



LAO Recommendations on Professional Development Block Grant



Recommend adopting the Governor's professional development proposal with five changes.

- Exclude Teacher Dismissal Apportionment program—a very small program unrelated to professional development. Annually, state spends less than \$50,000 in reimbursement for costs associated with teacher review panels that occur outside the regular school year.
- Include the MRPD program—the largest remaining stand-alone professional development program.
- Convert proposed budget bill language (stating that all professional development must be aligned with the state's K-12 content standards and curriculum frameworks) into policy bill language. The practical effect of the language remains unclear. Conceivably, it could result in significant changes to the nature of professional development.
- Restore the link between professional development funding and districts' staffing needs. Allocate teacher credentialing block grant monies based on the number of first- and second-year teachers, and professional development block grant monies based on the number of teachers with more than two years of experience.
- Require districts receiving block grant monies to provide teacher-level data that can be linked with student-level data. If the core objective of the professional development block grant is to improve teaching and learning, then it is critically important that the state have a way of assessing whether block grant monies actually are having the intended effect. Linking teacher data with student data would allow the state to identify which professional development programs are most effective in enhancing student learning.