

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

December 13, 2023

In this Issue

- Legislative update: LAO adjusts budget deficit prediction to \$68 billion
- Federal update: CDC guide to promoting student mental health and well-being
- State update: High school representatives for the U.S. Senate Youth Program
- CTC makes move to improve teacher assessment experience
- Convert property ownership into an active asset

Legislative update: LAO adjusts budget deficit prediction to \$68 billion



On Dec. 7, the state's nonpartisan **Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO)** issued its long-awaited **Fiscal Outlook for the 2024–25 fiscal year**. According to the LAO, **the projected state budget shortfall has increased by \$53 billion when compared to the projections used in the development of the current year budget**. **It estimates that the state is now projected to face a \$68 billion deficit in the coming 2024–25**

fiscal year — up from \$15 billion when the 2023–24 Budget was signed in June.

Reflective of a slowing economy, where personal income, sales and property tax revenues are the “big three” drivers of the state's revenues, California entered an economic downturn in 2022. According to the LAO, flat consumer spending over the past year, relatively weak job growth, reduced investment in business startups and expansion,

lower state income tax collections and increased prices have combined to place significant pressure on the state budget.

Through the 2024–25 fiscal year, **the LAO estimates that the funding requirement to meet the Proposition 98 Guarantee will drop by \$21 billion**. However, the LAO notes that **the automatic reduction to the guarantee in the current year is closer to \$4.3 billion due to a reduction in deposits into the Proposition 98 Reserve Account and other adjustments**. To address impacts to schools, the LAO suggests using the **Prop 98 Reserve and reducing other one-time funding as one possible solution to help bridge the remaining \$16.7 billion gap** in the coming year and mitigate the impact the lower guarantee will have on local educational agencies.

CSBA is committed to protecting school funding, as CEO & Executive Director **Vernon M. Billy** stated when estimates of the budget deficit first emerged during a session on Dec. 1 at CSBA’s Annual Education Conference and Trade Show. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Federal update: CDC guide to promoting student mental health and well-being



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released “[Promoting Mental Health and Well-Being in Schools: An Action Guide for School and District Leaders](#)” — a tool that can serve as a starting point for local educational agencies as they strive to support students or help them build on existing offerings. The guide details six proven in-school strategies along with examples of how to put them into

action. Strategies include increasing students’ mental health literacy; promoting mindfulness; promoting social, emotional and behavioral learning; enhancing connectedness among students, staff and families; providing psychosocial skills training and cognitive behavioral interventions; and supporting staff well-being. [Learn more »](#)

In other federal news:

- The Federal Communications Commission has **posted a notice proposing E-Rate support for home WiFi hotspots to address the ongoing remote learning needs of students and school staff**. Comments on the proposal are due by **Jan. 8** and reply comments are due by Jan. 22. [Learn more »](#)
- Applications for the U.S. Department of Education’s [Native American Language Program](#) are due by **March 7**. This notice encourages applications aimed at promoting educational equity and adequacy in resources and opportunities for underserved students. [Learn more »](#)
- Applications for the U.S. Department of Education’s [Education Research and Development Center Program](#) are due by **March 7**. The research grant program is meant to provide reliable information about educational practices. **Topics that can be addressed include improving rural education, using generative AI to augment teaching and learning in classrooms, K-12 teacher recruitment and**

retention policies and improving outcomes in elementary science education.

[Learn more »](#)

State update: High school representatives for the U.S. Senate Youth Program



State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond on Dec. 5 **announced the California high school student representatives who will participate in the 2024 U.S. Senate Youth Program. Aaron Combs, a senior in San Dieguito Union High School District, and Emi Sakamoto, a senior in Culver City Unified School District,** were chosen for their exceptional leadership skills, commitment to their schools and

communities, and academic and extracurricular achievements. **Mahee Haswani, a senior in El Dorado Union HSD, and Laila Ali, a senior in Modesto City Schools, were named as alternates.** All four students will be recognized by the State Board of Education during its January meeting.

In other state news:

- The **California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE) is seeking proposals to secure individuals, local educational agencies or organizations with the expertise and experience to advise and assist school districts, county superintendents and charter schools in achieving the goals set forth in a Local Control and Accountability Plan.** CCEE is looking for applicants who can support the partner LEAs in implementing state priorities. Further information is included in the Request for Proposal. Proposals accepted through March 29 at 4 p.m. [Learn more »](#)

CTC makes move to improve teacher assessment experience



Action items at the Dec. 7-8 meeting of the **California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) included options to improve teaching performance assessments and a request to adjust the accreditation cycle for the new literacy instruction requirement.**

The meeting also featured several end-of-the-year reports including the accreditation of new preparation programs, a report card for current teacher preparation programs, the 2021 Classified School Employee Teacher Credentialing Program, and cohort four of the 2018 Teacher Residency Grant Program.

Following California's continuous improvement model, the CTC engages in ongoing research to study teaching performance assessments (TPAs) to build validity and ensure reliable scoring. **In response to reports from the field that TPAs are barring otherwise qualified candidates from being recommended for a credential, the commission adopted a secondary passing standard for the CalTPA and edTPA models.** The secondary passing standard would allow program sponsors to recommend candidates for a preliminary credential who score within -1 Standard Error of Measurement if the program sponsor has evidence from additional measures that the candidate has demonstrated competency in the seven teaching performance expectation domains.

[Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Convert property ownership into an active asset

**Property
Planning**
Solutions



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

Board Presidents Workshop

Jan. 11 | [Register](#)

Feb. 7 | [Register](#)

Executive Assistants Certification Program

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

Orientation for New Trustees

Jan. 18 | [Register](#)

The Brown Act

Jan. 22 | [Register](#)

Sponsors



Student Board Member Trainings

Advocacy and Engagement | Jan. 29 |

[Register](#)

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

Institute for New and First-Term Board Members

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

Student Board Member Governance Q&A and Networking

Feb. 12 | [Register](#)

March 4 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

Feb. 21-22 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining

Feb. 26-March 18 | [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](#)

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

Feb. 10 | Monterey | [Register](#)

The Brown Act

Feb. 20 | Riverside | [Register](#)

Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip

April 8-10 | Washington, D.C. | [Register](#)



[View complete calendar](#)



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