



The Education Trust–West

Fierce advocates for educational
justice, pre-k through college.

April 18, 2024

The Honorable Senator Anna M.
Caballero
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB 1391 (S. Rubio)

Dear Chair Caballero,

As an organization committed to advancing policies and practices that dismantle the racial and economic barriers embedded in California’s education system, EdTrust–West (ETW) is pleased to support SB 1391 (S. Rubio). This bill will require more robust information in a forthcoming Teacher Training and Retention Dashboard being built by the Office of Cradle-to-Career (C2C).

The state continues to face critical educator workforce issues, in the form of an unprecedented teacher shortage in specific subjects and locales, a shortage of educators of color who reflect the diversity of the state’s TK-12 students, and high attrition of teachers. Despite various state initiatives intended to attract and retain qualified teachers, we lack essential actionable data to evaluate the effectiveness of programs the state has been investing in to ensure students have access to a high quality, racially and linguistically diverse teacher workforce. In 2023, the California Research Bureau (CRB) compiled a report to evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of six teacher grant programs in the state. However, due to the lack of data, CRB could not provide a comprehensive picture of the impacts of teacher grant programs for the educator workforce.

[Education data experts](#) have long uplifted the importance of urgently connecting annually updated teacher demographic data to workforce data. The current demographic makeup of California’s teacher workforce is not reflective of the state’s student population. The shortage of a qualified and diverse teacher workforce remains a challenge in many areas throughout California and school, district leaders, and state-level decisionmakers need actionable data to evaluate ongoing investments and the needs to greater supports.

The Office of Cradle-to-Career is currently planning on releasing the Teacher Training and Retention [Dashboard](#) in the Summer of 2024. However, this legislation would ensure that the [data points](#) that contributing agencies – such as the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, the California Department of Education, and institutions of higher education – share with C2C for inclusion in the dashboard are comprehensive enough to provide policymakers, researchers, and advocates with a clear and actionable picture of the current state of our teacher workforce and the effectiveness of teacher preparation pathways.

It is for these reasons that we strongly support SB 1391 (S. Rubio) and respectfully ask for an AYE vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian M. Rivas". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a rectangular box.

Brian Rivas
Senior Director of Policy and Government Relations

cc: Senator Susan Rubio
Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Lenin Del Castillo, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee