

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

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Are you ready for AEC?



The CSBA Annual Education Conference and Trade Show kicks off tomorrow morning in San Francisco at the Moscone West Center! It's not too late to **download the AEC app and start planning your schedule, find directions and shuttle info, connect with fellow attendees and more.** Download the AEC app by searching for "Cvent Events" in the **iPhone App** store or the **Google Android Play** store and **follow these**

instructions to log in or to view the app's online version. **Schedules for breakout sessions and table talks** can also be viewed on the **AEC website.**

The CSBA Communications team will be **continuing its recognition of board members all year long, and will be filming What's Your Why? vignettes during the conference.** For more information or to learn where and how to participate, contact editorial@csba.org.

Be sure to share your experience throughout the conference by using #aec2023 and following and tagging us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram \(@csbanow\)](#), [Twitter/X \(@CSBA_Now\)](#) and [LinkedIn](#). [Learn more and register »](#)

2023 ELA report now available



CSBA's [Education Legal Alliance \(ELA\)](#) **initiates and supports litigation in cases of statewide significance to all California schools** — and it's been an extremely busy year. Working with school law attorneys throughout the state, the ELA is a powerful force in the courts and has proven highly effective in both saving and gaining schools millions of dollars in funding and protecting the rights of local governing boards.

Each year, the ELA issues a report of its activities for the preceding 12 months. This year, the ELA has continued to **provide a unique but essential statewide perspective in response to and resolution of issues and questions raised** by several ongoing cases, as well as a wide range of impactful new litigation, on **topics addressing charter schools, social media use among trustees, special education, funding and more.** [Read the 2023 ELA report »](#)

Legislative update: Assembly Speaker Rivas names new committee chairs



The winter recess continues in Sacramento, but changes are afoot as **Speaker of the Assembly Robert Rivas (D-Salinas) has named the members who will head the Assembly's policy and fiscal committees.** Rivas also made significant changes to leadership positions, including **elevating Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Davis) to the role of Majority Leader**, replacing another Rivas ally, Isaac Bryan (D-Los Angeles).

Joining Aguiar-Curry in the Speaker's leadership team will be Jim Wood (D-Healdsburg) who recently announced that he will not be seeking re-election to the Assembly.

Nearly all committees will also see new leadership in 2024, including Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland) taking over as chair of the influential Appropriations Committee and Jesse Gabriel (D-Encino) chairing the Budget Committee. Additionally, **David Alvarez (D-San Diego) was appointed as the chair of the Budget Subcommittee #3 on Education Finance**, replacing Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento) who will now chair Assembly Public Safety as he runs for Sacramento mayor.

Committee chairs have broad powers to control what bills are heard or are held in their committees, significantly affecting the legislative agenda. Despite the sweeping changes, **Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) will remain as the chair of the Education Committee** when the legislative session resumes in the new year on Jan. 3.

Federal update: Grants available for High School Equivalency Program and PD for serving children with high-intensity needs



The U.S. Department of Education is inviting applications for the following programs:

- The **High School Equivalency Program assists migratory or seasonal farmworkers in obtaining their high school diploma**. The invitation **priority is meeting students' social-emotional and academic needs**. The final award amount is dependent on congressional action;

however, the estimated average size of awards may total \$475,000. **Applications are due by Jan. 16, 2024.** [Learn more »](#)

- The **Personnel Development to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities program supports personnel who work with children with disabilities** to ensure they have the skills and knowledge needed to serve children. The **priority for this program is for those serving children with disabilities who have high-intensity needs, with a goal of increasing the number and improve the quality of services personnel**, which would include multilingual personnel and personnel from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds. **Applications are due by Jan. 16, 2024.** [Learn more »](#)

New resource calls for state support for small and rural LEA cybersecurity



The **State Educational Technology Directors Association's (SETDA) Cybersecurity & Privacy Collaborative published guidance** on Oct. 17 detailing how state agencies and other support organizations are empowering their smallest school districts to secure their data and networks. **"Small Districts, Big Hurdles: Cybersecurity Support for Small, Rural, and Under-resourced Districts"** is designed to

identify essential resources, assess state-level K-12 cybersecurity advocacy initiatives, and craft policy recommendations to enhance cybersecurity readiness within small, rural and under-resourced districts.

For small and rural districts, the challenge of enhancing cybersecurity can be overwhelming, exacerbated by limited resources and already stretched-thin personnel.

State edtech leaders play a pivotal role in helping all districts, regardless of their size, enhance their cybersecurity readiness and resilience. **To increase cyber-risk management parity across districts, SETDA recommends several actions state leaders can take.** [Read more on the CBSA blog »](#)

Read the November issue of *California School News*



The final issue of 2023 provides a **recap of the key role CSBA members played in securing several legislative wins**, a recent CSBA webinar detailing **Assembly Bill 1078 and its immediate impacts**, and the latest meetings of both the **California Commission on Teacher Credentialing and the Instructional Quality Commission**, as well as an **exploration of resources provided to local educational agencies through California Indian Education for All**.

The November newsletter also includes the **final column from outgoing CSBA President Susan Markarian**, in which she looks back at her tenure as a school board trustee to remind us that no matter what challenges LEAs face, **board members' main purpose is to help children succeed.** [Read the full issue »](#)

Health and safety supplies delivered directly to districts



The quality of air in school buildings can affect everything from student achievement to absenteeism to teacher retention. **LifeWings Peak Performance provides the Safer Air Initiative to provide guidance and expertise on creating safe and healthy air in local educational agencies.** Through assessment, financial support and strategic planning, LifeWings can help LEAs **tap into the billions of dollars in federal and state aid** to ensure your students and staff can breathe freely. [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](#)

Sponsors



LINCOLN
LEARNING

Student Board Member Governance Q&A and Networking

Feb. 12 | [Register](#)

March 4 | [Register](#)

Board Presidents Workshop

Jan. 11 | [Register](#)

Executive Assistants Certification Program

Jan. 12-March 15 | [Register](#)

Orientation for New Trustees

Jan. 18 | [Register](#)

The Brown Act

Jan. 22 | [Register](#)

Institute for New and First-Term Board Members

Jan. 30-31 | [Register](#)

In-person events

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

Jan. 20 | Monterey | [Register](#)

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining

Feb. 3 | Sunnyvale | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

