

Date of Hearing: April 21, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Mike Fong, Chair

AB 2726 (Fong) – As Amended April 13, 2026

SUBJECT: School facilities: disposal of surplus technology property.

SUMMARY: Authorizes school districts, California Community Colleges (CCC) districts (CCD), and county offices of education to establish streamlined processes for declaring and disposing of surplus technology property, including expanded methods such as trade-ins, negotiated sales, and donations, while requiring safeguards for data protection and fiscal responsibility. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Authorizes governing boards of school districts, CCDs, and county offices of education to declare district-owned technology as “surplus technology property.”
- 2) Allows disposal of surplus technology through multiple methods, including:
 - a) Public auction (including online);
 - b) Sealed bid;
 - c) Trade-in or buyback programs;
 - d) Negotiated sale to public agencies, nonprofits, or private entities; and,
 - e) Donation to public agencies or nonprofit public benefit corporations.
- 3) Requires governing boards to adopt policies and procedures that include:
 - a) Criteria for determining when technology is no longer needed;
 - b) Methods to ensure competition or market testing;
 - c) Compliance with data protection requirements, including device wiping and verification of data destruction; and,
 - d) Compliance with restrictions tied to state or federal funding sources.
- 4) Requires, to the extent practicable, that disposal processes:
 - a) Maximize financial return or value; and,
 - b) Minimize electronic waste and promote recycling, refurbishment, and reuse.
- 5) Expands and standardizes the definition of “technology” to include a broad range of equipment such as:
 - a) Computers, servers, and network equipment;
 - b) Mobile devices and audiovisual systems;

- c) Security and surveillance systems; and,
- d) Instructional, simulation, medical, and laboratory devices.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the CCC, a postsecondary education system in this State, under the administration of the CCC Board of Governors; and, specifies that the CCC consist of CCDs (Education Code (EC) Section 70900).
- 2) Establishes that CCDs are under the control of a board of trustees, known as the local governing board, who has the authority to establish, maintain, operate, and govern one or more community colleges, within its district as specified. Permits districts to establish policies for and the approval of courses of instruction and educational programs (EC Section 70902).
- 3) Authorizes the governing board of CCDs to sell, for less than fair market value, any site that is deemed to be surplus property of the district, to any park district, city, or county in which the community college district is wholly or partially situated for use or partial use as park or recreational purposes or open-space purposes if the governing board adopts a resolution specifying that it will sell or transfer such property for less than fair market value to such an entity for such a purpose. The sale or transfer may be made for cash and other valuable consideration, or for other valuable consideration, as deemed appropriate by the governing board of the CCDs (EC Section 81190, et seq.).
- 4) Authorizes the governing board of any CCDs to sell for cash any personal property belonging to the CCD if the property is not required for school purposes, or if it should be disposed of for the purpose of replacement, or if it is unsatisfactory or not suitable for school use. Stipulates that there cannot be a sale until notice has been given by posting in at least three public places in the district for not less than two weeks, or by publication for at least once a week for a period of not less than two weeks in a newspaper published in the district and having a general circulation there; or if there is no such newspaper, then in a newspaper having a general circulation in the district; or if there is no such newspaper, then in a newspaper having a general circulation in a county in which the district or any part thereof is situated. The CCD board must sell the property to the highest responsible bidder or reject all bids. Allows the governing board to choose to conduct any sale of personal property authorized under this section by means of a public auction conducted by employees of the district or other public agencies, or by contract with a private auction firm. The CCD board may delegate to the district employee responsible for conducting the auction the authority to transfer the personal property to the highest responsible bidder upon completion of the auction and after payment has been received by the district (EC Section 81450, et seq.).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown. This measure is keyed non-fiscal by the Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS: *Double referral.* This measure was heard by the Assembly Committee on Education on April 08, 2026, where it passed on consent with a vote of 9 – 0. A review of the issues germane to K-12 education are addressed in that Committee’s analysis.

Need for the measure. According to the author, “today’s students rely on technology to learn and teachers use multimedia channels for teaching. School districts that do not upgrade technology disadvantage teachers and students when equipment break down, operate inefficiently, or do not contain the most modern programs. Existing law establishes a process for disposing surplus real property such as school sites, but does not provide a process for disposing surplus technology such as computers or laptops.”

The author further states that, “disadvantaged students suffer by not having access to sufficient or updated technology. By encouraging school districts, county offices of education, and community college districts to maximize surplus technology to acquire new and updated technology through trade-ins, students and faculty will benefit from equipment that work properly and have modern features and programs.”

Key inclusions in the measure. Community colleges increasingly rely on technology refresh cycles, leasing models, and vendor trade-in programs. By aligning policy with modern procurement practices, this measure allows CCDs to use industry-standard practices, which tend to be more efficient than public auctions alone. Additionally, the measure requires secure data deletion and verification prior to disposal; ensuring data security is safeguarded. Cognizant of environmental considerations, this measure explicitly encourages minimizing electronic waste and promoting responsible recycling and reuse.

Further, while the measure seeks to expand disposal methods, it authorizes CCD governing boards to adopt formal policies ensuring the following:

- 1) Competitive practices or market testing;
- 2) Fair market value considerations; and,
- 3) Compliance with funding restrictions.

These policies seek to provide flexibility with accountability and oversight.

Lastly, this measure creates a uniform framework across school districts, CCDs, and county offices of education. This should improve consistency in how public education entities manage surplus technology.

Committee comments. Many CCDs have grappled with outdated surplus property laws that were based on traditional disposal frameworks, designed for general property, not high-volume, rapidly depreciating technology assets. With technology rapidly changing, this measure seeks to modernize how community colleges dispose of outdated technology by allowing flexible methods such as trade-ins, negotiated sales, and donations, while requiring strong safeguards for data privacy and fiscal accountability. This measure also helps colleges recover value from obsolete equipment, reduce electronic waste, and align technology disposal practices with the State’s procurement and sustainability standards.

In fact, the author states that “these programs help reduce waste while allowing districts to leverage surplus property to reduce costs for new equipment.”

Arguments in support. According to Foothill-De Anza CCD, sponsors of this measure, “under current law state, there are specified procedures for schools and community college districts to dispose of surplus real property. However, these specific procedures relate to school buildings or land. Existing law also delineates how the funds from these sales of surplus property may be used. There are not, under current law, processes and procedures for disposal of surplus technology.”

Foothill-De Anza CCD further states that, “increasingly, technology is becoming a critical component of learning in the classroom and is a keystone of modern instruction. From tablets or laptops school districts assign to students, teachers and staff for academic and administrative uses, to hardware or software used in the classroom for instructional purposes. School districts and CCDs dispose of technology when the technology is no longer operating or operating efficiently or when upgrading to more modern technology.”

Lastly, the sponsors of the measure state that, “school districts, county offices of education, and CCDs need a process to efficiently and effectively dispose of electronic equipment in a way that is also environmentally friendly. The bill is consistent with the state’s goals to promote green initiatives, help school districts with higher financial returns in disposal, and will benefit teachers, students, and staff through access to updated technology.”

Related legislation. AB 296 (Davies) of the 2025-26 Session, which was held on suspense in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, would have required the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop and maintain, until January 1, 2032, a registry of career technical education (CTE) equipment listed for sale accessible to local educational agencies (LEAs) via an internet website and authorizes an LEA to list CTE equipment for sale on the registry.

Prior legislation. AB 629 (Ward), Chapter 62, Statutes of 2025, raises the threshold value for including equipment in a school district’s inventory system from \$500 to \$1,500 and requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to biennially adjust the threshold for inflation and post the adjusted amount on the CDE’s website.

AB 857 (Rod Pacheco), Chapter 838, Statutes of 1999 restricts a county superintendent of schools in the areas of salary increases, financial compensation, benefits, budget revisions, and the hiring of consultants. Specified processes for the disposal of COE personal property.

AB 3757 (Hughes), Chapter 482, Statutes of 1984, requires the governing board of each school district, to establish and maintain a historical inventory, or an audit trace inventory system, or any other inventory system authorized by the SBE, to contain the description, name, identification numbers, and original cost of all items of equipment acquired by it whose current market value exceeds \$500 per item, the date of acquisition, the location of use, and the time and mode of disposal. Authorizes a reasonable estimate of the original cost to be used if the actual original cost is unknown.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Foothill-De Anza Community College District (Sponsor)

Opposition

None on file.

Analysis Prepared by: Jeanice Warden / HIGHER ED. / (916) 319-3960