



County Board Services Frequently Asked Questions

What's happening?

County board members of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) are currently organized as a section of CSBA called the California County Boards of Education (CCBE), which is operated in accordance with its own Bylaws and Standing Rules. Starting in May 2024, county board members will instead be organized into a Region of CSBA and operate in accordance with CSBA's Bylaws and Standing Rules.

Why the change now?

County board members are a valued component of CSBA's membership and CSBA has an obligation to serve this segment of the membership with the same vigor as district board members. This can only be accomplished if the association takes a greater role and more responsibility for serving our county board members. The CSBA Board of Directors has expressed concerns about CCBE taking positions on legislation outside of the CSBA structure, maintaining separate Bylaws and Standing Rules, and having separate officers and a separate Board of Directors. The CSBA Board of Directors feels that the current structure of CCBE as a section of CSBA operating as an independent organization within the association does not align with the CSBA's governance structure and inhibits the ability of the association to foster a united, collaborative membership that's collectively working to strengthen its mission, vision and strategic goals.

Does the CSBA Board of Directors have the authority to do this?

Yes. Per statute, all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the CSBA Board of Directors. This encompasses all the activities and affairs of the association, including how county board members are organized within the association.

What is the timeframe for this change?

At the direction of the CSBA Board of Directors, CCBE will no longer operate as a section of CSBA effective Jan. 29, 2024, after which a transition phase will be implemented to ensure the smooth transition to a new county board region. We anticipate the new county board region will be fully operational after the May 2024 Delegate Assembly.

What will happen to the CCBE name and logo?

Since CCBE will no longer be a recognized section of CSBA, we will take this opportunity to rebrand the county board services and activities provided by CSBA as CSBA County Board Member Services, with the intention of making it clear what services and activities are directed specifically to support county board members.

Will there still be a county board member on the CSBA Board of Directors?

Yes, there will be a Director of the new Region (County Board Director) who will sit on the CSBA Board of Directors. As with all CSBA Regions, the Delegates of the County board region will caucus together and give input to their Regional Director. The current CCBE board is made up of county Delegates who serve in CSBA's Delegate Assembly, and these County Board Regional Delegates will comprise the new County Board Region. The Delegate-at-Large, County will continue to represent the interest of county board members on the CSBA Board of Directors.

Will the new County Board Region have a Regional Director?

At the January 2024 Board of Directors meeting, CSBA will establish a temporary non-voting county board position to ensure continuity of county board member representation on the CSBA Board of Directors. At the May 2024 meeting, CSBA will amend the Bylaws to establish a new Region 14 that will be composed of the 18 county board member Delegates. Once the Bylaws are amended in May 2024 by the Delegate Assembly to create the new Region 14, the vacancy process in Article 4, Section 9 of the Bylaws will be immediately initiated. The new Region 14 Delegates will have the opportunity to recommend to the CSBA President the names of county board members to fill the vacancy. The President will make an appointment to fill the vacant position and the Board of Directors will ratify the appointment. Subsequently, the Region 14 County Board Director will be elected in even number years in accordance with CSBA's Bylaws and Standing Rules.

How will county board members influence what the county-specific services will be?

For 2024, a one-year County Board Transition Working Group will provide input to CSBA staff on county board member needs and assist with winding down the activities of CCBE. The County Board Transition Working Group will be convened by CSBA staff to provide input on the logistics and execution of activities necessary to close out previously committed events of CCBE. The Working Group will also assist CSBA staff with the identification of potential new CSBA services that could be developed to enhance services to county board members. The Working Group members will be appointed no later than Jan. 31, 2024. The Working Group will include up to 15 county board members identified by CSBA in consultation with the current CCBE President. The Working Group will conclude in December 2024. After 2024, county board members can weigh in on what county-specific services by communicating with their County Board Delegate and County Board Director. County members can also run for the County Delegate, County Board Director of Region 14, or Director-at-Large, County positions, and can ask to serve on CSBA committees, such as the AEC Planning, Policy Platform or Legislative committees.

Will county offices of education (COEs) pay more than what is currently paid to CCBE for services?

No. Counties will continue to pay approximately the same amount of CCBE and CSBA dues.

How will the amount of these dues be determined, and what is it spent on?

CSBA will use the same dues calculation as CCBE. Dues will support the development and implementation of county board products and services and cover one program manager position dedicated to county board services. As is current practice for all CSBA members, there will be standard registration fees for trainings, conferences and other events.

Will there still be county-focused CSBA staff?

CSBA will retain one program manager staff position dedicated to supporting county board-specific services. In addition, all county services including products, trainings and events will now benefit from the expertise of various CSBA support departments including, but not limited to, the Legal Department, Research and Education Policy Development and Member Services.

Will the County Board Workshop scheduled in March still happen?

Yes, the March Workshop will occur as scheduled, with the program expanded to include information about the new governance structure for county board members.

Will there still be a September Conference in Monterey in 2024?

Yes, the September conference in Monterey will be held as scheduled. The previously mentioned Working Group will work with CSBA staff to ensure the conference is a success.

How will the timing, location and content of a county-specific conference be handled in the future?

CSBA recognizes and understands the value of conducting a conference specifically focused on highlighting the issues impacting county boards of education. The CSBA AEC Planning Committee Protocol will be amended to include a subcommittee of county board members to identify and review county specific proposals for AEC and to work with CSBA staff to determine ongoing county conference planning and delivery.

What will happen with the new County Trustee Handbook?

CSBA recognizes the significant effort put into creating the County Trustee Handbook by county board members and sees it as a potentially valuable tool in supporting county board member professional development. It is CSBA's intention to review and incorporate elements of the Handbook into various county-specific training offered by CSBA.

Will there still be four county board members on the CSBA Legislative Committee?

Yes, there will continue to be a minimum of four county board members on the CSBA Legislative Committee. The new County Board Director will replace the CCBE Immediate Past President on the committee. The CSBA President-elect will continue to name the remaining county board members, with input from the County Board Director. The Legislative Committee Protocol will be amended to reflect the change and include details on term limits for the County Board Director.

How will county board members express their policy and legislative priorities for CSBA to act on?

County board members should express their policy and legislative priorities to the regional County Delegate, the County Board Director, the CSBA Director-at-Large, County and to the county members of the Legislative Committee. Channeling county member priorities through these contacts will ensure that Governmental Relations staff and CSBA leadership have a clear understanding of what the priorities for county board members are going forward.

How will the CCBE Apple of Excellence and the new Jack Bedell Award be handled?

The CCBE Apple for Excellence award sunseted at the 2023 AEC, and the CSBA Golden Bell Awards program will continue to recognize and award county board of education programs. The Golden Awards Committee will review the criteria and application process for the Jack Bedell Award and determine next steps.

How do we know CSBA is going to come through on the commitment to match what county board members are getting now through CCBE?

Part of the mission of CSBA is to define and drive the public education policy agenda through advocacy, training and member services. This applies to county board members as well as local district members. CSBA is committed to fulfilling our mission.

CCBE members put in a lot of time to deliver quality services for county board members. Does CSBA staff have the capacity to match this?

We recognize the time and effort county board members have contributed in support of county initiatives through CCBE. In partnership with our county board members, CSBA intends to provide specific services that meet their expectations and will staff those efforts accordingly.