

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

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AEC 2023 brings nearly 4,000 education leaders to San Francisco



From Nov. 30 to Dec. 2, **nearly 4,000 board of education members, superintendents, executive assistants, policy experts and state officials joined together to support and strengthen public schools at CSBA's 2023 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show** at San Francisco's Moscone West Center. AEC is the largest education leadership event in the state of California and this year featured more than 100 workshops focused on equitable access to high-quality education, student safety, mental health, best governance practices and community engagement.

The conference **also featured keynote addresses from** Dr. Shawn Ginwright, Jerome T. Murphy Professor of Practice at Harvard Graduate School of Education whose work focuses on healing trauma in and empowering African American students; Sal Khan, the CEO and founder of Khan Academy, which provides a free, world-class education to more than 150 million users in 190 countries around the world, in conversation with CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy; and Mark C. Perna, an expert on the Millennial and Z generations dedicated to helping educators and employers unleash the potential of youth. **AEC also kicked off the first meeting of CSBA’s AI Taskforce: Education in the age of artificial intelligence**, aimed at equipping boards of education and staff with the necessary knowledge and tools to navigate the complexities of AI integration in public schools.

LAO predicts significant budget deficit during AEC workshop



At CSBA’s 2023 AEC, California’s Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) unveiled the state’s latest budget numbers, painting a sobering picture for state finances and education funding. **The LAO predicts tax revenues will fall about \$26 billion short of earlier estimates for the 2022–23 fiscal year, \$32 billion below estimates through fiscal 2023–24 and a total of \$58 billion under projections for the three-year span from 2022 through 2025.** Those figures represent a marked increase from the \$15 billion shortfall predicted when the 2023–24 budget was signed in June. In addition, **the LAO estimated that the statutory cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will be 1.27 percent or roughly \$1.3 billion.**

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. **These developments have significant implications for the Proposition 98 Guarantee, which declines by roughly 40 cents for each \$1 drop in the state’s general fund** and reductions are likely to impact the guarantee for the prior, current and upcoming budget years. [Read more »](#)

Read *California Schools* fall issue online



CSBA’s fall edition of *California Schools* magazine is available to view online. **Feature stories examine the tension between local control and state intervention, using recent examples of board/state conflicts** and reviewing Assembly Bill 1078, which adds additional parameters to instructional materials selection; in **“Settling the Matter,” CSBA Principal Research Manager Jeremy Anderson analyzes the latest study**

from school finance expert **Eric Hanushek**, which disputes decades of his previous **research** by finding strong, positive relationships between increased spending and a wide set of educational outcomes; and a look at a **new generation of young board members** who are bringing fresh perspectives to governance teams. This issue also highlights aligning student-centered systems and structures through community schools, and includes an update on the state's progress toward supporting multilingual students. And **don't miss a Q&A feature with CSBA's CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy** as he highlights CSBA's strategic initiatives, advocacy goals, victories and challenges ahead. [Read the issue »](#)

Register for CSBA's January trainings



CSBA is offering a **host of trainings in January to start your new year off right!** In-person **Masters in Governance® courses** begin on **Jan. 20 in Monterey**; sign up for all **five courses at once** to get 15 percent off. Virtual courses offered in January include the **Board Presidents Workshop** on **Jan. 11**, **Orientation for New Trustees** on **Jan. 18** and the **Institute for New and First-Term Board Members** on **Jan. 30-31**.

[View all CSBA trainings »](#)

Golden Bell winners shine at AEC



On the evening of Nov. 30, representatives from local educational agencies throughout California gathered at CSBA's 2023 AEC to be honored with Golden Bell Awards. Now in its 44th year, **the Golden Bell Awards promote excellence in education and school board governance by recognizing outstanding programs and governance practices of school boards of education in school districts and county offices of education throughout California.** Golden Bell Awards reflect the depth and breadth of education programs and governance decisions supporting these programs that address students' changing needs. [See the 2023 winners »](#)

Federal update: Free COVID-19 tests available to schools; innovation grants awarded

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, the U.S. Department of Education, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), **has launched the COVID-19 Testing Supply Program for local educational**



agencies. Through this program, **school districts may order over-the-counter rapid antigen COVID-19 self-tests free of charge for their students, families, staff and school community.** Before completing the registration form, interested school districts should designate a primary contact who will be responsible for determining the number of self-test kits to order, how frequently and where the self-test kits should

be delivered, as well as distribution to their sites. [Learn more »](#)

In other federal news, the U.S. Department of Education on Dec. 5 **announced \$277 million in new grant awards** to advance educational equity and innovation through the **Education Innovation and Research (EIR) grant program.** The **EIR programs help create, implement, replicate and expand entrepreneurial, evidence-based innovations to improve outcomes for historically underserved learners** and to rigorously evaluate such innovations. **Several California LEAs were awarded funding, including the Fresno, Riverside and Santa Clara county offices of education.**

Let Total School Solutions help with your Facilities Master Plan



Do your facilities support your educational and programmatic goals? **A Facilities Master Plan provides a district with vital information regarding current and future needs for student housing, quality of existing facilities, and facilities renovation and expansion requirements to meet the district's educational and programmatic goals.** The master plan also assists the district in identifying funding needs for

capital improvement and developing financing options. **Total School Solutions facilities master plans include** accurate projections regarding enrollment, careful determination of school site capacity, educational specifications to ensure programmatic needs are served, a detailed need assessment, and conclusions and recommendations about the availability and timing of financing and funding. [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



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](#)

Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip

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

[View complete calendar](#)



