

# California schoolnews

Weekly Update

October 4, 2023

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## Read CSBA's new governance brief on bullying prevention



October is National Bullying Prevention Month, providing an opportunity to educate about bullying and raise awareness of prevention strategies.

**CSBA's Research and Education Policy Development team created a brief to support local educational agencies' efforts to address this issue. The brief includes definitions of bullying and cyberbullying, related statistics, signs to watch for, the impacts of bullying on youth, tips on how LEAs can help students and families, sample questions for**

board members, relevant guidance and resources, and examples of bullying prevention communications from California LEAs. [Read the brief »](#)

## Legislative update: Gov. Newsom vetoes unemployment insurance for striking workers



The clock is ticking for Gov. Gavin Newsom to sign or veto the vast majority of education bills still remaining on his desk. **He has until midnight on Oct. 14 to sign or veto legislation**, including [CSBA's package of sponsored bills](#).

Among the bills acted on so far, [Senate Bill 799](#) (Portantino, D-Burbank), **was vetoed on Sept. 30**. The bill, which passed the Senate on a vote of 27-

12 and the Assembly on a vote of 59-18, **would have made striking workers eligible for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits**. The veto was a break with organized labor, which made SB 799 a top priority in their advocacy this year amid what media outlets have described as a “hot labor summer” defined by high-profile strikes by the Screen Actors Guild and the Writers Guild of America. The Governor cited the instability of the UI fund in his [veto message](#), outlining the pressures facing the fund from its 80s-era financing structure to its outstanding federal debt and asserting that, “Now is not the time to increase costs or incur this sizable debt.” CSBA Governmental Relations staff will continue to keep members informed of legislative updates as Gov. Newsom acts on bills on his desk.

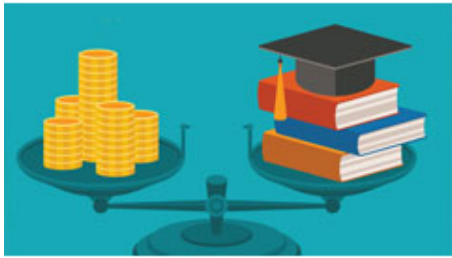
## Webinar recap: “AB 1078 is more than meets the eye”



CSBA hosted a webinar, “**AB 1078 is more than meets the eye: What governing boards need to know**,” on Sept. 28, just three days after Gov. Gavin Newsom signed bill into law, which went into effect immediately. The webinar featured experts from CSBA's Governmental Relations, Legal, and Policy and Governance Technology Services departments reviewing what is so-far known about the new law and its immediate

impact on governance teams. **After multiple iterations, the enacted version of the bill allows for complaints to be filed directly with the county or state superintendent against local educational agencies that limit or prohibit the use of inclusive textbooks, instructional materials or school library materials in violation of the California — without the chance for the district to act first.** [Watch the webinar recording](#) | [Download slide deck](#) | [Read summary](#)

## Federal update: COVID relief funding liquidation deadline extension applications open



Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation (CRRSA), funds were required to be obligated by Sept. 30, 2023, for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) II Fund and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II Fund, which includes the 12-month Tydings Amendment extension. The U.S. Department of Education and the California Department of

Education have opened applications for liquidation extension requests for these funds. The application allows local educational agencies to request an extension of the ESSER II and GEER II liquidation period for specified funds only, on a project-by-project basis. If approved by the CDE and [the Education Department](#), the liquidation period may be extended up to an additional 14 months. [Learn more and access the CDE application »](#)

Additionally, in a [Sept. 18 letter](#) to American Rescue Plan (ARP) grantees, the U.S. Department of Education announced “that the general liquidation extension that has been available under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) and CRRSA acts will also be available for ARP.” More details will be available soon.

## Legal update: Judge denies dismissal of case involving teachers’ objection to student privacy



On Sept. 14, 2023, Judge Roger Benitez of the United States District Court of the Southern District of California **issued an order granting two teachers’ motion for preliminary injunction and denying the motions of the Escondido Union School District, the members of the California State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to dismiss in the case of *Mirabelli v. Olson***. The

case involves a challenge by two teachers to the district’s Administrative Regulation 5145.3, which requires student consent before a parent is informed of a student’s change in gender identity at school.

Based on the free speech and free exercise rights of the teachers, the court granted the preliminary injunction prohibiting the district from enforcing the policy against these two teachers. **The court did not decide the free speech claim because the consideration of a preliminary injunction does not require a determination on each claim.** Further, because the teachers hold sincere religious beliefs the teachers pled a strong enough free exercise of religion claim to obtain the preliminary injunction. The court also denied the district and both state defendants’ motions to dismiss. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

## CDE partners with Jewish community leaders to combat antisemitism



Amid rising antisemitic incidents around the country and in [California board rooms](#), the California Department of Education is implementing a number of initiatives to combat hate. **An Aug. 23 roundtable discussion, [Education to End Hate: Countering Antisemitism](#), with influential community and legislative leaders working to counter the current rise in antisemitism and hate-related**

**crimes emphasized the role of education as key in fighting all hate and bigotry.** The webinar offered resources including the [Combat Hate Action Plan](#), which provides specific actions and strategies for students and teachers.

Another step toward more thorough teacher preparation is the state-funded [California Teachers Collaborative for Holocaust and Genocide Education](#), a statewide network uniting California's 14 leading institutions for Holocaust and genocide education and community leaders from ethnic groups across the state **to empower and unify educators in teaching the lessons of history and about what happens when bias goes unchecked, and to combat rising antisemitism and hate** by creating more respectful and empathetic next generations. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

## EPA announces next round of Clean School Bus rebate funding



The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021 authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to **offer rebates to replace existing school buses with clean and zero-emission models.** The 2023 Clean School Bus rebates will build on the previous investments to further improve air quality in and around schools and reduce greenhouse gas pollution fueling the climate crisis. The 2023 program is providing \$500

million in rebates for electric buses, which produce zero tailpipe emissions, as well as propane and compressed natural gas buses that produce lower tailpipe emissions compared to their older diesel predecessors. Applicants can request up to \$345,000 per bus. At least 40 percent will be committed to disadvantaged communities. Applications are due by Jan. 31, 2024. [Learn more »](#)

## Coverage you need to ensure student and district safety

Accidents happen. Are your students covered? To help members best address insurance-related issues, **CSBA has joined forces with**



California's leading provider of student accident and sickness insurance. Myers-Stevens & Toohy is a full-service administrator based in Southern California that has worked closely with public K-12 schools for over 35 years. **CSBA's sponsored catastrophic injury coverage is affordable and can be extended to cover all school activities**, including travel to and from home and school. [Learn more »](#)

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

## Virtual events

### Student Board Member Trainings

Advocacy and Engagement | Jan. 29 |

[Register](#)

Transition Planning, Legacy Building, and Next steps | April 15 | [Register](#)

### Student Board Member Governance Q&A and Networking

Nov. 6 | [Register](#)

Feb. 12 | [Register](#)

March 4 | [Register](#)

## In-person events

### CSBA Roadshow

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](#)

### What Executive Assistants and Board Presidents Need to Know About the Brown Act

Oct. 13 | Madera | [Register](#)

### The Brown Act

Oct. 25 | Marysville | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

## Sponsors





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