

June 28, 2023

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 873 (Berman) Media Literacy Curriculum Framework - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Portantino,

Common Sense supports AB 873 (Berman), which would ensure that all K-12 students in California are prepared with media literacy skills necessary to safely, responsibly, and critically consume and use social media and other forms of media and information.

Children are growing up with the power of digital media and technology to explore, connect, create, and learn in new ways. With this power, young people have great opportunities, but they also face challenges and dilemmas. Schools are dealing with the ramifications, including issues such as [online safety](#), [cyberbullying](#), [privacy](#), [hate speech](#), [misinformation](#), and [digital distraction](#). To address these issues, schools are creating a positive culture around media and technology by incorporating digital citizenship education as part of their curricula.

According to our [2020 Teens and the News Report](#) that surveyed teens on how they get their news, how much they trust different news sources, and more:

- 77% of teens get news and headlines from social media; 39% "often" get news from personalities, influencers, & celebrities on social media and YouTube; and 28% say their "preferred" news source is personalities, influencers, & celebrities on social media & YouTube.
- 55% of teens today say they can tell if a news story is fake.
- Only 28% put a lot of trust in the information they received from local news organizations.
- The No. 1 feeling teens said they experienced based on the news over the past six months was frustration (45% of teens felt this way).

AB 873 will align California with a growing number of states now incorporating instruction in media and information literacy. Common Sense strongly supports policies and programs that ensure California's students have access to the skills they need to succeed as digital learners, leaders, and citizens tomorrow. For the above reasons, we respectfully request your "Aye" vote on AB 873.

Sincerely,



Kami Peer
CA Policy Manager
Common Sense Media