



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 13 2023

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 509 without my signature.

This bill would require local educational agencies to certify to the California Department of Education by July 1, 2027, that 100 percent of its certificated staff and at least 40 percent of its classified staff who have direct contact with students in grades 7-12 have received youth behavioral health training as specified.

I share the author's goal of ensuring that school staff are equipped with the tools to recognize and offer appropriate support to students experiencing mental health challenges. However, I have concerns with some aspects of the bill as written, including the appropriate scope of the required, one-time training and the lack of an appropriate mechanism to fund the bill via the Gun Violence Prevention and School Safety Fund (AB 28, Chapter 231, Statutes of 2023).

To address these issues, and to ensure alignment with other state investments in this area, I am directing the Department of Finance to propose language for the Legislature's consideration as part of next January's state budget proposal.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

