



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 2074 (Muratsuchi & Alvarez)

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 2074 (Muratsuchi and Alvarez), which tasks the California Department of Education (CDE) with creating an implementation plan for the California English Learner Roadmap Policy (EL Roadmap). The bill also requires designated staff at CDE to serve as a point of reference to lead the development of the implementation plan and statewide outreach to counties and districts; these staffers will serve as a point of reference and assistance to all.

In 2017 the State Board of Education unanimously adopted a new, comprehensive, and research-based California English Learner Roadmap policy superseding the 1998 English Learner policy which was based upon Proposition 227. This policy explicitly focuses on English learners in the context of the state's efforts to improve the educational system, the quality of teaching and learning, and educational outcomes. Yet the road to fulfilling its promise has not yet been adequately scoped or supported.

Currently, there is an absence of a state-level strategy aimed at raising awareness, a sense of urgency, and opportunity related to implementing the EL Roadmap policy. There is no alignment and no coherence across state initiatives reflecting the EL Roadmap policy and principles – nor is there guidance for Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to incorporate and build alignment and coherence at the local level across programs and services. There is no monitoring of the implementation of the EL Roadmap, nor is there accountability for its implementation. Importantly, no CDE positions are state funded and designated to support the implementation of this critically important state policy for English learners. This bill will ensure the vision to adequately serve English learners truly gets to the students by having a statewide plan for implementation and staff at CDE to oversee/guide the implementation.

It is for these reasons that we strongly support AB 2074 (Muratsuchi & Alvarez) and respectfully ask for an AYE vote.

Sincerely,

Brian Rivas

Senior Director of Policy and Government Relations

cc: Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi
Assemblymember David Alvarez
Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
Natasha Collins, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee