

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

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Legislative update: CSBA advocates on behalf of SB 765



As the Legislature reconvenes this week for the final month of the 2023 legislative year, the fate of one of CSBA's sponsored bills hangs in the balance. **Senate Bill 765 (Portantino, D-Glendale)**, which would provide some immediate relief amid the ongoing teacher shortage by allowing retired teachers to more easily return to classrooms, is likely to be heard in the Assembly Public Employees and

Retirement (PER) Committee in the coming weeks. The bill, which must be approved to move forward, has so far not received a hearing by the PER Committee due to

concerns that streamlining the 180-day mandatory waiting period and the salary earning cap local educational agencies must observe before hiring a recently retired teacher would negatively affect the stability of the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS).

CSBA shares this dedication to safeguarding the state's pension system, but the lessons learned since the passage of the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) in 2012 and the guardrails put into place in the language of SB 765 will ensure that the bill will be able to ease the pressure of the teacher shortage without endangering CalSTRS.

CSBA President Susan Markarian joined State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond and other education leaders on Aug. 14 for a press conference launching a new statewide coalition to recruit teacher candidates. She shared the **unique challenges faced by rural districts in this area and championed SB 765.** [Watch the press conference](#) | [Read a recap on the CSBA blog](#)

CSBA leaders meet with Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas



On Aug. 10, **CSBA President Susan Markarian and CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy met with the new Speaker of the Assembly, Robert Rivas (D-Hollister), to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing school board members as well as CSBA's [sponsored legislation](#), budget priorities and other hot topics affecting local educational agencies.**

They also **discussed priority legislation moving through the Legislature, including [Assembly Bill 1699](#) (McCarty, D-Sacramento) and [AB 1078](#) (Jackson, D-Riverside), and emphasized the unintended impacts that one-size-fits-all lawmaking can have on California's highly diverse school districts.**

Markarian and Speaker Rivas also discussed their shared experience as leaders coming from a rural and agricultural background and the unique challenges facing small and rural school districts. Hailing from San Benito County, Speaker Rivas is the first assemblymember from a rural area of California to serve as Assembly Speaker since 1996. Meeting with Speaker Rivas will help to build further on the strong relationships that form the core of CSBA's advocacy work to serve California's students.

State update: Governor spotlights California's embrace of local control, parental engagement



Gov. Gavin Newsom addressed reporters at an elementary school in the Elk Grove Unified School District on Aug. 14 to **highlight the state's**



“family agenda” centered around efforts to enrich and empower kids and parents in schools.

Gov. Newsom discussed the billions of dollars being invested by the state through multi-year funds to expand after-school and summer school learning opportunities; develop community schools; recruit and retain teachers; promote arts education; improve literacy instruction; provide high-dose tutoring, universal school meals and mental and behavioral health supports; renovate nutrition facilities; and increase college-going rates through college savings accounts, dual enrollment, additional higher education funding and more. Amid these various investments, the Governor **noted that parental engagement is a foundational aspect, citing the Local Control Funding Formula and the Local Control and Accountability Plan process, which requires extensive parental engagement.** [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Legal update: Court of Appeal issues opinion in favor of Alameda USD parcel tax



On Aug. 3, the **Court of Appeal for the First Appellate District of California issued its opinion in the case of *Traiman v. Alameda Unified School District* reversing the lower court’s decision and validating the tax levied by the school district.** The case relates to Measure A, a qualified special tax voted on and approved by voters in Alameda USD in 2020.

Specifically, Measure A authorized a tax on improved parcels at “the rate of \$0.265 per building square foot not to exceed \$7,999 per parcel.” Leland **Traiman challenged the approved tax** by filing a Complaint for Invalidation in May 2020, **arguing that it was invalid because it violated Government Code section 50079, which requires school district-levied qualified special taxes to be uniformly applied to taxpayers or property within the district.**

The **Court of Appeal found that “the Measure A tax applies uniformly within the meaning of Section 50079 because every nonexempt taxpayer and every improved parcel in the District is taxed using the same formula. Neither the language in the statute, case law, legislative history, nor public policy indicates that a school district cannot base a qualified special tax on building square footage with a maximum tax per parcel.”** The court’s decision provides a detailed analysis of Section 50079’s language and legislative history, as well as public policy related to it and case law on the topic of uniformity in tax structures. **This analysis and resulting conclusions align with the arguments made in the Education Legal Alliance’s amicus brief.** [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Call for AEC student proposals now open



Last year, more than 100 student board members



attended CSBA's **Annual Education Conference and Trade Show**. In response to their feedback, **for the first time CSBA is inviting student board members to share their knowledge and experience with peers and school board members from across the state. Student voice plays an essential role and CSBA values who they are and understands**

the complexity of their education. Student trustees are encouraged to partner with other student or local board members to address one of the conference strands — Equitable Access to All; Governance Strategy and Practice; Mental Health, Wellness and Student Safety; Student and Community Engagement; and the Promise and Peril of Technology.

The **call for student workshop and table talk proposals is open through Sept. 15.** Interested in submitting but unsure where to start? Need another student board member to co-present with? Please contact aec@csba.org with any questions or concerns.

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 and Dede Alpert Award for Exemplary Education Leadership. **Nominations must be received by Sept. 1, 2023. [Learn how to nominate your local representatives »](#)**

School Boards in Action: 5 Questions with Peter Noymer, Los Gatos Union SD



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, **Los Gatos Union School**



District Board President Peter Noymer shares the promising practices taking place in his district on student mental health, literacy, data management, early intervention and the ways in which video messaging has been impactful for sharing news with families. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Save with the GO Bond Refunding Pool



For more than 30 years, California school districts and community college districts have **saved time and money by issuing tax and revenue anticipation notes (TRANs) through the California School Cash Reserve Program Authority sponsored by CSBA and the California Association of School Business Officials**, the largest pooled TRAN financing in the nation. The GO Bond Refunding Pool follows in this tradition by allowing districts **to unlock taxpayer savings by driving down costs** through an easy-to-use shared financing platform. [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

Student Board Member Trainings

Introduction to Governance | Aug. 23 |

[Register](#)

School Board Membership, Finance and Templates | Oct. 4 | [Register](#)

Advocacy and Engagement | Jan. 29 |

[Register](#)

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

Student Board Member Trainings bundle |

[Register](#)

Student Board Member Governance Q&A and Networking

Sept. 25 | [Register](#)

Nov. 6 | [Register](#)

Feb. 12 | [Register](#)

March 4 | [Register](#)

The Brown Act

Sept. 27 | [Register](#)

Sponsors



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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](#)

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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