

Introduced by Senator Reyes
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Nguyen and Schiavo)

February 21, 2025

An act to amend Section 96101 of the Government Code, relating to education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 781, as introduced, Reyes. Elementary and secondary education: academic volunteers.

The California Academic Volunteer and Mentor Service Act of 1992 creates the Academic Volunteer and Mentor Service Program, administered by the office of the Governor, in order to provide academic support and guidance to each child who requires it, as provided. The act sets forth related legislative findings and declarations.

This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to those legislative findings and declarations.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 96101 of the Government Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 96101. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:
- 4 (a) Every California child is encouraged to have a caring adult
- 5 who, along with parents and teachers, is able to offer support,
- 6 friendship, encouragement, and motivation to help the child excel
- 7 academically and lead a productive life.

1 (b) As a society, we look to a child's family to provide a
2 supportive home environment and realize that the primary
3 responsibility for ~~childrearing~~ *child rearing* must remain with the
4 family. However, we are keenly aware of increases in child abuse
5 and neglect, the escalation of drug and alcohol abuse, and that
6 many children who could excel in school are not receiving all the
7 help and support they need to succeed.

8 (c) Untapped human resources exist in local communities
9 throughout the state that can provide many children with an
10 additional caring person, in support of the family and school
11 system, to volunteer as a positive academic role model or mentor.
12 These individuals will help those children progress in school and
13 help direct and reinforce the many opportunities that will further
14 enhance each child's life.

15 (d) The private sector throughout California should be
16 commended for its generous financial support of public schools.
17 ~~Now~~ Now, there is another significant contribution ~~they can~~ *that*
18 *the private sector can*, and ~~must~~ *must*, make to California's children
19 and ~~youth~~ — *youth* — the investment of human capital in our
20 children's future as academic volunteers and mentors.

21 (e) Programs such as the 100 Black Men, which provides
22 encouragement and support to children through the use of mentors,
23 have resulted in significant increases in graduation rates at the
24 secondary level and in much improved enrollment rates in
25 postsecondary education for some of our most vulnerable youth.

26 (f) Local, regional, and statewide resource referral systems must
27 be established to more efficiently link children and potential
28 academic volunteers and mentors with existing programs and
29 organizations.

30 (g) Volunteer and mentor service must be encouraged and
31 appropriately recognized.