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Legislative update: Budget deficit impact on Prop 98 lessened by reserve funds

The Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) released its annual fiscal outlook on Nov. 16, revealing an estimated $25 billion budget deficit in the coming year, with the impact on Proposition 98 blunted by the availability of reserve funding. While the Legislature has access to roughly enough general purpose reserve funds to make up the difference in 2023–24, the LAO cautions that those funds should be kept back for use in a possible recession. It recommends that the Legislature plan the 2023–24 budget without general purpose reserve dollars and instead
identify recent program augmentations that can be paused or delayed.

The outlook projects that the Proposition 98 funding requirement is $108.2 billion for 2023–24, a decrease of $2.1 billion, or 2 percent, from the enacted 2022–23 level. Despite this, the LAO reports that the state can afford to maintain its existing school and community college programs in 2023–24 and provide a partial cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of up to 8.38 percent. Statutory COLA is currently estimated to be 8.73 percent, with final numbers to be determined in the spring. The availability of $7.6 billion to fund increases is due to the expiration of one-time funding, program cost declines based on declining enrollment, and a constitutionally required withdrawal from the reserve that will supplement Proposition 98 funding. CSBA Governmental Relations staff will continue to provide updates and engage with the Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom as they plan the 2023–24 budget in advance of the Governor’s January Budget Proposal. Learn more »

Opioid awareness and overdose prevention resources available

On Nov. 15, the California Department of Education hosted a webinar with guidance for schools regarding the opioid crisis. Anne Milgram, administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, spoke about the agency’s One Pill Can Kill initiative and the severity of the crisis on a national level. Fentanyl, a deadly synthetic opioid 50 times more potent than heroin is a primary driver in the overdose epidemic — just 2 milligrams (equivalent to 10-15 grains of salt) can be lethal. Fake pills containing opioids are made to look like OxyContin, Xanax, Adderall and other pharmaceuticals. Criminal drug networks are using social media platforms to expand their reach and create new markets.

The California Department of Public Health has communications toolkits available in multiple languages and information is available on the CDPH Overdose Prevention Initiative. School employees can familiarize themselves with the signs of an overdose and the steps to take if they suspect someone is experiencing an overdose, including administering Naloxone, a lifesaving medication that can reverse an opioid overdose. Information on Naloxone and the state’s free distribution program for schools and local educational agencies are available online along with training videos on how to use Naloxone. CDPH has compiled examples of policies, presentations and communication materials from LEAs as well as examples of board policies and Naloxone training materials for school personnel on its School Health Repository of Experiences page under "Past SHARE Issues." Read more on the CSBA blog »

Legal update: FPPC says SB 1439 does not include
On Nov. 17, the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) discussed the application of amendments to Government Code Section 84308 more fully described in CSBA’s Nov. 16 blog. The FPPC’s staff attorneys had proposed the commission issue an opinion advising that Government Code Section 84308, as amended Senate Bill 1439 (Glazer, D-Orinda), should be interpreted to permit looking back to contributions received and proceedings conducted by local agencies in 2022. However, commission members unanimously disagreed.

Chair Richard Miadich and commissioners provided notice of how the law will be interpreted by the commission, effective Jan. 1, 2023. The commissioners unanimously supported the position that SB 1439 does not include proceedings conducted or contributions received by officials in 2022. Miadich referred to the FPPC’s historical choices to delay counting contributions prior to enactments (in 1983 and again in 2019) and successfully argued that the commission should not consider proceedings or contributions made to local government agency members in 2022.

In consideration of the upcoming holiday and allowing time for counsel to draft a new memo in accordance with its unanimous decision, a special meeting will be scheduled in December so that commissioners can adopt a newly drafted opinion supporting their determination that 2022 contributions and proceedings should not be counted in 2023.

School Boards in Action: Monterey Peninsula USD short-term housing program

November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month, but Monterey Peninsula Unified School District has been hard at work all year to support some of its most vulnerable students through a program that is the first of its kind in California, according to the district. Families of students who are experiencing homelessness can access emergency short-term housing through a partnership the local educational agency has established with Motel 6 as well as support in finding a more long-term housing solution. Since its approval by the school board in April, the program is estimated to have served 30-40 students and families. “Our school board has been extremely supportive of this and continues to be very involved in how we continue to leverage our resources to support students and families who are experiencing unstable housing,” said Donnie Everett, the LEA’s assistant superintendent of Multi-Tiered System of Supports. Read more on the CSBA blog »
Ready for AEC? Make your schedule now

CSBA's 2022 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show is just a week away! Registrants can prepare now by creating their personalized schedule before AEC begins on Dec. 1. In addition to the inspirational and engaging General Sessions, this year’s breakout sessions will center on five key topics: Community Engagement and Advocacy, Equity and Opportunity, Funding and Finance, Leadership Through Governance, and Well-being and Mental Health. Breakout panelists include state leaders such as California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy, legal and finance partners, district and county board members and staff, as well as CSBA Legal, Governmental Relations, Research and Policy staff.

Learn more »

Federal updates: Department of Education advancing CTE

On Nov. 14, the U.S. Department of Education took steps to support the expansion of career technical education in K-12 schools. First, the department announced the launch of a new initiative supported by the Departments of Commerce and Labor to increase and expand access to high-quality training programs to help young people pursue jobs in today's in-demand fields. The initiative, Raise the Bar: Unlocking Career Success, includes $5.6 million in Perkins funding for a new program that will expand work-based learning opportunities for students, and strengthens the ties between K-12, postsecondary and workforce programs.

The department also released guidance through a Dear Colleague letter on how federal funds from the American Rescue Plan can be used for career pathways through expanding access to dual enrollment opportunities, providing strong career and college advisement and navigation supports, expanding opportunities for high-quality work-based learning and giving all students the option to earn industry-sought credentials.

High-quality, data-informed maps driven by transparency

Redistricting is the process of redrawing and rebalancing legislative and local jurisdictional district boundaries every 10 years following the
decennial U.S. Census — a process that has only become more complex since the passage of the Fair Maps Act in 2019. Redistricting Partners has developed a program that allows boards to have a fair, open redistricting that follows best practices and engages communities while ensuring the highest-quality final product. Redistricting Partners has partnered with CSBA to deliver districting or redistricting services to school boards in a cost-effective way that is data informed, community driven and board focused. Learn more »

Stay up to date with the latest news and resources on the CSBA blog.

Virtual events

MIG COE COURSE 1 Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction
Jan. 27-28 | Register

Executive Assistants Certification Program - Kappa Cohort
Feb. 2-May 11 | Register

Executive Assistants Certification Program - Iota Cohort
Feb. 10-April 21 | Register

MIG COE Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review
Feb. 24-25 | Register

In-person events

CSBA Annual Education Conference and Trade Show
Dec. 1-3 | San Diego | Register

County Board Governance Workshop
March 10-11 | Sacramento | Register

2023 Coast2Coast
April 24-26 | Washington, D.C. | Register

View complete calendar