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Many CSBA budget priorities shine in May Revise; advocacy continues for others



Gov. Gavin Newsom revealed his **May Budget Revision** last week, proposing a



\$300.6 billion spending plan as the state budget surplus continues to rise to a record-breaking \$97.5 billion. Among the **key education proposals were major wins for CSBA's budget advocacy work on investing in the Local Control Funding Formula base**

and providing critical support to schools dealing with declining enrollment and lower attendance as they recover from the pandemic. [Read a detailed summary of the Governor's education proposals »](#)

"We were heartened to see **the Governor listened to our call and included COVID ADA relief in the May Revise as these funds will provide critical support to schools grappling with declining enrollment and lower attendance** as they recover from the pandemic. The budget proposal **also contains welcomed assistance in areas where CSBA concentrated advocacy efforts, such as increasing base funding for LCFF and allocating additional resources for universal school meals,**" said CSBA President Dr. Susan Heredia. "Yet, **the May Revise fails to apply a record \$97.5 billion surplus to fully address rising pension costs, higher expenses related to inflation and the pandemic,** and the fact that many of the one-time funds currently propping up schools will expire in the next year. **CSBA will continue to advocate for a higher level of base school funding that truly meets the moment as well as dedicated funding in priority areas like home-to-school transportation and facilities funding needed to implement the state's new transitional kindergarten grade level."**

Negotiations with the Legislature and budget hearings in the Senate and Assembly will continue through May until the June 15 budget passage deadline. CSBA will continue to provide updates and opportunities for advocacy as the cycle continues. **In a virtual press event outlining the association's budget advocacy and priorities on May 11, trustees from around the state illustrated how high-leverage investments in the state budget such as pension relief can make a difference for students at the local level.** Read more about [CSBA's budget priorities](#) | [Watch the virtual press event](#)

CSBA is co-sponsoring Budget Perspectives Workshops in partnership with Capitol Advisors in counties across the state from May 23 through June 1. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Preview 2022 Leadership Institute workshops



CSBA's **2022 Leadership Institute in Los Angeles, July 22–23, "Leadership in a time of chaos, change and opportunity,"** offers an intimate setting to engage with keynote speakers, collaborate with counterparts across the state and enhance leadership skills in sessions dedicated to community engagement, board meeting management, district governance, budgeting and crisis

communications — crucial skills for the current environment.

This year's **workshops will provide attendees a chance to focus on the mindsets, strategies and tools to budget, govern, communicate and engage effectively with their communities during these turbulent times.** And because CSBA knows trustees can't take care of their staff, students and communities if they aren't taking care of themselves, **experts from FranklinCovey will host a workshop on how the wellness and well-being of trustees lends itself to productivity, effective governance and a growth mindset.** [Learn more and register »](#)

Federal update: Timeline for schools to spend COVID relief funds extended



The **U.S. Department of Education on May 13 extended the deadline** an additional 18 months for local educational agencies to spend their **American Rescue Plan COVID relief funds.** The original deadline was Sept. 30, 2024, but now school districts have until spring 2026 or even longer if they're encountering "extraordinary circumstances," according to the department. **The extension was granted to help LEAs whose**

efforts to spend their grant money have been hampered by staffing shortages, supply chain issues, inflation and other obstacles — especially surrounding infrastructure upgrades.

Advocating for more flexibility in regard to ARP funds was a major push during the inaugural Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip April 25–27. Members of CSBA and the Association of California School Administrators convened on the nation's capital to make a case for, among other priorities, extending the ARP through December 2026.

In other federal updates:

- Federal Communications Commission Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel **announced** on May 11 a **proposal to allow the use of federal funding for WiFi in school buses.** The Declaratory Ruling, if adopted, **would allow E-Rate program funding to equip school buses with WiFi, providing substantial benefits to millions of students.** The proposal would clarify that use of WiFi, or similar access point technologies, on school buses serves an educational purpose and the provision of such service is therefore eligible for E-Rate funding. "While we've made progress getting many more families connected through our various broadband funding programs, **the homework gap is still a hard fact of life for millions of schoolchildren in urban and rural America,**" Rosenworcel said. **"Wiring our school buses is a practical step we can take that is consistent with the history of the E-Rate program.** This commonsense change could help kids who have no broadband at home."

Legislative update: New bills aim to give rural and frontier schools a bigger voice



Former school board member turned Assemblymember Megan Dahle (R-Bieber) is **using her past experience as a trustee of Big Valley Joint Unified School District, a small district in Lassen County, to inform several bills aiming to address the specific needs of rural and frontier schools.**

Assembly Bill 2337 will define **Frontier School Districts in the California Education Code in alignment with federal grant requirements** as school districts that have annual average daily attendance of less than 600 students and are located in a county with a population of less than 10 persons per square mile. **This will ensure these small, rural school districts receive recognition for the distinct challenges they face compared to larger, urban districts.** The second bill, **AB 2364**, will ensure that these school districts receive proper recognition, representation and guidance through the establishment of a **Rural Education Task Force, which could help rural districts access and spend federal grant money, provide them with a critical voice and expertise in policy discussions at the state level**, and allow for a stronger connection between small districts and the California Department of Education.

“California’s small and rural school districts have long faced extensive resource and opportunity gaps — deficits they’ve overcome to some degree thanks to the ingenuity of trustees, school staff and families,” said CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy. “Still, it’s clear that our small and rural school deserve so much more. CSBA will continue to uplift the efforts of small and rural local educational agencies to secure the funding, resources and support needed to provide every student with a high-quality education no matter how remote their locale.” [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Legal update: Supreme Court decision limits recovery for emotional distress in Title VI and Title IX discrimination claims



In ***Cummings vs. Premier Rehab Keller PLLC***, the Supreme Court held that **damages for emotional distress are not available for discrimination claims based in four federal statutes:** the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Affordable Care Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The latter two regulate discrimination in K-12 schools. Specifically, Title VI prohibits

discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin and Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.

Because both Title VI and Title IX prohibit discrimination in K-12 public schools that receive federal funding, the Court's decision directly impacts discrimination complaints and remedies available. Moving forward, local educational agencies can expect that any civil cause of action based in Title VI or Title IX complaints may not include damages for emotional distress that resulted because of the alleged discrimination. Recovery of emotional distress damages under California statutes and regulations may not necessarily be precluded because of this decision. Consequently, further guidance from legal counsel is recommended for matters based in California law. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

May edition of *California School News* available online



The latest issue of *California School News* includes a **deep dive into CSBA-sponsored Assembly Bill 2933**, which would reimburse **100 percent of transportation expenses**, allowing more districts to offer home-to-school transportation that improves student safety, increases school attendance, and decreases traffic congestion and schools' carbon footprint.

This issue also provides a **recap of Coast2Coast**, the inaugural CSBA-Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) federal advocacy trip; a breakdown of **CSBA's new strategic priorities**; an examination of universal transitional kindergarten implementation considerations and more. [Read the newsletter »](#)

Golden Quill Award nominations due soon



CSBA's Golden Quill Awards highlight the essential role that journalists play in increasing understanding of the objectives, operations, accomplishments, challenges and opportunities related to public schools. The **Golden Quill Awards are given in recognition of fair, insightful and accurate reporting on public school news by individual print, broadcast and online news media representatives.**

Nominations are due June 30. [Learn more and submit a nomination »](#)

Convert property ownership into an active asset

Property Planning Solutions



Property Planning Solutions by DCG Strategies aims to **help school leaders explore the ways in which their real estate assets can be leveraged to secure additional funding for district initiatives, equip students with the education and experiences they need to be successful, invest in deferred facilities maintenance and capital improvements, reduce cost and liability**

from holding closed or grossly underutilized sites, bolster general fund reserves and even attract new staff. School leaders and board members can gain access to real estate experts that work to align a local educational agency's priorities with the realities of the real estate market. Services include real estate consulting, property planning, strategic asset management, educator housing development and real property brokerage services. [Learn more »](#)

COVID-19 resources

Stay up to date with the latest news and resources related to COVID-19 on [CSBA's dedicated webpage](#) and with articles frequently posted on the [CSBA blog](#).

Virtual events

MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration
May 24-25 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/ Collective Bargaining
June 1-2 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/ Collective Bargaining
June 9-10 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration
June 10-11 | [Register](#)

The Brown Act
June 14 | [Register](#)

Governance with an Equity Lens
Aug. 27-Oct. 22 | [Register](#)

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In-person events

2022 Leadership Institute

July 22-23 | Los Angeles | [Register](#)

California County Boards of Education (CCBE) Annual Conference

Sept. 9-11 | Monterey | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)



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