



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 13 2025

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 411 without my signature.

This bill requires the California Department of Education (CDE), with support from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), to develop and provide a statewide web application enabling families to submit federally required information, in adherence with specified requirements, to determine eligibility for school meal programs beginning with the application for summer 2028 benefits, contingent upon an appropriation.

Through California's Universal School Meals program, all students, regardless of income, now have access to two free meals each school day. In addition, the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (SUN Bucks) program assists eligible families to ensure students are fed during the summer months. While I wholeheartedly support the author's intent to increase access to school meal programs, this bill imposes additional costs on the Department of Education to build, maintain, and operate a new statewide online data management system to determine eligibility. This should be considered as part of the budget process, rather than through legislation.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined

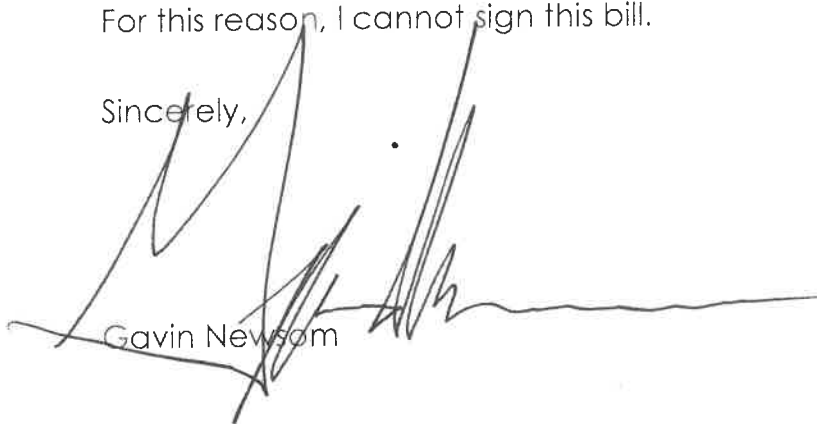


when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Gavin Newsom", is written over the printed name. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "G" and a long, horizontal tail stroke.