



6th Assembly District, Sacramento County

AB 714 – Newcomer Students

SUMMARY

In the 2020-2021 school year, California enrolled 151,996 newcomer students who have attended schools in the United States for less than 3 years. These students often require specialized academic instruction and other support to be successful in school. Many school districts throughout the state struggle to offer the necessary support and resources.

This bill would require the California Department of Education and the California Department of Social Services to develop and offer instructional guidance to school districts in order to better support newcomer students. The CDE would also be required to annually post the enrollment and performance of newcomers on its website. The Instructional Quality Commission would also be required to consider the development of curriculum and resources to help teachers support their newcomer students when revising the curriculum framework in English Language Arts/English Language Development.

BACKGROUND

Newcomer students often travel far and wide, many of them raised in war torn countries or communities that have been devastated by climate catastrophes. 92% of newcomers are English learners that typically have a much lower English proficiency than the average English learner student. Most of them grew up speaking languages other than English or Spanish. The current English learner accountability standards and curricula do not always meet newcomer needs.

Throughout the state, newcomers are striving for success, but do not yet have all of the necessary support and instruction. All too often, newcomer students are rushed through high school without having a sufficient grasp of the skills they will need

to be college and career ready. Many others fail to graduate entirely.

Accurate data on the status and performance of newcomers is not publicly available. A lack of visibility in data has led to insufficient research, curriculum, and policies that fully address the unique needs of newcomer students.

To authentically access education, most newcomers require specialized instructional resources, curriculum, administrative practices, school models, social-emotional learning, and community engagement.

There is a strong and growing demand for meaningful research and the development of targeted instructional resources for newcomer students.

SOLUTION

AB 714 meets this demand by directing the California Department of Education, in consultation with the California Department of Social Services, to develop and issue instructional guidance to support newcomer students and school districts.

By reporting on the enrollment and performance of newcomer students, the state and local agencies will have a better idea of how to meet the need of newcomers and the resources necessary to ensure their success.

AB 714 will better provide school districts and newcomer students with the support and resources they need to ensure their success in school and beyond.

SUPPORT

Californians Together (Sponsor)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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