California **school**_news_
Weekly Update

September 6, 2023

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Legislative update: CSBA-sponsored bills advance as Legislature takes up suspense file

CSBA-sponsored legislation sailed through one of the final legislative hurdles left in 2023 as the Senate and Assembly Appropriations committees took up their suspense files on Sept. 1. The suspense file compiles bills with a price tag of over $150,000 to be considered in bulk in order to determine their fiscal impact upon the state as a whole. Ultimately, less fortunate legislation may be "held on suspense," meaning the bill will die in the Appropriations committee, or be made into a two-year bill that will not be heard again until 2024.

Three CSBA-sponsored bills were among the legislation that survived the process and will now move on to floor votes of the full Senate and Assembly in the final two weeks before session ends at midnight on Sept. 14:

- **Senate Bill 765 (Portantino, D-Glendale):** Would provide immediate relief to schools during the teacher shortage by streamlining the 180-day mandatory waiting period and the salary earning cap local educational agencies must observe before hiring a recently retired teacher.
- **SB 551 (Portantino):** Would enhance collaboration between county mental health agencies and school districts by requiring county mental health boards to include LEA employees who have experience providing mental health services to students and members aged 25 years or younger, with scaled requirements based on the size of the board.
- **Assembly Bill 483 (Muratsuchi, D-Torrance):** Would increase funding for and access to school-based health services by improving and streamlining the Local Education Agency Medi-Cal Billing Option Program (LEA BOP).

A number of other notable education bills were also on the committees' dockets. **Read about some of the key results from last week's hearings on the CSBA blog »**

Federal update: Back to school guidance

The **U.S. Department of Education released a "back to school" document** for states and districts that lays out four priorities for the coming year: supporting the **health and safety** of students, school personnel and families; **building school communities** and supporting students' **social-emotional and mental health**; **accelerating academic achievement**; and supporting **educator and staff stability and well-being**.

Under each of the major priorities, the document **provides suggested expenditures, like providing safe transportation and ensuring access to healthy meals, as well as links to existing resources from the Education Department, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** and other agencies that address those topics. **Learn more »**

State updates: Applications open for SBE student member and California Green Ribbon Schools Program

The California **State Board of Education is accepting applications for its 2024–25 student board member**. Any student who is a California resident and enrolled in a public high school, will

be a senior in good standing in the 2024–25 school year, and will be available to attend a statewide student leader conference in Sacramento on Nov. 5–8, 2023, is eligible to apply. **Completed applications must be received by 5 p.m. on Sept. 22. Learn more and apply »**

In other state news:

- The California Department of Education has **opened applications for the 11th cycle of the California Green Ribbon Schools recognition program**, which honors local educational agencies' environmental literacy and sustainability efforts while spotlighting replicable best practices. **Interested applicants should complete the 2023–24 Application Interest Survey. The survey and the online application period will close at noon on Oct. 27**. **Learn more and apply »**

Register for upcoming CSBA Roadshow stops

Share your thoughts with CSBA leadership when the Roadshow stops at Napa Valley Unified School District's American Canyon High School from 6-8 p.m. on Sept. 27. The Roadshow provides a venue for CSBA staff and board members to connect on a more personal level. Gathering input from local educational agencies enables CSBA to advocate more effectively on behalf of members and shape its legislative, policy and research work. **Attend these free events to share what's happening in your LEA; network with colleagues; hear about CSBA advocacy, products and services; and enjoy complimentary refreshments.** Feel free to bring a fellow school board member along for the ride. **Register »**

Is the North Bay too far a trek? We're headed your way soon, so register now! **Find a date near you in the Events section below.**

Nominations open for CSBA Regional Director, Director-at-Large positions

Nominations are being accepted through Sept. 29 for Regional Director positions. For each Regional Director candidate, **CSBA must receive a completed Nomination Form from the nominating Delegate, by Friday, Sept. 29, 2023. From the nominee, an optional one-page, single-sided resume may be submitted to nominations@csba.org by Sept. 29.** Read the

memorandum from CSBA President Susan Markarian.

Nominations for CSBA Directors-at-Large for African American, American Indian and County are also being accepted through Friday, Sept. 29. Director-at-Large **candidates must be nominated by a CSBA member board and nominees must be a member of a member board**. Please read the memorandum from CSBA President Susan Markarian for more information **here**. **A completed Nomination Form is required for nomination.** The form is due to CSBA by 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 29. Questions may be directed to CSBA's Executive Office at **nominations@csba.org**. **Nomination forms and more information are available »**

Assistance with state eligibility and funding applications

Assistance with
**STATE ELIGIBILITY
& FUNDING
APPLICATIONS**

The State Facilities Funding Programs are complex and ever changing. **Total School Solutions provides assistance with all aspects of the funding process, from the initial establishment of eligibility to the closeout audit process.** TSS professionals meet with agency representatives to determine the needs of specific projects and assist in optimizing benefit from the programs. The expertise of the TSS staff can help secure additional funding for districts that had not previously been identified.
Learn more »

Stay up to date with the latest news and resources on the CSBA blog.

Virtual events

Student Board Member Trainings
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 Governance Q&A and Networking
Sept. 25 | **Register**
Nov. 6 | **Register**
Feb. 12 | **Register**
March 4 | **Register**

The Brown Act

Sept. 27 | **Register**

Equity Network Training (4 sessions)
Sept. 16-Jan.13, 2024 | **Register**

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction
Sept. 20-21| **Register**

In-person events

CSBA Roadshow
Sept. 27 | North Bay | **Register**
Oct. 2 | East Bay | **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**

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