Common Sense Kids Action works with parents, educators, and policymakers to ensure that every kid has the opportunity to succeed. California has one of the world’s largest economies, but too many of our kids are left behind. Children and youth should be our top priority, and elected leaders need to hear from families and be accountable to communities.

The 2017 “For Kids” Legislative Scorecard is launching this year to shine a spotlight on the ways legislators support, or hinder, California’s young people. Parents deserve to know which lawmakers use their votes to help kids, and which don’t. Are legislators “For Kids”? If not, where can they—must they—do better?

Our ratings are based on how legislators voted on 56 key “For Kids” and “Against Kids” bills in the 2017 legislative session. Common Sense divided those bills into four categories: Early Life, Family Life, School Life, and Digital Life.

Parent organizers with Common Sense Kids Action made nearly 3,000 visits to legislators to highlight these bills’ importance. And families scored some important wins in 2017: Twenty-five For Kids bills were signed into law, three more were included in the 2018 budget, and a key Against Kids bill was defeated.

For years, millions of parents and educators have turned to Common Sense to help them make informed decisions about media and technology. Our consumer platform, Common Sense Media, publishes independent ratings and reviews on movies, television shows, books, apps, and video games. Common Sense Education helps teachers utilize education technology tools and access a comprehensive K–12 Digital Citizenship Curriculum. Common Sense Kids Action advocates to make kids our nation’s top priority.
2017 CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION

EARLY LIFE

Investing in kids early can make all the difference. Common Sense Kids Action advocates for high-quality child care, pre-K, nutrition, and preventive health care.

† AB 11 provides funding and support for innovative early childhood services that serve families facing adverse childhood experiences such as abuse or mental illness.
† AB 43 Funds programs that prevent incarceration, such as universal preschool, by assessing a tax on companies that profit from contracting with state prisons.
† AB 60 Eliminates burdensome paperwork requirements for child care assistance, allows families to qualify for 12 months at a time, and establishes a graduated phaseout for families whose incomes have increased.
† AB 273 Clarifies that English as a second language and high school equivalency classes are acceptable training courses to qualify for subsidized child care.
† AB 340 Expands California’s infant and child early-screening program to identify children who are victims of trauma.
† SB 63 Guarantees 12 weeks of job-protected parental leave for more California employees.

FAMILY LIFE

We fight for policies that address poverty and support working families, such as paid leave, paid sick days, and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), so that all kids can grow up feeling safe and supported.

† AB 5 Creates more stable earning opportunities for California families by requiring employers to offer additional hours of work to existing part-time workers before hiring a new employee or contractor.
† AB 15 Increases Denti-Cal reimbursement rates for the most common dental services.
† AB 75 Counts income reported on an IRS 1099 form as eligible for the California EITC.
† AB 160 Increases the maximum lifetime number of months a family can receive CalWORKS benefits from 48 to 60 weeks.
† AB 164 Develops a system to respond to changing needs for food assistance and to provide benefits for specific needs like emergency and ineligibility for federal assistance.
† AB 175 Requires manufacturers of marijuana-infused edible products to receive approval from the Bureau of Marijuana Control and ensure they are in compliance with child safety and marketing rules before releasing them into the market.
† AB 501 Fills a gap in mental health services for children by creating a licensing category for children’s mental health crisis residential services.
† AB 1127 Requires buildings open to the public to ensure that at least one baby diaper-changing station is made available, regardless of gender of the caregiver.
† AB 1520 Establishes the Lifting Children and Families Out of Poverty Task Force to look at the root causes of and best strategies to combat deep poverty.
† ACA 2 and AB 274 Reinstates the sales and use tax on processed snack foods and candy.
† SB 2 Establishes the Building Homes and Jobs Trust Fund to provide a new permanent source of funding for affordable housing.
† SB 3 Places a $4 billion housing bond to support the construction of affordable housing on the ballot in the 2018 election.
† SB 10 Reforms California’s money bail system.
† SB 17 Requires drugmakers to give prior notice before raising prices and requires health plans to report how much of the premiums that we pay are spent on prescription drugs.
† SB 18 and SCR 41 Outlines the research-based essential needs of all California’s children and establishes standards relating to the health, safety, well-being, early childhood and educational opportunities, and familial supports necessary for all children to succeed.
† SB 35 Streamlines the approval process for the construction of new housing.
† SB 54 Limits the use of state and local resources for federal immigration enforcement.
† SB 179 Creates a third, nonbinary gender marker on state-issued identity documents, streamlines the process for Californians to obtain identification documents that accurately reflect their gender, and creates a process by which minors can apply for a change in gender on their birth certificates.
† SB 190 Ends the practice of charging administrative fees for families with youth in the criminal justice system.
† SB 245 Requires child welfare agencies to provide and document receipt of comprehensive sexual education to foster youth and develop a statewide curriculum in the reproductive rights of foster youth.
† SB 270 Requires hotels and motels to train employees on how to recognize potential victims of human trafficking, and signs of human trafficking and how to report those signs to law enforcement.
† SB 300 Requires health warning labels to be placed on sugary beverages sold in California.
† SB 597 Allows victims of human trafficking, one-third of whom are minors, to enroll in the Safe at Home program to ensure that their home addresses remain confidential.
† SB 623 Creates the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund to provide safe drinking water to lower-income Californians who do not have access to clean water.
† SB 625 Reestablishes the “honorable discharge” program for juvenile offenders who have successfully completed parole and who meet certain self-support criteria.

SCHOOL LIFE

A high-quality education opens doors. We support policies for K-12 programs and teacher training that prepare kids for college and career success.

† AB 10 Requires schools serving low-income students to provide free menstrual products.
† AB 24 Creates the State Seal of Civic Engagement to recognize high school graduates who have demonstrated excellence in and a commitment to civics education and participation.
† AB 45 Provides financial assistance to school districts seeking to develop housing for school employees.
† AB 169 Establishes the High Need Teacher Program to award one-time grant funds of $20,000 to students in educator-preparation programs with their commitment to teach in a subject area affected by the teacher shortage.
† AB 254 Establishes a pilot program for local education agencies to support student’s mental health using a Whole Person Care model.
† AB 699 Updates California’s laws on equity in education to prohibit discrimination based on immigration status and/or religious beliefs.
† AB 1217 Creates the California Teacher Corps and provides $60 million in grants for teacher-residency programs.
† SB 12 Requires county child welfare agencies to identify a person to assist foster youth in applying for financial aid, streamline the verification process for foster youth applying through FAFSA, and expand the existing on-campus support system in the state’s community colleges.
† SB 138 Streamlines the enrollment process for the free and reduced-price lunch program for lower-income students.
† SB 169 Incorporates existing federal Title IX standards protecting students from sex discrimination and sexual assault on campuses into California law.
† SB 183 Requires ICE agents to obtain a warrant before entering a state building or school.
† SB 250 Prohibits school officials from shaming, treating differently, or providing a different meal to students with school meal debt.
† SB 257 Requires school districts to admit students whose parents were California residents but then deported, provided they can show documentation proving their parents’ deportation and that they had lived in California immediately before moving abroad.
† SB 424 Establishes permanent funding for the California Regional Environmental Education Community Network, which connects teachers with high-quality environmental education resources.
† SB 436 Creates the California STEM Professional Teaching Pathway to recruit, train, support, and retain qualified science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) professionals as mathematics and science teachers.
† SB 782 Provides grants for public schools to buy California-grown food and expand the number of freshly prepared school meals.

DIGITAL LIFE

In today’s 24/7 digital world, kids need to learn to be safe and smart online. We’re expanding access to digital learning tools for all kids while protecting their privacy.

† AB 76 Prohibits websites, online services and applications, and mobile applications from marketing marijuana products and services to minors.
† AB 165 Takes away digital privacy protections for California’s public school students, teachers, and staff by allowing any person working “for or on the behalf of” a local educational agency to search an electronic device or online account without complying with CalECPA rules.
† AB 247 Ensures that consumers enjoy choice, transparency, and security in the treatment of their personal information when accessing the internet through an internet service provider (ISP).
† AB 1665 Funds infrastructure projects to expand broadband internet access in lower-income and rural communities.
† ACR 130 Designates the third week of October as Digital Citizenship Week.
† SB 135 Calls upon the Instructional Quality Commission to develop and the state board to adopt, modify, or review a model curriculum in media literacy.
† SB 203 Creates a state-based advisory committee to develop digital citizenship and media-literacy resources and best practices for school districts.
† SB 327 Requires that connected devices meet basic security requirements and provide consumers with information about the data they collect and share.
† SB 500 Clarifies that extortion covers coercion involving sexual acts and sexually explicit images.
Dante Acosta  R | Santa Clarita 66%
Cecilia Aguiar-Curry  D | Winters 100%
Travis Allen  R | Huntington Beach 33%
Joaquin Arambula  D | Kingsburg 100%
Catherine Baker  R | Dublin 81%
Marc Berman  D | Palo Alto 100%
Frank Bigelow  R | O’Neals 47%
Richard Bloom  D | Santa Monica 100%
Rob Bonta  D | Alameda 100%
William Brough  R | Dana Point 39%
Anna Caballero  D | Salinas 100%
Ian Calderon  D | Whittier 100%
Sabrina Cervantes  D | Eastvale 94%
Ed Chau  D | Monterey Park 100%
Rocky Chavez  R | Oceanside 76%
Phillip Chen  R | Diamond Bar 44%
David Chiu  D | San Francisco 100%
Steven Choi  R | Irvine 48%
Kansen Chu  D | San Jose 100%
Ken Cooley  D | Rancho Cordova 97%
Jordan Cunningham  R | Templeton 63%
Brian Dahle  R | Bieber 55%
Tom Daly  D | Anaheim 94%
Susan Eggman  D | Stockton 84%
Heath Flora  R | Ripon 53%
Vince Fong  R | Bakersfield 50%
Jim Frazier  D | Oakley 94%
Laura Friedman  D | Glendale 100%
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<td>Fullerton</td>
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CALIFORNIA SENATE

Ben Allen  D | Santa Monica  
100%

Joel Anderson  R | Alpine  
57%

Toni G. Atkins  D | San Diego  
100%

Patricia C. Bates  R | Laguna Niguel  
54%

Jim Beall  D | San Jose  
100%

Anthony Canella  R | Ceres  
80%

Tom Berryhill  R | Modesto  
54%

Kevin de León  D | Los Angeles  
100%

Steven Bradford  D | Gardena  
100%

Bill Dodd  D | Napa  
100%

Jean Fuller  R | Bakersfield  
54%

Cathleen Galgiani  D | Stockton  
97%

Jim Wood  D | Healdsburg  
97%

Anthony Rendon  D | Lakewood  
94%

Eloise Gomez Reyes  D | Colton  
97%

Freddie Rodriguez  D | Pomona  
100%

Blanca Rubio  D | Baldwin Park  
97%

Marc Steinorth  R | Rancho Cucamonga  
59%

Rudy Salas  D | Bakersfield  
97%

Miguel Santiago  D | Los Angeles  
100%

Mark Stone  D | Scotts Valley  
100%

Tony Thurmond  D | Richmond  
100%

Phillip Ting  D | San Francisco  
100%

Randy Voepel  R | Santee  
59%

Marie Waldron  R | Escondido  
73%

Shirley Weber  D | San Diego  
100%

Jim Wood  D | Healdsburg  
97%

Rudy Salas  D | Bakersfield  
97%

Blanca Rubio  D | Baldwin Park  
97%

Marc Steinorth  R | Rancho Cucamonga  
59%

Miguel Santiago  D | Los Angeles  
100%
Ed Hernandez  D | Azusa  97%
Robert Hertzberg  D | Los Angeles  92%
Jerry Hill  D | San Mateo  100%
Ben Hueso  D | San Diego  97%
Hannah-Beth Jackson  D | Santa Barbara  97%
Ricardo Lara  D | Bell Gardens  100%
Connie M. Leyva  D | Chino  100%
Mike McGuire  D | Healdsburg  94%
Tony Mendoza  D | Artesia  95%
Holly J. Mitchell  D | Los Angeles  100%
Bill Monning  D | Carmel  95%
John Moorlach  R | Costa Mesa  57%
Mike Morell  R | Rancho Cucamonga  43%
Josh Newman  D | Fullerton  95%
Janet Nguyen  R | Garden Grove  67%
Jim Nielsen  R | Gerber  53%

Richard Pan  D | Sacramento  100%
Anthony Portantino  D | La Cañada Flintridge  91%
Richard Roth  D | Riverside  97%
Nancy Skinner  D | Berkeley  100%
Henry Stern  D | Canoga Park  97%
Jeff Stone  R | Temecula  50%
Andy Vidak  R | Hanford  63%
Bob Wieckowski  D | Fremont  95%
Scott Wiener  D | San Francisco  100%
Scott Wilk  R | Santa Clarita  71%
Common Sense is dedicated to kids’ well-being in the digital age.

Common Sense Kids Action is the advocacy arm of Common Sense, the nation’s leading nonprofit dedicated to helping kids thrive in today’s digital world. Common Sense empowers parents, teachers, and policymakers by providing unbiased information, trusted advice, and innovative tools to help them harness the power of media and technology as a positive force in kids’ lives.

Common Sense Kids Action works with policymakers, business leaders, and advocates across the nation to ensure that all kids have the supports and opportunities they need to succeed. From early life and family life to school life and digital life, Common Sense champions reforms that make common sense for America’s kids and families.