

Quick Points

AB 5 (Fuentes)

A Best Practices Teacher Evaluation System

Moving beyond just test scores.

- The goal of any evaluation system should be to strengthen the knowledge, skills and practices of teachers to improve student learning. Teachers, administrators and parents all agree that the current teacher evaluation system in California is not achieving this goal. Teachers are frustrated by a process that is often inconsistent, superficial, cursory, and provides very little feedback that improves their practice or enhances students' learning.
- AB 5 provides a new approach to evaluating teachers that is comprehensive, is based on best practices and includes multiple measures for assessing teacher effectiveness. It is developed with the purpose of improving student achievement and provides a much needed common framework for teacher evaluations based on standards of professional practice that acknowledge the multiple activities and responsibilities of educators that contribute to student achievement and school success.
- AB 5 moves beyond just test scores by including multiple measures of accountability. One thing doesn't make a good or bad teacher. Many qualities are at play and should be evaluated in order to determine a teacher's effectiveness. The reality is that every student is unique and has different abilities, motivations, and outside support. A teacher's job is to help students reach their fullest potential, whatever that may be. And while a test can be a good snapshot of that student's knowledge on a particular subject, it's not the entire picture of any student or any teacher.
- Every local school district is like a little community. They have specific needs based on their student population and demographics which shape the work of teachers. The local educators, parents and administrators know what's best for their students. AB 5 recognizes this distinction and continues the practice of collectively bargaining any evaluation system at the local level to ensure the buy-in and trust of all affected parties and to ensure local conditions and student needs are considered.
- The purpose of AB 5 is to empower and engage. It involves parents and the community by requiring a town hall meeting before any local evaluation system is approved for use and a second meeting after the system is complete.