

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

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Legislative update: CSBA-sponsored legislation heads to Governor's desk



After an action-packed final week of the 2021–22 session, the Legislature has adjourned for the year. **Three bills sponsored by CSBA are among the successful measures that now sit on Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk awaiting final approval. A two-bill package, Assembly Bill 2584 (Berman D-Menlo Park) and Senate Bill 1061 (Laird D-Santa Cruz) would make needed changes to elections law to protect election**

integrity and provide greater information to voters about recall and school board special elections.

- **AB 2584 would protect election integrity through four substantial reforms:** (1) Increasing the number of signatures required for the notice of intent to recall an elected officer; (2) applying standards for accuracy and review to the arguments offered by recall proponents and the response from the official being recalled; (3) requiring that petitions state the estimated cost of the recall election; and (4) allowing for the consolidation of recall elections with a regularly scheduled state or local election occurring within 180 days after the recall qualifies.
- **SB 1061 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 and preserving money for student services that would otherwise be diverted to pay for redundant special elections.

CSBA also led the way in helping to further address the cost of housing for school staff by sponsoring AB 2295 (Bloom D-Santa Monica) to help provide school districts long-term solutions to address the educational workforce shortages plaguing California schools. Specifically, it removes bureaucratic hurdles and increases incentives for districts to develop education workforce housing on vacant school property. **The Governor has until Sept. 30 to sign or veto all remaining legislation.**

Special administration of NAEP long-term trends assessment reveals sharp declines



The National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) **conducted a special administration of the NAEP long-term trend (LTT) reading and mathematics assessment for 9-year-old students to examine student achievement during the COVID-19 pandemic.** The **results, released Sept. 1,** showed declines in both reading and math compared to 2020 scores.

Students in 2022 declined five points in reading and seven points in math — the largest decrease in average score in reading since 1990 and the first-ever decline in math.

While the 2022 scores reflect a decline in all categories, **scores for lower-performing 9-year-old students declined more than scores for higher-performing students** compared to 2020. The NAEP LTT results report emphasizes that “results cannot be used to establish a cause-and-effect relationship between the characteristics or experiences and student achievement. **NAEP is not designed to identify the causes of performance differences. There are many factors that may influence average student achievement,** including local educational policies and practices, the quality of teachers, and available resources. Such factors may change over time and vary among student groups.” **Local educational agencies should use the data to ensure that learning intervention and acceleration strategies** are focused where they are needed most. [Learn more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Masters in Governance program transitions to virtual format



In August, CSBA began to offer in-person options for the Masters in Governance® training program for the first time since March 2020. While both the **in-person and virtual formats offer the same high-quality content and outstanding faculty facilitators**, the MIG virtual training events are proving more popular than any in-person option being offered. Therefore, **all fall 2022 MIG**

training events are now virtual. CSBA is noting this trend and will offer more virtual options in the future. Registration for those trainings will be available at csba.org/TrainingAndEvents soon.

Appeals court issues preliminary injunction in *FCA v. San Jose Unified School District*



On Aug. 29, a three-judge panel from the **Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a preliminary injunction and ruled in a 2-1 decision that San Jose Unified School District must reinstate the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) as an Associated Student Body-recognized club at Pioneer High School.** The panel's **decision reversed the district court's denial of FCA's motion for a preliminary injunction** (a court

order to restore parties to status quo while legal proceedings take place). The panel held that both FCA National and Pioneer FCA have organizational standing to sue and will likely succeed in the free exercise claims against San Jose USD. **FCA sued San Jose USD in April 2020 in the U.S. District Court, Northern District of California, alleging that the district violated the rights of students under the First Amendment, the Fourteenth Amendment and the Equal Access Act** when it revoked the club's ASB recognition because the club **required student leaders to affirm, among other things, that they believe marriage must exclusively be between one man and one woman.**

The **Education Legal Alliance (ELA) filed an amicus brief with the Ninth Circuit in support of San Jose USD (and against the injunction) arguing that clubs run by students are distinct from district-operated programs and those clubs are subject to neutral, generally applicable regulations.** In addition, the brief emphasized the importance of implementing and enforcing nondiscrimination policies for public schools to properly carry out their educational function and missions, as well as their legal responsibilities. Despite these arguments and those made by the district highlighting the lack of factual support for FCA's claims, the Ninth Circuit disagreed and reversed the decision, issuing the injunction requiring Pioneer to restore FCA as an ASB-recognized club until proceedings have concluded. [Read more »](#)

Department of Health Care Services launches initiative to support student mental health



The California Department of Health Care Services announced on Aug. 23 the launch of the **CalHOPE Schools Initiative**, featuring **transformational films that speak directly to the heart of students' social-emotional and mental health needs and customized curriculum and guides** to help teachers, students and families successfully navigate the journey to personal well-being. CalHOPE schools

is a project supported by three nonprofit organizations, All It Takes, IMPACTFUL and Z-Cares. The mission of the partnership is to **provide no-cost resources to schools and local educational agencies across California to promote mental health and wellness**. Recognizing the impact of stress, trauma, anxiety and other challenges on mental health, the free resources offer opportunities for LEAs to support relationships, build resilience and provide inspiration and support for students, educators and families. [Learn more »](#)

Federal resources announced to help recruit and retain teachers



The Biden-Harris Administration on Aug. 31 **announced new efforts to strengthen the teaching profession and support schools in their effort to address teacher shortages** as the new school year begins. This announcement includes **new commitments from leading job platforms to make it easier for Americans to find opportunities in the education field**, including an online job portal specifically dedicated

to K-12 jobs through ZipRecruiter and virtual hiring fairs through Indeed. The announcement also came with a **commitment from national organizations representing teachers, state school chiefs, governors and teacher colleges to work together to expand high-quality registered teacher apprenticeship programs, teaching residencies and Grow Your Own programs**. [Learn more »](#)

CSBA's Cash Reserve Program can help your LEA manage state deferrals



The **California School Cash Reserve Program helps guard against temporary cash flow shortages in a safe, cost-effective way by creating an additional cash reserve to the**



general fund. Now in partnership with California Association of School Business Officials, CSBA's Cash Reserve Program has provided local educational agencies a **reliable and cost-effective short-term cash flow funding option** for over 30 years. Participants issue Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANS) through a streamlined, pooled process. Learn more today about how the Cash Reserve Program can offer you low borrowing costs and flexible repayment terms, with easy and efficient administration.

[Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

MIG Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review
Sept. 20-21 | [Register](#)

2022 CCSA Virtual Fall Workshop
Sept. 23 | [Register](#)

MIG 3: School Finance Part 1 & 2
Oct. 11-12 | [Register](#)

MIG 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining
Oct. 26-27 | [Register](#)

MIG 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/ Governance Integration
Nov. 8-9 | [Register](#)

In-person events

California County Boards of Education (CCBE) Annual Conference
Sept. 9-11 | Monterey | [Register](#)

CSBA Annual Education Conference and Trade Show
Dec. 1-3 | San Diego | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

Sponsors





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