

# LESS LAWN MORE LEARNING

## Campus Guide for Identifying Nonfunctional Lawn Under AB 1572

By January 1, 2027, public schools must stop using potable (drinking) water to irrigate nonfunctional lawn. By January 1, 2028, private schools must comply as well. This guide helps you decide whether a lawn area requires action or not.



Yarrow *Achillea* spp, California native

### STEP 1 — EXEMPTION CHECK

Question: Is this lawn irrigated with recycled or non-potable water, or is it part of residential/dorm housing?

**YES**

**NO ACTION NEEDED (*Exempt*)**

- Recycled or non-potable water irrigation (purple pipe, "Do Not Drink" signs)
- Residential or dorm lawns on campus housing

**NO:**

**Continue to Step 2** ↓

### STEP 2 — USE CHECK

Question: Is the lawn regularly used for recreation, PE, sports, or events?

**YES:**

**NO ACTION NEEDED (*Functional Lawn*)**

- Athletic fields (soccer, football, baseball, softball, track infields)
- Playfields used daily for PE or recess
- Event lawns (graduation, assemblies, community gatherings)
- Playground lawns integrated into play areas

**NO:**

**Continue to Step 3** ↓

### STEP 3 — NONFUNCTIONAL INDICATORS

Question: Does the lawn fit any of these categories?

- Narrow strips (10 ft wide or less) along sidewalks, fences, or building edges
- Medians, frontage strips, or parking lot islands
- Decorative lawns at building entries, signage, or gateways
- Steep slopes (25% grade or more)
- Inaccessible lawns (blocked by barriers, no pathways)
- Purely ornamental turf (not designated or used for play, classes, or gatherings)

If **YES** to any of the above **ACTION REQUIRED (*Nonfunctional Lawn*)**

## STEP 4 – TREE CONSIDERATION

Question: Are trees planted in the nonfunctional lawn?

**YES:**      ***ACTION REQUIRED (Nonfunctional Lawn)***

- You must stop irrigating the lawn with potable water
- BUT you should continue to irrigate trees to protect their health
- Consider converting sprinklers to drip irrigation

**NO:**      ***ACTION REQUIRED (Nonfunctional Lawn)***

- You must stop irrigating the lawn with potable water

## FINAL RESULTS

Every campus lawn area ends up in one of two categories:

***NO ACTION NEEDED***

- Functional Lawn (regularly used for sports, PE, events, or play)
- Exempt (recycled water irrigation, residential/dorm lawns)

***ACTION REQUIRED***

- Nonfunctional Lawn (decorative, strips, medians, slopes, ornamental)
- Nonfunctional Lawn with Tree Exemption (stop watering grass; protect trees separately)



Review the Campus Toolkit for ideas and next steps on how to transform your areas of nonfunctional lawn into beautiful water-wise landscapes filled with low-water and native plants.

## YOUR WATER PROVIDER IS HERE TO HELP

*Many water agencies offer:*

- Lawn replacement and irrigation rebates
- Free site visits and landscape reviews
- Sample plant lists and design templates
- Tree protection tips and irrigation strategies



**NonFunctionalTurfCA.org**