

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

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Legislative update: Major school transportation bill expected to move forward — with key changes



The Legislature's **summer recess** offers a **chance to review some of the more significant pieces of legislation CSBA expects to move forward in the final month of the 2023 legislative year**. One of the most notable is **Senate Bill 88**, a school bus driver bill authored by Sen. Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) where key amendments were agreed to after dogged advocacy by CSBA and its partners ahead of the

policy committee deadline in mid-July.

As originally written, SB 88 would have undermined home-to-school transportation programs by imposing redundant and excessive driver requirements for anyone who receives compensation for providing transportation for students, including special education students. In response to advocacy by CSBA and partners, including more than 200 local education leaders who reached out to the members of the Assembly Education Committee, the author agreed to an amendment framework that should address most major concerns. The agreed-upon amendments include:

- Expanding the exemption for local educational agency employees to include those supervising pupils for extracurricular activities or providing transportation for pupils for other school activities.
- Exempting drivers who are compensated to drive themselves, their own child or children, or non-minor dependents in their care.
- Removing the prohibition on Transportation Network Companies like HopSkipDrive by deleting the requirement that LEAs contracting with a private entity obtain a written attestation that it will retain direct control over the manner and means for performance of any individual driver during the duration of the contract.
- Delaying the implementation date to July 1, 2025.
- Removing minimum training hour requirements for drivers.

The amended bill is not yet in print and CSBA advocates will wait to see the exact language before removing its Oppose position. CSBA will continue to provide updates on SB 88 and other major TK-12 proposals when the Legislature reconvenes for the final month of session on Aug. 14.

School Boards in Action: 5 Questions with Dieema A. Wheaton, El Segundo USD



In CSBA's continuing effort to highlight the hard work and effective practices of boards throughout the state, the association's 5 Questions blog series shares the experiences of board members. In this interview, **El Segundo Unified School District Board President Dieema A. Wheaton shares her district's emphasis on providing student mental health services and social-emotional learning, while not losing focus on**

providing "students with the education they need to succeed in a changing world."

[Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Read the summer issue of *California Schools* magazine



The cover story of the summer edition of *California Schools* explores how artificial



intelligence in education has been met with both concern and enthusiasm, offers tips from an AI researcher and explores how AI is being used in some California districts. Other features include a look at how districts are creating inclusive spaces for students with disabilities

and the benefits for all, and a dive into the new funds provided by Prop 28, which will provide a new dedicated arts funding source to California districts, and how a small, medium and large district will use it. Elsewhere in the issue, CSBA's legal team explains the case law and statutes behind parental rights, governance consultants advise how to create a collaborative board culture, and an in-dept interview with Commission on Teacher Credentialing Chair Marquita Grenot-Scheyer. [Read the issue »](#)

Nominate an outstanding representative for CSBA's Legislative Awards



Time is running out to submit your nominations for the 2023 Legislative Awards! The nomination window is open through Sept. 1, and CSBA wants to hear from you.

Every year, CSBA honors current members of the California Senate and Assembly, as well as members of Congress, who actively work to improve our public schools, support local school board governance and exercise leadership in the legislative arena.

School and county boards can nominate leaders from their district in one of five categories:

- Outstanding Legislator (State or Federal)
- Outstanding Freshman Legislator
- Special Recognition
- Albert S. Rodda Lifetime Achievement Award
- Dede Alpert Award for Exemplary Education Leadership

Nominations must be received by Sept. 1, 2023. [Learn how to nominate your local representatives »](#)

Federal update: Grants for addressing lead in school drinking water



The Biden Administration announced \$58 million in federal grants to address lead in school drinking water on July 24. Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, activities that remove sources of lead in drinking water are



now eligible to receive funding through the **Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act**. This grant funding is provided to

states, territories and Tribes. The Environmental Protection Agency has also released a revised grant implementation document, “**Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program**,” which funds voluntary lead testing, compliance monitoring, and lead in drinking water remediation projects. Lead remediation actions may include but are not limited to the removal, installation and replacement of internal plumbing, lead pipes or lead connectors, faucets, water fountains, water filler stations, point-of-use devices, and other lead-free apparatus related to drinking water.

[Learn more »](#)

Schools play an important role in immunization awareness



As back-to-school season approaches, boards should be aware of the immunizations children in California are required to have to attend school. **Districts should have a process in place to check vaccination records at the designated checkpoints: when children newly enroll in the district, enroll in TK/kindergarten and when students advance to seventh grade. Schools are required to document each student's**

vaccination history and the vaccination record of each student enrolled conditionally must be reviewed regularly to ensure they receive their immunizations by the required time. According to the California Department of Public Health, reported **kindergarten and first grade immunization rates** in 2021–22 decreased slightly from before the pandemic. The proportion of kindergarten students reported to have received all required immunizations was 94.3 percent in 2019–20 and 94 percent in 2021–22. [Learn more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Comprehensive performance audits for your district's bond funds

Annual Proposition 39 **PERFORMANCE AUDITS**

CSBA believes that a performance audit of bond funds should be comprehensive enough to assess the **best use of taxpayer money and provide recommendations for improvements based on best practices in procurement and construction**. CSBA partners with Total School Solutions in providing **comprehensive performance audits to assist our members** in improving their bond-funded facilities programs.

Please contact Susan Lendway at 707-422-6393 to request a proposal for your performance audit. [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

The Brown Act

Aug. 25 | [Register](#)

Sept. 27 | [Register](#)

Equity Network Training (4 sessions)

Sept. 16-Jan.13, 2024 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

Oct. 2-30 | [Register](#)

In-person events

CSBA Roadshow

Aug. 30 | San Luis Obispo County | [Register](#)

Sept. 27 | North Bay | [Register](#)

Oct. 2 | East Bay | [Register](#)

Oct. 4 | Calaveras County | [Register](#)

Oct. 4 | Lake County | [Register](#)

Oct. 11 | Santa Cruz County | [Register](#)

Oct. 17 | Fresno County | [Register](#)

Oct. 23 | Kern County/Bakersfield | [Register](#)

Oct. 23 | San Mateo County | [Register](#)

Oct. 25 | Shasta/Siskiyou counties | [Register](#)

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

Sponsors



Aug. 12 | San Marcos | [Register](#)

CCBE Annual Conference

Sept. 8-10 | Monterey | [Register](#)

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

Sept. 9 | San Marcos | [Register](#)

MIG Course 3: School Finance Part 1 and Part 2

Sept. 23 | San Marcos | [Register](#)

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

Sept. 23 | Sunnyvale | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)



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