



AB 1851 - Shaw-Scott Behavioral Health & Social Emotional Learning

PURPOSE

Assembly Bill 1851 directs the California Department of Education to contract with one or more experienced local educational agencies. These agencies will provide statewide guidance, resources, training, and technical assistance to support the implementation of an integrated, Tier 1 approach to social and emotional learning, behavioral health, and restorative practices, within a multi-tiered system of supports.

BACKGROUND

California's public schools serve millions of children who experience trauma, chronic stress, and unmet behavioral health needs, yet access to preventive school-based mental health support varies significantly by district. While the Legislature has enacted multiple measures supporting trauma-informed education and student wellness, implementation remains fragmented.

As a result, many schools lack a coherent approach to delivering evidence based SEL instruction, contributing to disparities in discipline, attendance, academic performance, and long-term student well-being. Students who do not receive early behavioral support are more likely to experience negative educational outcomes and later contact with the justice system.

NEED FOR THE BILL

Without statewide guidance, local educational agencies struggle to effectively align existing frameworks. Fragmented implementation reduces the effectiveness of existing investments in student wellness and limits the reach of evidence-based practices already endorsed by the state.

THE SOLUTION

Assembly Bill 1851 provides the guidance needed to support a consistent Tier 1 approach to social and emotional learning, behavioral health, and restorative practices across the state of California.

SUPPORT

Initiate Justice, LA Youth Justice Coalition - Sponsor

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Hunter Modlin
Legislative Intern
Office of Assemblymember Mike Gipson
916-319-2065
Hunter.Modlin@asm.ca.gov