



YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Use Your Voice

March 25th, 2024

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
Chair, Assembly Education Committee
1020 N Street, Room 159
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 2181 (Gipson) - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Muratsuchi:

On behalf of Youth Leadership Institute, I am writing to expressing strong support for Assembly Bill 2181, which will expand opportunities for juvenile court school pupils to stay in high school, as appropriate, to complete local graduation requirements and avail themselves of the full range of education programs offered by county offices of education (COEs).

Youth in county juvenile halls or camps attend court schools run by COEs. Existing laws require COEs to graduate juvenile court school students when they complete the state minimum graduation requirement of 130 credits and to notify students of the option to decline the diploma and take additional high school coursework. Court school students have typically experienced multiple school transfers with different high school graduation requirements in each district, making credit completion for graduation difficult. Current policies provide an alternative graduation option for court school students, but can have the unintended negative consequence of court school students graduating too soon with limited skills and fewer education opportunities for them while they remained detained.

Other mobile student populations—such as former court school students, foster youth, homeless youth, youth in migrant families, and newcomer youth—experience similar challenges; existing laws provide these student populations with a possible exemption from local graduation requirements but also offer a wide array of options for them to stay in high school longer to complete local graduation requirements. These policies do not afford current court school students the same opportunities that other mobile student groups have to remain in high school beyond completion of the state minimum graduation requirements.

AB 2181 will create parity for current court school students by aligning the statute governing current court school students with statutes governing other mobile student populations, allowing current court school students to benefit from additional education opportunities before graduating.

YLI partners with thousands of youth across the state, the majority of whom are low-income youth of color. All youth deserve access to a meaningful education, as it is critical to their development.

For these reasons, Youth Leadership Institute respectfully urges your support for AB 2181. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

PATRICIA BARAHONA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Youth Leadership Institute