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**AB-640 Local educational agencies: governance training.** (2025-2026)

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**Assembly Bill No. 640**

**CHAPTER 618**

An act to add Article 6.5 (commencing with Section 35220) to Chapter 2 of Part 21 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Education Code, relating to local educational agencies.

[ Approved by Governor October 11, 2025. Filed with Secretary of State October 11, 2025. ]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

AB 640, Muratsuchi. Local educational agencies: governance training.

(1) Existing law requires all local agency officials to receive training in ethics, at specified intervals, if the local agency provides certain monetary payments to a member of a legislative body, as provided. Existing law requires a local agency to provide information on available ethics training to its officials and authorizes a local agency or an association of local agencies to offer the ethics training, as provided. Existing law requires a local agency to maintain specified records related to the ethics training of its officials. Existing law defines "local agency" to include, among others, a school district, county office of education, and charter school, and defines "local agency official" to include, among others, a member of the governing board of a school district, a county board of education, or the governing body of a charter school, for these purposes.

This bill would require all local educational agency officials, as defined to include any regular member of a governing board of a school district or a county board of education, or any regular member of the governing body of a charter school or a nonprofit public benefit corporation operating a charter school, as specified, to receive training in K–12 public education school finance laws, as defined, except as otherwise provided. The bill would prescribe the timelines within which the training is required to be completed and the methods that a local educational agency or a consortium of local educational agencies may offer or arrange to provide that training, as provided. The bill would require the County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team to create curriculum covering specified topics of K–12 school finance laws that would be required to be used to satisfy the training requirement, as provided. The bill would require local educational agencies to maintain specified records related to this training.

By imposing new duties on school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools, the bill would constitute a state-mandated local program.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: yes

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** Article 6.5 (commencing with Section 35220) is added to Chapter 2 of Part 21 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Education Code, to read:

**Article 6.5. Training**

**35220.** For purposes of this article, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Entity managing a charter school" means a nonprofit public benefit corporation operating a charter school consistent with Section 47604.

(b) "K–12 public education school finance laws" includes both of the following:

(1) Laws related to the creation and approval of a local educational agency budget to support pupil learning and achievement, including, but not limited to, Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 42100) of Part 24.

(2) Laws related to fiscal penalties for noncompliance, including, but not limited to, those in Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 42238) of Part 24, Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 46100) of Part 26 of Division 4, including Sections 46207 and 46208, Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 47600) of Part 26.8 of Division 4, Sections 45037, 47612.5, 51745.6, 51749.5, and 60150, and Section 11960 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations.

(c) "Local educational agency" means a school district, county office of education, or charter school.

(d) (1) "Local educational agency official" means either of the following:

(A) Any regular member of the governing board of a school district or of a county board of education.

(B) Any regular member of the governing body of a charter school or of an entity managing a charter school.

(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), "regular member" has the same meaning as in Section 1000, 35012, or 47604.2 that is applicable to a school district, county office of education, or charter school.

**35220.5.** (a) (1) The County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team established pursuant to Section 42127.8 shall, in consultation with the department, develop, on or before October 1, 2026, a curriculum for the topics described in subdivision (b) of Section 35220 that shall be used to satisfy the requirement of subdivision (a) of Section 35221. The curriculum shall be posted on the internet websites of the County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team and the department.

(2) In developing the curriculum pursuant to paragraph (1), the County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team shall solicit input from experts in the topics described in subdivision (b) of Section 35220 and the public.

(b) The curriculum developed pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be updated periodically to reflect statutory changes to the laws described in subdivision (b) of Section 35220.

**35221.** (a) Each local educational agency official shall receive training in K–12 public education school finance laws pursuant to this article.

(b) An entity offering training courses to meet the requirements of this article shall use the curriculum developed pursuant to Section 35220.5.

(c) (1) In order to meet the requirement of subdivision (a), a local educational agency or a consortium of local educational agencies shall only use the following methods:

(A) Offer training courses using local educational agency employees or contracted legal counsel with demonstrable experience in the applicable topic described in subdivision (b) of Section 35220 for which it will provide training.

(B) (i) Arrange for its local educational agency officials to receive training courses through an entity that meets all of the following requirements:

(I) One of the entity's primary functions is supporting local educational agencies with technical assistance and expertise in the applicable topic described in subdivision (b) of Section 35220 for which it will provide training.

(II) The entity has demonstrable experience supporting local educational agencies with technical assistance and expertise.

(III) The entity has trainers that each possess demonstrable experience in the applicable topic described in subdivision (b) of Section 35220 for which it will provide training.

(ii) (I) Local educational agency officials of school districts and county offices of education shall only receive training from an entity described in clause (i) with demonstrable experience supporting school districts and county offices of education with technical assistance and expertise, or as provided by subparagraph (A) (C), or (D).

(II) Local educational agency officials of charter schools or an entity managing charter schools shall only receive training from an entity with demonstrable experience supporting charter schools with technical assistance and expertise, or as provided by subparagraph (A) (C), or (D).

(C) Arrange for its local educational agency officials to receive training courses through the County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team established pursuant to Section 42127.8. The County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team may charge a fee to local educational agencies for providing the training.

(D) Arrange for its local educational agency officials to receive training courses through a nonprofit statewide education association led by officials who govern school districts and county offices of education.

(E) Offer their own, or arrange through a different entity that meets the requirements of subparagraph (B) (C), or (D), sets of self-study materials with tests.

(2) Courses offered or arranged pursuant to subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of paragraph (1), as applicable, may be taken at home, in person, or online.

(d) A local educational agency official that has successfully completed the California School Boards Association's Masters in Governance program and provides their local educational agency with proof of their participation and completion of the program, to comply with Section 35222, shall be exempt from the requirement of subdivision (a).

(e) A training course covering the topics described in subdivision (b) of Section 35220 shall be no longer than four hours.

(f) A provider of a training course that meets the requirements of this article shall provide participants with proof of participation to comply with Section 35222.

(g) A local educational agency shall provide information to its officials at least annually on training available to meet the requirements of this article.

**35222.** (a) A local educational agency shall maintain records showing both of the following:

(1) The dates on which each local educational agency official satisfied the requirements of this article.

(2) The entity that provided the training to the local educational agency official.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, a local educational agency shall maintain the records required by this section for at least five years after a local educational agency official receives the training. These records are public records subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1 of the Government Code).

**35223.** (a) Each local educational agency official in local educational agency service as of April 1, 2027, except for officials whose term of office ends before April 1, 2028, shall receive the training required by subdivision (a) of Section 35221 before April 1, 2028.

(b) Each local educational agency official who commences their initial service, or who commences a subsequent nonconsecutive term, with a local educational agency on or after April 1, 2027, shall receive the training required by subdivision (a) of Section 35221 no later than one year from the first day of their initial service, or of their subsequent nonconsecutive term, as applicable, with the local educational agency. Each local educational agency official described in this subdivision is encouraged to begin the training required by subdivision (a) of Section 35221 before the first meeting of the governing board or body that occurs after the election or appointment of the official.

(c) For purposes of this article, a local educational agency official who received training pursuant to subdivision (a) or (b) during their initial term, and who then serves one or more consecutive terms, shall be deemed to have complied with the requirements of this article.

**SEC. 2.** If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.