



THE GOLDEN SLATE

The official newsletter of the California
Agricultural Teachers' Association

Sacramento Scene: 2025-26 California Budget Process Related to Education

By Matt Patton, Executive Director

Governor Gavin Newsom's proposed 2025-26 state budget, unveiled on January 10, 2025, allocates a total of \$322.2 billion in expenditures, including approximately \$228.9 billion from the General Fund ([California Proposed Budget 2025-26](#)).

The budget projects Proposition 98 funding at \$118.9 billion, reflecting a decrease from the previous year. This allocation translates to an average per-pupil funding of \$18,918 from Proposition 98 sources, with additional federal and state funds bringing the statewide average to \$24,764 per student. Notably, the budget includes a \$2.4 billion ongoing Proposition 98 investment to fully expand Transitional Kindergarten (TK) to all children turning four by September 1, 2025 ([OCDE Newsroom, 2025](#)).

Education Highlights Pertinent to Agricultural Education:

- Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF): An allocation of \$2.5 billion, reflecting a 2.43% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), to support K-12 education funding ([Governance, 2025](#)).
- CTE Program Streamlining: A proposal to consolidate applications for TK-12 CTE categorical programs into a single, simplified process to improve access and administration ([eBudget, 2025](#)). The practical implications of this change remain to be seen.

Proposed Bills Related to Ag Education and Career Technical Education:

1. **Assembly Bill 323 (AB 323)**: Introduced by Assemblymember Fong, this bill seeks to facilitate the development and sharing of effective CTE practices, curriculum models, and courses across community college districts. It emphasizes improving workforce outcomes and ensuring efficient credit transfers within the California higher education system ([LegiScan, 2025](#)).

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

CALAGTEACHERS.ORG



2. **Assembly Bill 2251 (AB 2251):** This bill aims to develop new CTE courses that satisfy the world language requirement for admission to California State University and the University of California. The focus is aligning world language instruction with career preparation, emphasizing real-world application and technical content ([LegiScan, 2025](#)).
3. **Assembly Bill 258 (AB 258):** In January 2025, Assemblymember Damon Connolly introduced Assembly Bill 258, aiming to increase funding for the Network of California Fairs. The bill proposes allocating a portion of sales and use tax revenues generated by fair activities back to the fairs themselves, enhancing their ability to maintain facilities, support community events, and serve as emergency response centers. This initiative underscores the vital role fairgrounds play across California, from hosting local events to providing shelter during emergencies ([Conelly, 2025](#)).
4. **Assembly Bill (AB 347):** In January 2025, Assemblymember Ash Kalra introduced Assembly Bill 347, focusing on pupil instruction and animal dissection. The bill mandates that students who opt out of participating in animal dissection must be provided with alternative assessments or projects, ensuring their grades are not adversely affected ([Citizen Portal, 2025](#)).

In summary, the 2025-26 California state budget outlines key investments in education, with a particular focus on expanding early education and improving Career Technical Education (CTE), while proposed bills address various aspects of agricultural education, workforce development, and student options in the classroom.

