



March 14, 2023

The Honorable Avelino Valencia
State Assemblymember
1021 O Street, Suite 4120
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 721: School districts: budgets: public hearings: notice.
Position: **Support**
Location: Assembly Education Committee – Set for hearing on March 22, 2023.

Dear Assemblymember Valencia,

On behalf of the California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO), representing over 24,000 school business leaders in K-14 education, we are pleased to support your Assembly Bill 721. The bill would modernize the statutory requirement for county superintendents to publish district budget meeting notices.

Current law requires that county superintendents publish district budget meeting notices in their local newspapers. Staff must dedicate time to collect the necessary data/information and school districts are sent the invoice for the publications that cost around \$300 to \$800. These “hard copy” notices for budget notices do not provide the public with sufficient accessibility to these meeting notices, where important information is relayed to the community.

This bill would allow school districts the choice to post notices prominently on the homepage of the internet website or continue to post in their local newspapers. School districts will have the option to cut costs without the need for publications and save staff time that was focused on formatting for the publications. Using the online format would also increase the accessibility of information for stakeholders and parents looking to be updated regarding these budget notices.

CASBO thanks you for bringing this bill forward. Should you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Esquivel at eesquivel@casbo.org.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Esquivel
Assistant Executive Director of Governmental Relations
California Association of School Business Officials