



# Senate California Legislature

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## SB 1086 Fact Sheet

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### BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 1086 is an effort to provide a stable, predictable local regulatory environment for the burgeoning microschool movement in California. This follows the model of Utah’s 2024 Senate Bill 13:

- Defines “micro schools” in law.
- Allows microschools and micro-education entities to operate under certain zoning rules without requiring special permits.
- Prescribes local agency ministerial approval of, and oversight over, microschools and micro-education entities related to traffic, parking, fire safety and health permits.
- Requires the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation to develop and publish one or more model ordinances to implement these provisions.
- Requires a non-profit/for-profit microschool to obtain a business license.

### BACKGROUND

“Microschooling” or a “micro-education entity” is a relatively new K-12 schooling concept without a rigid definition. It is typically a temporary or long-term organization comprised of anywhere from a handful of students to over one hundred K-12 students, operating under a private school affidavit under Education Code 33190 and taught by parents or one or more dedicated teachers/tutors. This education model is highly individualized, flexible and affordable. Microschools can operate in various ways, including as state-recognized private schools or homeschooling collaboratives. They are not managed by a school

district or county office of education, a charter school, or a state special school.

Parents may use microschools and incorporate innovative educational approaches to address specific needs of one or more of their children who cannot operate in a traditional public or charter school for any number or reasons.

### PROBLEM

Inconsistent local land use regulations have created unnecessary barriers and excessive costs to the establishment and operation of microschools and micro-education entities.

### SOLUTION

SB 1086 would provide uniform, objective and predictable land use standards for microschools and micro-education entities while preserving local authority over health and safety matters.

As noted by Kerry McDonald, one of the nation’s premier experts on education, “American education has changed dramatically over the past two years... There is now a significant opportunity to enact state-level policies that support education entrepreneurship and encourage the emergence of more innovative K-12 learning models.”

SB 1086 would give parents another tool to seek the best academic options for their child without the struggle of navigating unnecessary regulations.

### SUPPORT

- California Policy Center (Sponsor)