



Implementation Guide for AB 715 and SB 48 In California K-12 Schools

**Together—we can
fight hate for good.**

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Introduction

Overview of AB 715

Effective January 1, 2026

**This guide is not intended to and should not be construed as providing legal advice.*

AB 715 (Education equity; discrimination; antisemitism prevention) and SB 48 (Education equity; discrimination prevention coordinators) build on California's broader legal framework prohibiting discrimination and promoting inclusive educational environments for all students.

AB 715 acknowledges that Jewish and Israeli-American students across California are facing a widespread surge in antisemitic discrimination, harassment, and bullying. In many cases, this conduct has been so severe that it has placed Jewish students at risk and limited their ability to fully engage in school programs or activities.

AB 715 builds on longstanding nondiscrimination protections in California's Education Code pertaining to both curriculum and the selection and use of textbooks and instructional materials. This new law strengthens those protections by explicitly prohibiting schools from adopting or using instructional materials or professional development materials that promote a discriminatory bias. It requires that all instruction and related materials be free from unlawful discrimination, including antisemitism, and aligned with adopted curriculum and professional standards—not individual advocacy or personal opinion.

Importantly, AB 715 expands the Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP), by giving students and families a more direct path to report discrimination to the State Superintendent. In responding to such a complaint, the Superintendent may directly intervene without waiting for an investigation by the school district, county office of education, or charter school.

AB 715 establishes a statewide Office of Civil Rights to both provide training, resources, and technical assistance to school districts on how to identify, prevent, and remedy discrimination and bias, and to issue annual public reports on the state of discrimination and bias in schools. It also creates an Antisemitism Prevention Coordinator to support school districts in identifying and addressing antisemitism and to track and report on antisemitism complaints in schools to the legislature and state board.

This framework affirms the responsibility of educators and leaders to ensure students receive fact-based, inclusive, and academically sound instruction—especially when addressing complex or controversial topics.

SB 48 expands the Office of Civil Rights by establishing dedicated coordinators focused on preventing religious, racial and ethnic, gender-based, and LGBTQ discrimination in schools. Each coordinator would be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate to support statewide efforts to address discrimination and promote safe, inclusive learning environments for all students.

Read the AB 715 legislative text here: [legislative counsel digest and bill language](#)

Specific Additional Responsibilities Placed on LEAs by AB 715:

1. Requires LEAs to investigate and remediate the action if it knows or has reason to know that the use of textbooks, instructional materials, professional development materials, or curriculum in the classroom or any action subjected students to unlawful discrimination.
2. Prohibits LEAs from adopting, approving, or supporting the use of professional development materials or services that subject students to unlawful discrimination.
3. Provides parties to a written complaint of discrimination with the opportunity to appeal directly to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction if an LEA fails to issue an investigation report within required timelines (and enables the LEA to work with the California Department of Education to issue a timely investigation report).
4. Requires school districts to include information about the protections, requirements, and responsibilities of AB 715 in the annual parent notification required by Section 48980 of the Education Code.
5. Adds to the prohibition on discriminatory bias in instruction and school-sponsored activities in Section 51500 of the Education Code that a violation does not require members of the protected group to be present while the discriminatory bias is occurring or to show direct harm.
6. Requires teacher instruction to be factually accurate, align with the adopted curriculum and standards, and be consistent with accepted standards of professional responsibility rather than based on advocacy, personal opinion, bias, or partisanship.
7. Requires LEAs to ensure that parents and guardians have access to instructional materials in a reasonable amount of time in accordance with the LEA's procedures.

8. Gives LEAs 60 days to take corrective action, including specified steps, to address the adoption, approval, or use of textbooks, instructional materials, professional development materials, or curriculum that is determined by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to subject students to unlawful discrimination. Requires that the corrective action be implemented as soon as possible and no later than the beginning of the next school year.
9. Requires the immediate and permanent omission from course materials and subsequent course offerings of any instructional materials found to subject students to unlawful discrimination.
10. If an LEA or the State Superintendent of Public Instruction determines that the textbooks, instructional materials, professional development materials, or curriculum provided by an organization to a school district pursuant to contract subjects students to unlawful discrimination, the school district must notify the organization to take corrective action.

Overview of SB 48

As stated above, this bill will expand the Office of Civil Rights by establishing dedicated coordinators focused on preventing religious, racial and ethnic, gender-based, and LGBTQ discrimination in schools. Each coordinator would be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate to support statewide efforts to address discrimination and promote safe, inclusive learning environments for all students.

Read the SB 48 legislative text here: [discrimination prevention coordinators](#)

Best Practices for School District Implementation of AB 715:

The most effective response to AB 715 and SB 48 is not simply building complaint procedures. It is proactively creating school cultures where discrimination is identified early, addressed quickly, and prevented through strong instructional practices, educator training, and student support.

Policy Additions and Revisions

- Revise and/or adopt district board policies and administrative regulations to reflect AB 715's additional requirements, including the requirements regarding non-discriminatory professional development materials and services, factually accurate teacher instruction and instructional materials, UCP complaints, corrective action, and parent notification.
- Align existing board policies and administrative regulations, such as the following, with the requirements of AB 715:

Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities

- Clarify that the prohibition on nondiscrimination applies to all district programs and activities, including textbooks, instructional materials, supplemental instructional materials, professional development materials, and curriculum
- Make clear that the prohibition on discrimination extends to organizations that provide services to the district pursuant to contract, including but not limited to professional development and curricular services

Uniform Complaint Procedures

- Make clear that discrimination includes the adoption or approval of use of professional development materials or services that would subject students to unlawful discrimination
- Provide the timelines for issuing an investigative report on a written complaint of prohibited discrimination and the right of a party to appeal directly to the State Superintendent of Instruction if the LEA fails to issue an investigation report within the timeline
- Clarify that members of a protected group do not have to show direct harm to members of the group or be present while discriminatory bias is occurring to establish discriminatory bias in instruction or school-sponsored activities
- Include the timeframes for corrective action and the types of corrective action that may be required by the California Department of Education for a violation of Section 244(a) of the California Education Code

Controversial Issues

- Add that teacher instruction must be factually accurate and align with adopted curriculum and standards
- Add that teacher instruction must be consistent with accepted standards of professional responsibility
- Add that teacher instruction should be free from advocacy, personal opinion, bias, or partisanship
- Add that instructional materials must be factually accurate and align with adopted curriculum and standards
- Add that instructional materials must be consistent with accepted standards of professional responsibility
- Add that instructional materials should be free from advocacy, personal opinion, bias, or partisanship

Curriculum Development and Evaluation

- Include the non-discrimination requirements
- Include the obligation to investigate and take corrective action if the district knows or has reason to know a curriculum may be subjecting students to unlawful discrimination
- Include the obligation to notify any organization with which the district contracts that it must take corrective action if the organization's curriculum subjects students to unlawful discrimination

Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials

- Include the non-discrimination requirements
- Include the obligation to investigate and take corrective action if the district knows or has reason to know a curriculum may be subjecting students to unlawful discrimination
- Include the obligation to notify any organization with which the district contracts that it must take corrective action if the organization's instructional materials subject students to unlawful discrimination
- Include the requirement that parents and guardians be provided access to instructional materials in a reasonable amount of time
- Include the requirement that any instructional materials found to subject students to unlawful discrimination will be immediately and permanently omitted from course materials and subsequent course offerings

Selection and Evaluation of Professional Development Services and Materials

- Include the non-discrimination requirements
- Include the obligation to investigate and take corrective action if the district knows or has reason to know professional development materials or services may be subjecting students to unlawful discrimination

- Include the obligation to notify any organization with which the district contracts that it must take corrective action if the organization's professional development materials and services subject students to unlawful discrimination

Communications and Framing

- Issue a Superintendent's Memo to principals and instructional staff explaining that AB 715 supports factually accurate and non-discriminatory teaching and instructional materials that align with the adopted curriculum and standards and accepted standards of professional responsibility
- Proactively address staff and parent concerns by emphasizing that AB 715 does not ban academic content but provides protections to ensure students are educated in non-discriminatory and inclusive learning environments

Instructional Strategies

Avoiding Advocacy or Bias

AB 715 prohibits advocacy, personal opinion, bias, or partisanship presented as fact in classrooms. To ensure compliance, teachers should be encouraged to:

- Focus on evidence-based claims rather than personal opinion
- Frame value questions as topics for student inquiry, not the position of the teacher
- Distinguish clearly between factual, historical context and ethical/moral dilemmas/debate
- When facilitating discussion, emphasize the importance of evidence, sources, and the inclusion of multiple perspectives rather than personal persuasion

Professional Development

Select professional development services and materials that support inclusive, rigorous instruction. Implement procedures for reviewing, investigating, approving, and adopting professional development services and materials to ensure they do not promote or endorse the use of any curriculum or instructional materials that would subject students to unlawful discrimination, and for remediating any professional development services or materials that were used and would subject students to unlawful discrimination.

Provide annual training for all instructional staff that includes:

Teachers: Teacher training should equip educators with tools to:

- Use structured inquiry protocols that emphasize facilitation of discussion among students rather than endorsement of specific beliefs

- Develop students' critical thinking skills, with an emphasis on evidence-based inquiry, viewpoint diversity, source evaluation and digital literacy
- Teach controversial topics without expressing personal opinion or advocacy, ensuring instruction is respectful of diverse perspectives and aligned with adopted curriculum and standards and standards of professional responsibility
- Understand antisemitism and its contemporary and historical manifestations, using content and training from mainstream educational and community organizations such as the Jewish Federation, Institute for Curriculum Services (ICS), Project Shema, Facing History and Ourselves, or the Holocaust Museum

Site administrators: Training should focus on:

- Monitoring instructional practices to ensure compliance with district policy and state and federal legal standards
- Evaluating and responding to concerns or complaints objectively and in compliance with district policy and federal and state law
- Ensuring staff are supported in instruction with clear expectations, guidance, modeling, and remediation strategies when needed

Curriculum staff: Training should address the need to:

- Evaluate textbooks and instructional materials for factual accuracy, the absence of discriminatory bias, and alignment with adopted curriculum and standards
- Apply established vetting protocols to professional development providers and materials and third-party instructional materials

All modules should include as case studies California Department of Education (CDE) rulings on biased or discriminatory curriculum or instruction. These examples provide essential context to clarify legal obligations.

Audit Protocols

- Create a standing Instructional Materials Review Committee to conduct a district-wide audit of instructional materials
- Require that all new curriculum and professional development materials undergo a bias and factual accuracy review before classroom use
- Inventory all adopted and supplemental instructional materials for complex topics (e.g., Middle Eastern history, Modern World History, genocide studies, human rights)
- Require process for vetting guest speakers, external curriculum partners, professional development providers, and third-party instructional materials for compliance. This process should include:

- A review of public-facing content (e.g., social media, blogs, websites) to ensure presenters or organizations have not posted or promoted discriminatory or biased content that could compromise student safety or undermine instructional integrity
- An orientation for staff tasked with vetting on how to identify discriminatory or biased positions, including specific examples of red flags (e.g., promotion of hate speech)

UCP Complaints

- Provide clear information about the district's UCP complaint process and procedures
Train investigators and school leaders on the district's UCP complaint process, including timelines, procedures, and corrective action requirements
- Investigate complaints and issue clear findings in a timely manner
- Take corrective action within required timelines
- Maintain complete records of complaints, investigations, findings, and corrective actions
- Protect complainant confidentiality, to the extent possible

Parent & Community Engagement

Notify families each year about:

- Students' rights under nondiscrimination laws, including the right not to be subjected to discriminatory textbooks, curriculum, and instructional materials
- How curriculum and instructional materials are selected and reviewed
- The right of parents and guardians to observe instruction and other school activities and inspect instructional materials in a reasonable timeframe
- Complaint procedures and timelines

Curriculum and Instructional Materials Transparency

- Create a public-facing portal where families can view instructional materials and assessments, including textbooks, teacher's manuals, films, audio and video recordings, and software
- Ensure timely compliance with materials requested under the California Public Records Act
- Host parent information sessions to explain how controversial topics are taught (e.g., colonialism, geopolitics) or create a newsletter section on curriculum and instructional review practices

Leverage State Civil Rights Resources

The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) will provide guidance and training on how to identify and prevent antisemitism and other forms of discrimination and bias. District leaders should stay informed about:

- OCR annual reports on the state of discrimination and bias in LEAs and bulletins
- Antisemitism training guidelines and best practices
- Technical assistance offerings
- Updates to the law and any clarifying memos issued by the California Department of Education

Consider designating a district liaison to:

- Communicate with the State Superintendent's Office, Office of Civil Rights (GovOps), and the Antisemitism Prevention Coordinator
- Monitor implementation of the law
- Communicate with district counsel regarding any implementation questions or concerns

Use Data-Informed Reflection to Refine Instructional and Complaint Processing Practices:

- Analyze complaint data and resolution outcomes
- Conduct focus groups with educators on challenges and successes in teaching controversial topics
- Adjust curriculum, instructional materials, and professional development accordingly

Districts should ensure review processes are applied consistently across all forms of discrimination prohibited under California and federal law.

Final Recommendations

- Embed Critical Thinking in Every Lesson: Use inquiry, primary sources, evidence-based analysis, and structured debate to demonstrate how knowledge is built—not merely transmitted
- Balance Narrative Voices: Teach about Jewish history (including the Mizrahi experience), Palestinian history, and other regional perspectives in ways that promote complexity, historical literacy, and critical analysis rather than one-sided narratives
- Be Transparent with Families and Communities: Engage parents through clear information about legal requirements and explanations of district decisions about curriculum and instructional materials
- Document Thoughtful Instructional Choices: Keep records of curriculum, instructional materials, and professional development reviews to demonstrate compliance with AB 715

Sources

- https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB715/id/3269818?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- https://calmatters.digitaldemocracy.org/bills/ca_202520260ab715?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Model Annual Parent/Guardian Notification Letter

Here is a model Parent Notification Letter that fulfills the annual communication requirement under AB 715, while aligning with the district's goals of transparency and non-discrimination in instruction. This can be customized for print or digital delivery.

Subject: Important Update: District Implementation of AB 715

Date: [Insert Date]

From: [Superintendent Name], Superintendent

To: Parents and Guardians of [District Name]

Contact: [Insert contact email/phone]

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are writing to inform you about important legal and instructional updates aligned **with California Assembly Bill AB 715**, which went into effect on **January 1, 2026**.

This law strengthens legal protections against discrimination and reinforces our commitment to providing classrooms that are **safe, inclusive, intellectually rigorous**, and free from discriminatory bias.

Below is a summary of how [District Name] is implementing this law to serve students, support educators, and partner with families.

What is AB 715?

AB 715 is a state law that requires (among other requirements):

- All teacher instruction and instructional materials to be factually accurate, aligned with district curriculum and California standards, and free from personal opinion, advocacy, bias, or partisanship.
- The prompt removal and remediation of any instructional or professional development materials that violate these protections.
- Access for parents and guardians to instructional materials in a reasonable amount of time.
- Timely decisions and corrective action on complaints regarding discriminatory curriculum and instructional materials.

What This Means for Your Child's Learning

In [District Name], we believe students learn best when they are:

- Challenged to think critically, evaluate multiple perspectives, and use evidence to form their own conclusions.

- Exposed to viewpoint diversity, particularly when studying complex historical or contemporary issues.
- Treated with respect and dignity, regardless of their background, identity, or beliefs.

AB 715 supports these goals by requiring that teacher instruction, curriculum, and instructional materials not subject students to unlawful discrimination or bias.

Access to Materials and Content Transparency

Parents and guardians have the right to:

- Review instructional materials and assessments, upon request, in accordance with the California Public Records Act and California Education Code § 51101.
- Receive annual updates about the protections, requirements, and district responsibilities under AB 715.

To request access to your child's curriculum or instructional materials, please visit our Transparency Portal at [Insert Link] or contact your school's principal.

Filing Concerns or Complaints:

If you believe your child has encountered discrimination in school, which includes discriminatory instruction, curriculum, or instructional materials:

1. You may file a complaint through our Uniform Complaint Procedure (UCP) at [Insert Link or Office].
2. If an investigation report is not issued within 60 days of your filing, you may appeal directly to the State Superintendent of Instruction.
3. The law also permits families to seek civil law remedies for complaints of discrimination.

Please know that all concerns will be handled with professionalism, confidentiality (to the extent possible), and timeliness.

Continuing Partnership

Our mission is to prepare students who are not only academically strong, but also thoughtful, open-minded, and civically engaged. We thank you for your partnership in this work.

For questions about AB 715, our curriculum or instructional policies, or how controversial topics are taught, please contact [Insert Contact Information].

Sincerely,
[Superintendent Name]
Superintendent, [District Name]
[Email Address] | [Phone Number]

About ADL

ADL is the leading anti-hate organization in the world. Founded in 1913 to protect the Jewish people, ADL works to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and secure justice and fair treatment to all. In the face of rising antisemitism, we protect, advocate and educate and seek to create a world without hate.

LOS ANGELES

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