



FLOOR ALERT

Vote NO - AB 1982 (Cunningham)

AB 1982 repeals minimum protections for students living in high poverty neighborhoods and in communities of color. These students have the highest concentrations of substitute and novice teachers, who would no longer demonstrate basic skills competency in math and English by passing an objective assessment.

AB 1982 is not a COVID-19 measure. Governor Newsom's recent Executive Order (EO) N-66-20 (May 29, 2020) addresses the impact of COVID-19 on test center availability by "postponing" the timing of meeting the basic skills requirement until centers re-open while maintaining minimum protections for students. The Governor's EO addresses COVID-19 issues with no new costs or ongoing reduction in student protections and recognizes the importance of a uniform minimum standard when educators will have permanent job protection and permanent employment status teaching students, particularly the most disadvantaged.

AB 1982 removes objective assessment of minimum basic skills. The bill asserts letter grades across more than 7,000 colleges and universities in the United States are equivalent and "B" grades on courses for ANY academic course leading to an associate, baccalaureate or higher degree have the same rigor of demonstrated mastery in basic skills, as currently measured by the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) and other exams approved by the state as meeting minimum math and English rigor.

The CBEST does not place an unreasonable burden on teacher candidates. In math, often cited as a difficult subject, the highest common core standard assessed is a 7th grade-level of pre-Algebra, below Math I. The bar should not be lowered for minimum teacher competencies nor should we enable inconsistent determinations of whether basic skills requirements have been met.

AB 1982 would also result in significant loss in fee revenue to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) and drain reserves putting significant pressure on the General Fund. Drawing down CTC reserves has resulted in CTC operating deficits and emergency General Fund appropriations in the past. CTC has reported fee revenue and reserve shortfalls limit its, "... ability to conduct accreditation site visits and other mission critical activities. Any unanticipated costs could result in the suspension of critical activities."

This is not a COVID-19 measure and this is NOT the time to weaken protections for students in poverty and communities of color or to increase costs of bureaucracy and put significant pressure on the General Fund. The Governor's Executive Order already addresses the truly COVID-19 related issues the bill purports to address—and at no new cost.

EdVoice respectfully urges a NO vote on AB 1982.