

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

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Legislative update: Results of key labor and governance bills



As the Legislature enters the final two weeks of the 2021–22 legislative session, CSBA is monitoring a number of key labor and governance bills. While some were held back during the suspense hearings in the Senate and Assembly Appropriations committees, others were approved and will now move forward to floor votes by the full Senate and Assembly.

- **Assembly Bill 2573** (McCarty, D-Sacramento) would require a teacher to be

considered permanent if they have completed two consecutive years of teaching, regardless of school district size, applying a “one size fits all” standard that removes necessary flexibility for very small school districts. *Held in Senate Appropriations. CSBA position: Oppose*

- **Senate Bill 924** (Glazer, D-Contra Costa) would require school districts to report the annual compensation of all school staff to the California State Controller and require the Controller to publish this information annually. *Held in Assembly Appropriations. CSBA position: Oppose*
- **SB 1127** (Atkins, D-San Diego) would reduce existing Workers’ Compensation timelines for an employer to reject liability for an injury from 90 days to 75 days and provide that a presumptive injury is considered compensable if the claim is not rejected within 75 days. *Awaiting consideration on the Assembly floor. CSBA position: Oppose*
- **SB 1144** (Wiener, D-San Francisco) would require state agencies and public schools to complete a water efficiency and quality assessment report on their facilities, including testing for Legionella and other contaminants, by January 2027 and remedy identified problems at the earliest practical time, subject to dedicated funding. The bill would create a costly mandate with no identified funding source, workforce pipeline development or technical assistance and prioritize limited resources for an unclear goal at a time when facilities funds are in high demand. *Awaiting consideration on the Assembly floor. CSBA position: Oppose*

CSBA-sponsored bills would increase election transparency



Two CSBA-sponsored bills that would enact important electoral reforms are on the verge of becoming law. Together, the bills increase transparency for voters, cut costs for local school board elections and prevent school funding from being diverted for non-educational purposes.

Senate Bill 1061 (Laird, D-Santa Cruz), a bill that would provide voters with additional information about the cost of special elections

for school and community college boards while simultaneously reducing the expense associated with those elections, awaits Gov. Gavin Newsom’s signature after passing the Legislature. SB 1061 would preserve money for student services that would otherwise be diverted to pay for redundant special elections.

Assembly Bill 2584 (Berman, D-Menlo Park) would protect election integrity through four substantial election reforms. First, AB 2584 would reform the process to initiate a recall by increasing the number of signatures required for the notice of intent to recall an elected officer. Secondly, the legislation would apply the standards for accuracy and review that currently exist for candidate statements to the arguments offered by recall proponents as well as the response from the official proponents seeking to recall. Thirdly, the bill would require that petitions state the estimated cost of the recall election. Finally, AB 2584 would allow for the consolidation of recall elections with a regularly scheduled

state or local election that occurs within 180 days after the recall is qualified. The Senate will soon give final consideration to the bill before it moves to the Assembly and later to the Governor. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Gov. Newsom highlights mental health supports for California students



Gov. Gavin Newsom on Aug. 18, joined by First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, **spoke about efforts to support the mental health of young people in the state — including \$4.7 billion to increase access to mental health and substance use supports for those ages 0-25.**

During a press conference at Fresno Unified School District's McLane High School, Gov.

Newsom also **signed Assembly Bill 2508 (Quirk-**

Silva, D-Fullerton), on which CSBA took a Support position. The new legislation urges more responsibility to serve students' social-emotional, mental and behavioral health needs. The “stacking of stress” in recent years due to years of neglect for mental health investments was addressed by the Governor, who vowed a new approach that will focus less on crisis care and more on early interventions. [Read more on the CSBA blog, including mental health support highlights implemented at Fresno USD »](#)

CSBA webinar addresses collective bargaining in divisive times



Negotiating labor contracts is never easy, even in the best of times. Yet, the unprecedented scrutiny of school operations brought on by the pandemic means that collective bargaining is more public and more complicated than ever before. **That is why CSBA hosted a webinar Aug. 18, “Collective Bargaining in Divisive Times,” featuring an expert panel of education leaders — including trustees, a superintendent, a labor**

relations specialist and legal experts — moderated by the association's in-house bargaining expert with more than 20 years of experience, Keith Bray. Key themes that emerged through the discussion were the board's role in setting the vision and direction under with negotiations occur, ensuring the fiscal health of the district, being accountable to the community without revealing confidential information, and creating an atmosphere of transparency and trust. [Read a webinar summary | View the webinar recording](#)

Legal update: SB 906 on homicide threats creates obligations for board members who regularly interact with students in grades 6-12



On July 21, 2022, Gov. Gavin **Newsom** approved **Senate Bill 906** which seeks to address **homicidal threats in middle and high schools**.

The bill is a response to school shootings in the United States and data suggesting that 93 percent of school shooters planned their attacks in advance and exhibited concerning behavior and communications. **The bill, which goes into effect Jan. 1, 2023, requires “school officials” of any**

school district, county office of education or charter school to immediately report homicidal threats, or perceived homicidal threats, they have observed or been alerted to by law enforcement. The bill only applies to threats related to school or a school activity, and the reporting obligation applies only to local educational agencies that serve pupils in any grades from 6-12 who attend a middle school or high school.

The bill contains some key definitions that will affect how the new reporting requirements are implemented. **Most importantly for CSBA members, this bill requires board members (both of school districts and county boards of education) to make these reports if their duties bring them into “regular contact” with students in any of grades 6-12 in a middle school or high school.** The bill does not define “regular contact.” However, the bill provides civil immunity for LEAs for any damages that may occur in meeting the requirements of SB 906. This provides an incentive to err on the side of board members reporting such threats even when there has been minimal or no contact. It is unlikely that board members will have “regular contact” with students, but if a board member has any reason to believe there has been a homicidal threat, they should report it. **[Additional details of the bill, including the definition of a homicidal threat, is available on the CSBA blog »](#)**

Help support your district’s long-term substitute teachers with new toolkit



Districts across California are **reporting many start-of-year vacancies and will be relying on long-term substitutes and reassigned coaches, specialists and central office staff to start the school year.** Start-of-year vacancies bring unique challenges for everyone, and long-term subs often don’t get the information and support they need to be successful in the classroom. Seeking to address this issue, the Substantial Classrooms

organization was founded to provide knowledge and support to districts seeking substitute teachers, as well as support for substitutes themselves. Substantial has created **a free toolkit to share best practices for supporting substitute teachers. The toolkit**

provides key areas for district leaders to focus on in supporting subs in start-of-year vacancies and practical short-term advice, as well as a best practice guide for setting up subs in long-term positions. [Learn more on the CSBA blog »](#)

U.S. Department of Education offers trainings on student privacy and cyber security



The U.S. Department of Education's Student Privacy Policy Office (SPPO) is offering two virtual webinar series for the education community to learn more about student privacy and cybersecurity.

On **Aug. 31**, [register to join](#) experts from the **SPPO and Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC)** as they address the **Family**

Educational Rights and Privacy Act, transparency, vetting educational technology, data breach preparation and response and data security threats. On Sept. 7, 14, and 21, the SPPO and PTAC will offer a second webinar series addressing how to protect ever-increasing amounts of student data, reduce the risk of disclosure, lower the impact to privacy and ensure compliance with the law. [Register here »](#)

Convert property ownership into an active asset



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 »](#)

Stay up to date with the latest news and resources on the [CSBA blog](#).

Virtual events

MIG Course 2: Student Learning &

Sponsors



Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review

Sept. 20-21 | [Register](#)

2022 CCSA Virtual Fall Workshop

Sept. 23 | [Register](#)

In-person events

California County Boards of Education (CCBE) Annual Conference

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

Executive Assistants Certification Program

Sept. 12-13 | Santa Clara | [Register](#)

MIG 3: School Finance Part 1 & 2

Sept. 23 | Rancho Cucamonga | [Register](#)

MIG 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining

Sept. 24 | Rancho Cucamonga | [Register](#)

MIG COE COURSE 1 Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

Sept. 24 | Santa Clara | [Register](#)

MIG 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

Sept. 27 | Santa Cruz | [Register](#)

MIG 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review

Sept. 30 | Santa Cruz | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

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