

Students Matter

Defending students' rights through impact litigation

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Students Matter Statement on Governor Brown Vetoing Asm. Weber's Teacher Evaluation Bill, AB 2826

SACRAMENTO —California Governor Jerry Brown [announced today](#) that he has vetoed Assemblymember Shirley Weber's bill, [AB 2826](#), aimed at refocusing the state's teacher evaluations on student progress and ensuring that districts meaningfully evaluate educators based on multiple measures of student academic growth and performance. Students Matter, the national nonprofit dedicated to promoting access to quality public education, strongly supported AB 2826 and issued the following statement criticizing the Governor Brown's veto of the bill:

"We are deeply disappointed in Governor Brown's decision to veto AB 2826, which would have removed any possible uncertainty over the state's requirement that teachers be evaluated in a fair and meaningful way using multiple measures, including student progress. We know that student progress is a critical and commonsense component of any meaningful teacher evaluation and that these evaluations help ensure students are learning and teachers are given the support and feedback they need for success in the classroom. That's why California state law has required the use of student learning and academic growth in teacher evaluations for decades. Unfortunately, evidence shows widespread noncompliance with the existing legal requirement — and even, at times, flagrant violation. That's not fair to California's hardworking public school teachers, and it isn't fair to their students either.

"While we were disappointed in the California Superior Court's [flawed decision in *Doe v. Antioch*](#), we have decided not to pursue a legal appeal. As a direct result of our lawsuit, however, nine of the defendant school districts have changed their policies to include evidence of student progress in their teacher evaluations. We will continue to advocate for fair and meaningful teacher evaluations in school districts across California.

"We thank Assemblymember Shirley Weber for her tireless advocacy and leadership on behalf of California's public school students and teachers, and we look forward to our continued work together next year. One day, leaders in Sacramento will wake up and realize what parents, students and teachers across the state know to be true: our public education system must be fixed so that it puts the needs of our students — rather than special interests — first. Until then, California's public education system will continue to fall short on its promise to deliver equal opportunity to learn and succeed for all."

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A national nonprofit organization founded in 2011, Students Matter promotes access to quality public education through impact litigation, communications and advocacy. Learn more at studentsmatter.org.