

## **AB 560 (Addis) Special Education**

The CSHA Membership Committee requested background information on **AB 560 (Addis)** and how and why certain changes were made during the legislative process. AB 560 was introduced on February 12, 2025, as a “spot bill” or a place holder measure which is introduced to meet filing deadlines without containing substantive policy changes.

On [March 24th, 2025, AB 560](#) was substantially amended to include language that would modify and lower the statutory caseloads for both resource specialists and speech language-pathologists and establish various caseload limits for designated instruction and related services that are currently not set in statute. These new caseload limits would have included designated services and related services for adapted physical education, psychological services, counseling services, hearing itinerant, orientation and mobility, inclusion specialist and a cap on class sizes for special day classes based on diagnosis and/or severity of disability.

In addition, the amended bill would have required LEAs, on or before July 1, 2026, to establish a Special Education Team at the beginning of the school year at each schoolsite.

AB 560 was sponsored by the California Federation of Teachers (CFT) and these statutory changes were recommendations from their Special Education Services Committee.

These provisions of the bill raised a lot of concerns and expressed opposition from the education field (Local Educational Agencies, county offices of education, and statewide associations). These concerns were expressed to the author (Assembly Member Addis), the Sponsor (CFT), the Assembly Education Committee Staff and the Assembly Members who sit on the Assembly Education Committee (Legislative Committee that reviews, amends, and votes on proposed education concerning TK-12 education policies).

To summarize some of the concerns with the March 24<sup>th</sup> version of the bill, the proposal was very ambitious and changed the landscape of special education service delivery at the local level, included a high mandated cost, could be potentially challenging to implement statewide based on special education related service providers workforce shortages and school facilities limitations, and there was no new funding included to help with implementation cost.

In order for the author/sponsor to successfully move the bill through the legislative process, they had to come up with amendments to address concerns that were raised on various provisions of the bill.

Prior to the Assembly Education Committee hearing on the bill, Assembly Member Addis and the CFT agreed to **remove:** 1) the requirement for LEAs to establish Special Education Teams at school sites, 2) **ALL** provisions that would modify or

cap caseloads for special education services providers, and 3) language that would cap class sizes for special day classes.

**AB 560 was substantially amended on April 21, 2025, to include only two provisions:**

1) Require LEAs to take all “reasonable steps to distribute the workload associated with initial assessments across all resource specialists employed by the local educational agency in an equal manner, unless otherwise collectively bargained.”

2) Require the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), on or before July 1, 2027, to establish a maximum adult-to-pupil staffing ratio for specific special classes and to post the recommendation on the CDE’s internet website.

***In the end, the bill was further amended, to change the requirement related to staffing ratios to instead of “establish maximum” adult-to-pupil staffing, the SPI is requested to “recommend a maximum” adult-to-pupil staffing for specific special day classes.***

AB 560 (Addis) moved through the legislative process in that form and was signed into law by Governor Newsom on October 10, 2025.