors a stipend.

***What are other states doing?*** The state of Louisiana requires mentor teachers to hold an ancillary mentor teacher certificate. Mentors who support year-long undergraduate and post-baccalaureate candidates receive \$2,000 through the Believe and Prepare Initiative. In 2022, the State of Michigan established the MI Future Educator Stipend to pay student teachers and mentor teachers.

***Arguments in support.*** The California Teachers Association states, “Robust mentorship is essential for the health of the teaching profession and the success of our students. Mentor teachers perform critical work, including facilitating weekly meetings and sharing best practices in curriculum, instruction, and behavior management. Formalizing compensation for these roles through the bargaining process will improve educator retention and directly result in better student achievement, particularly for multi-language learners and underperforming student groups.”

***Recommended Committee amendments.*** *Staff recommends the bill be amended to* expand the existing STSP to, upon appropriation, provide an annual stipend for student teacher mentors of \$3,000 and require LEAs to partner with a CTC approved teacher preparation program to establish a mentor teacher recruitment, selection and support program.

***Related legislation.*** AB 121 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 8, Statutes of 2025, established the STSP.

AB 1128 (Muratsuchi) of the 2025-26 Session would have established the California Student Teacher Support Grant Program to compensate teacher credential candidates during required student teaching. This bill was incorporated into the budget and held in the Senate Education Committee.

AB 238 (Muratsuchi) of the 2023-24 Session would have established the California Student Teacher Support Grant Program to compensate teacher credential candidates during required student teaching. This bill was held on the Senate Floor.

AB 2694 (Rubio) of the 2021-22 Session would have established, upon appropriation, the beginning teacher retention and support grant program to fund teacher induction program costs, including mentor teacher stipends. This bill was held in the Senate Education Committee.

AB 2168 (Thurmond) of the 2017-18 Session would have established the Special Education Teacher Grant program to provide one time grants to retain and mentor special education teachers. This bill was vetoed by the Governor with the following message:

This bill establishes the Special Education Teacher Grant program for the purpose of retaining and mentoring special education teachers. While I support the need to retain and support special education teachers, I cannot support this bill. The 2018 Budget Act includes \$50 million Proposition 98 General Fund for the Local Solutions Grant Program for schools to develop and implement new, or expand existing, locally identified solutions that recruit, support and retain special education teachers. Nothing in the grant language prohibits schools from providing mentors for special education teachers.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

California Teachers Association

**Opposition**

None on file

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