

Please reject SB 223. This bill adds additional requirements to private schools that are unnecessary. The additional requirements will add overhead and cost to maintaining compliance to an already very stringent list of requirements for private schools. I have two children that attended private school and am presently a board member and am aware of significant effort already to maintain compliance with educational curriculum standards, health and safety. Complying with the short-term safety requirements during the COVID pandemic was a huge undertaking and we were successfully able to provide excellent education in-person during this time with zero virus transmission by students or staff. I am aware of several other private schools with the same results. Our education department should be rewarding private schools for this accomplishment instead of penalizing them with additional requirements.

The administration of private schools are already highly invested in the safety of students and do not need additional governmental oversight. Most parents who choose to send their children to private schools are highly involved and provide oversight to ensure safety and excellence in education in line with their personal moral and religious beliefs. This self-monitoring of private schools is much more effective than applying new "one-size-fits-all" requirements for all private schools.

Respectively submitted,
Farrin Hockett