

AB 715: WHAT CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS SHOULD KNOW

A Practical Guide for School and District Leaders

WHAT IS AB 715?

AB 715 is a California law that strengthens existing anti-discrimination protections in K–12 public schools, with a particular focus on preventing and addressing antisemitism while reinforcing protections for all groups protected under California law. The legislation clarifies expectations, strengthens accountability, and creates new state resources to help schools foster safe, inclusive learning environments.

WHAT DO SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS NEED TO DO?

Review Instructional Materials and Professional Development

Education Code Sections 244, 51500, 51501

School boards should ensure that:

- Instructional materials, supplemental materials, curriculum, and professional development do not unlawfully discriminate against protected groups.
- Classroom instruction is factually accurate, aligned with adopted curriculum and state standards, and consistent with accepted standards of professional responsibility.
- If discriminatory materials or instruction are identified, the district investigates and takes corrective action. The law encourages restorative approaches when appropriate.

Be Prepared to Respond to Concerns

Education Code Sections 244, 262.3

AB 715 expands and clarifies California's complaint process. Schools should know that:

- Any member of the public may file a complaint alleging violations involving discriminatory instructional materials or professional development.
- Complaints may be appealed to the California Department of Education if required local timelines are not met.
- Maintaining clear complaint procedures and timely responses remains essential.

Increase Transparency with Families

Education Code Sections 48980, 51500

Schools are responsible for:

- Including information about AB 715 in annual parent and guardian notifications.
- Providing parents and guardians reasonable access to instructional materials used in the classroom.

Know the Resources Available

Education Code Sections 280, 33801–33803.1

AB 715 creates new state-level support for schools, including:

- A new Office of Civil Rights
- An Antisemitism Prevention Coordinator
- Annual guidance from the California Department of Education
- A statewide website with resources on antisemitism
- Technical assistance, training, and educational resources to help schools prevent and respond to discrimination and bias.

Understand Corrective Actions

Education Code Sections 60151–60152

If the California Department of Education determines that instructional materials or professional development violate California law, corrective actions may include:

- Technical assistance
- Development of an improvement plan
- Alternative instructional materials
- Removal of discriminatory content
- Corrective action by outside vendors, including reimbursement to districts and disclosure of violations to future clients
- Required corrective actions must be implemented as soon as possible and no later than the beginning of the next school year.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- AB 715 builds upon California's existing anti-discrimination laws.
- Schools should review instructional materials and professional development to ensure compliance with state law.
- Parents should have reasonable access to instructional materials and receive information about AB 715 each year.
- California has created new state resources to help schools prevent and respond to discrimination.
- When concerns arise, timely investigation, corrective action, and collaboration with state resources are key components of compliance.

LEARN MORE & READ THE FULL BILL TEXT

