



The Education Trust–West

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

May 13, 2024

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8820
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR AB 2071 (J. Carrillo)

Dear Chair Wicks,

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 AB 2071 (J. Carillo), which would establish the English Learner Roadmap Implementation Grant Program to spur local education agency (LEA) implementation of the California English Learner Roadmap Policy and would create an English Learner Roadmap Parent Toolkit.

California currently enrolls 1.1 million English learner (EL) students in TK-12. Across the State, 60% of young children have a home language other than English. For these students, academic gaps persist, too many never achieve English proficiency, and academic outcomes still need to be higher.

AB 2071 will ensure California is actively implementing the EL Roadmap in a more comprehensive and systematic manner by providing 25 three-year incentive and support grants to high-EL impact LEAs to engage in local planning and implementation efforts to enact the EL Roadmap.

California does not have a parent toolkit that could serve as a guide to help districts implementing the CA EL Roadmap, as well as those that plan to integrate it into their LEAs in the future. LEAs lack the necessary guidance to ensure parents and families of ELs play an integral role in guiding their children to linguistic fluency and academic success in English and other languages.

To assist districts with this process, AB 2071 would require the State Board of Education to create and adopt a “California English Learner Roadmap: Parent Toolkit,” by December 31, 2025, which would be available to LEAs to assist them as they implement the CA EL Roadmap.

This solution would allow parents and community leaders to forge a common language and understanding of the CA EL Roadmap principles and its elements to value students’ native languages, thereby promoting bilingualism. It will additionally raise educational expectations for all students, and foster ELs’ equitable access to quality teaching and learning

It is for these reasons that we strongly support AB 2071 (J. Carillo) and respectfully ask for an AYE vote.

Sincerely,



Brian Rivas

Senior Director of Policy and Government Relations

cc: Assemblymember Juan Carillo
Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
Natasha Collins, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee