



December 6, 2023

Dear County Board Trustee:

CSBA's vision statement calls for the organization to be the essential voice for public education and to inspire all of our members to be knowledgeable leaders, extraordinary governance practitioners and ardent advocates for all students. Meeting this goal requires an ongoing dedication to serving all local educational agencies, including our county offices of education. We have consistently expanded the number of CSBA products designed for county board members because we recognize that the county board experience is unique and requires custom support and services.

County boards of education are critical to student success, particularly the success of high-need students who are served by our county schools. But it's not just students attending county office-run schools who benefit from strong county boards — it's all students. CSBA recognizes the special role county boards play in education at the local level and is committed to providing the information, resources and advocacy you need to perform your governance duties at the highest level.

To better facilitate your work as county board members, CSBA is amending its governance structure to provide county board members with more cohesive representation in the Delegate Assembly and on the CSBA Board of Directors. As part of this transition, we are phasing out CCBE as a distinct "section" within CSBA and partnering with county board members to assume even more responsibility for serving this valued segment of our membership. The partnership will be guided by the County Board Transition Working Group, a panel of county board members established to make recommendations to CSBA's Board of Directors about services and programs that would most benefit county board members.

County boards that participated in CCBE will now benefit from an array of new services, events and opportunities including:

- Expanded high-quality training offerings developed for county board members
- Input on future products and services via the new County Board Transition Working Group, which will establish the vision for deeper integration of county boards and help plan future product and service offerings
- Surveys of county board members to gain further insight into your needs, assessment of current offerings and ideas for the future
- A new subcommittee of the Annual Education Conference Planning Committee composed of county board members that will identify county board content for AEC and ensure a robust experience for county board members at CSBA's annual conference
- A new County Director position on the CSBA Board of Directors and the creation of a new CSBA statewide region, Region 14, composed entirely of county board Delegates
 - Current county regional Delegates will now serve in two regions, in their original geographic region and in the newly created statewide Region 14 developed solely for county board Delegates

County boards will continue to enjoy the current county-specific services and opportunities CSBA offers, such as:

- A county board-specific Sample Policy Manual
- A county board-specific Masters in Governance® training
- Four county seats on the CSBA Legislative Committee
- The Director-at-Large (DAL), County seat on the CSBA Board of Directors
- A full-time program manager position dedicated to county board products and services

In addition, traditional events like the CCBE March training and the September conference will continue in 2024 as in the past, except now under the banner of **CSBA County Board Member Services**.

We realize this change may be uncomfortable for some county board members who participated in CCBE. There is a lot of history and sentiment attached to CCBE's leadership and its name, and deservedly so. But be assured that changing the name does not mean you are losing any of the visibility or service you have come to expect. In fact, you can anticipate even greater access, resources and advocacy upon full integration with CSBA. The success of CSBA as a whole is tied to our effective advocacy for county boards, and we are excited about the opportunity to elevate our work in this area on your behalf.

At the beginning of this letter, we referenced CSBA's vision to be the essential voice of public education. We'll close by remembering our mission, which is to strengthen and promote school board governance and to define and drive the public education agenda through advocacy, training and member services. We believe that strong county boards of education are essential to ensuring a high-quality education for every community and we are committed to supporting you in the shared goal of improving student outcomes.

Should you have further questions about this transition, please consult the FAQs that were distributed along with this letter and speak with your regional director; DAL, County Michael Teasdale; or CCBE President John McPherson. You may also contact CSBA Research and Education Policy Development Chief Naomi Eason at neason@cbsa.org. We look forward to increased collaboration with county board members and thank you for your invaluable service to California students.

Susan Markarian
2023 President & Immediate Past President

Albert Gonzalez
2024 President