

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

July 26, 2023

In this Issue

- [CSBA and partners launch Golden State Technology Solutions](#)
- [Legislative update: CSBA opposes one-size-fits-all approach in bills addressing labor issues](#)
- [Register for new CSBA Roadshow dates](#)
- [Federal updates: Special education discretionary grant program updates](#)
- [What's Your Why? with Jorge Pacheco Jr., Oak Grove ESD](#)
- [Watch now: CSBA researchers break down federal COVID relief spending](#)
- [Read the July edition of *California School News*](#)
- [CSBA's Cash Reserve Program can help your LEA manage state deferrals](#)

CSBA and partners launch Golden State Technology Solutions



CSBA and the California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO) have joined forces with **Carahsoft Technology Corp.** to reduce costs, streamline compliance and simplify technology procurement for California public schools. The partnership, known as **Golden State Technology Solutions**, allows local educational agencies to economically purchase hardware, software, training, consulting and

cybersecurity services, thereby saving time and money and freeing resources for student support. At a time when technology plays a greater role in schools than ever before, Golden State Technology Solutions will **demystify the purchasing process and help school boards, county offices of education and business officials efficiently source technology service providers.** **Districts of every size will benefit from group purchasing power** while saving resources commonly spent through the time-consuming Request for Proposals process.

“Technology is fundamental to the work that takes place in school districts and county offices of education. Whether it is an instructional, operational or administrative endeavor, local educational agencies rely on technology to serve students, staff and families,” said **CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy.** “Unfortunately, many LEAs labor to identify the right technology solutions for their organizations. Our partnership with CASBO and Carahsoft is a force multiplier for CSBA members because Golden State Technology Solutions empowers them to make the best technology decisions for their schools.” [Learn more »](#)

Legislative update: CSBA opposes one-size-fits-all approach in bills addressing labor issues



A major theme among the 2023 bills CSBA is tracking is a one-size-fits-all approach legislators are taking to address local educational agency labor policies. Most notably, [Assembly Bill 1699](#) (McCarty, D-Sacramento) would require LEAs to hire existing part-time employees for open classified positions before making them available to the public, and provide that the position must be offered to a classified

employee who meets the minimum job qualifications or could meet them after 10 or fewer hours of training paid for by the LEA. Additionally, the bill would require LEAs to provide reasonable modifications to work schedules to allow the employee to work both assignments.

At its core, **the bill would override local control, existing hiring and promotional practices, and locally established recruitment processes unique to LEAs’ student, program, community and organizational needs.** CSBA’s Legislative Committee has taken an **Oppose** position on the bill and continues to advocate that hiring processes be left to the local bargaining table.

CSBA is also **opposing** other bills that take a similar prescriptive approach:

- **Senate Bill 433 (Cortese, D-San Jose):** Would remove the authority of an elected school board on whether to take significant disciplinary action, such as the demotion, suspension or dismissal against a classified staff person, and place it into the hands of a third-party hearing officer. Would also require LEAs to fund the costs associated with obtaining a disciplinary ruling for cause from a third-party hearing officer, who would be required to be jointly selected by the LEA and the union.

- **AB 897 (McCarty)**: Would reduce the threshold for part-time probationary employees in adult education programs to be deemed to have served a complete school year if the employee has served 75 percent of a 60-percent short-term position.

These bills **and others** will move on for further consideration when the Legislature reconvenes for the final month of session on Aug. 14.

Register for new CSBA Roadshow dates



Share your thoughts with CSBA leadership from 6-8 p.m. on Aug. 30 at San Luis Obispo High School. 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 more effectively advocate on behalf of members and shape its legislative, policy and research work. Attend these **roadshows** 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 San Luis Obispo County too far a trek? We're headed your way soon, so register now!

Aug. 30, 2023 | 6-8 p.m.

San Luis Obispo County – San Luis Obispo

[Register »](#)

Sept. 27, 2023 | 6-8 p.m.

North Bay – American Canyon

[Register »](#)

Oct. 2, 2023 | 6-8 p.m.

East Bay – Castro Valley

[Register »](#)

Oct. 4, 2023 | 6-8 p.m.

Lake County – Lakeport

[Register »](#)

Federal updates: Special education discretionary grant program updates



The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services has opened applications for two programs. The **Technical Assistance and**



Dissemination to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities Program seeks to “promote academic achievement and to improve results” for children with **disabilities** by providing technical assistance,

supporting model demonstration projects, disseminating information and implementing activities supported by scientifically based research. The **School Safety National Activities Program** provides support to improve student safety and well-being, both to state and local educational agencies. Applications are due by **Aug. 31**, and further information is [available here](#).

The **Institute of Education Sciences** has also opened applications for several **Education Research and Special Education Research grant programs**. Congress has not yet enacted an appropriation for fiscal year 2024, however, IES is providing this notice now so that applicants will have time to prepare their applications. [Learn more »](#)

What’s Your Why? with Jorge Pacheco Jr., Oak Grove ESD



Through its **School Boards in Action** campaign, **CSBA** celebrates the work of **dedicated trustees year-round**. In the “**What’s your why?**” video series, trustees share the reasons they became board members and why they continue to serve California’s public schools. **Jorge Pacheco Jr. of Oak Grove Elementary School District** explains how his experiences “being an indigenous kid,” English

learner, special education student and almost dropping out of school before getting a second chance provide him insight into what students face today. Now, **he wants to provide young people with what he says he needed growing up**. [Watch the What’s Your Why? series »](#)

Watch now: CSBA researchers break down federal COVID relief spending



CSBA **Senior Director of Research and Education Policy Development (REPD) Mary Briggs** and **Education Policy Analyst Jeremy Anderson** [provide key insights](#) into the use of federal COVID relief aid by local educational agencies and detail the related [research](#) that **REPD has conducted** since the onset of the pandemic.

The duo cover the use of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief and

Governor's Emergency Education Relief funds; a **spending update based on 2023 expenditure reports and caveats to consider when examining this data**; common areas of investment like tutoring, mental health supports and educational technology as well as limitations with spending, such as supply chain issues and staffing shortages; and **planning for the difficult decisions that will come after one-time dollars expire**. Anderson also offers **three recommendations for trustees to consider to ensure they make the most of what time remains**. [Watch the research update »](#)

Read the July edition of *California School News*



This latest edition dives into the ways **CSBA advocacy has prevailed in the state budget deal thanks to board members making their voices heard**. The issue also provides a **recap on the California Department of Education's Taskforce on Inclusive Education's first meeting** covering textbooks, a **series of court cases featuring teachers' rights and student privacy**, and **new U.S. Department of Education**

recommendations for using artificial intelligence in schools. **CSBA President Susan Markarian urges local educational agencies to start career technical education early**, and Masters in Governance® faculty describe **the board's ongoing role in the Local Control and Accountability Plan**. [Read the issue online »](#)

CSBA's Cash Reserve Program can help your LEA manage state deferrals



The **California School Cash Reserve Program helps guard against temporary cash flow shortages in a safe, cost-effective way by creating an additional cash reserve to the general fund**. Now in partnership with **California Association of School Business Officials**, CSBA's Cash Reserve Program has provided local educational agencies **a reliable and cost-effective short-term cash flow**

funding option for over 30 years. Participants issue Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANs) through a streamlined, pooled process. Learn more today about how the Cash Reserve Program can offer you low borrowing costs and flexible repayment terms, with easy and efficient administration. [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

Sponsors



The Brown Act

Aug. 25 | [Register](#)

Sept. 27 | [Register](#)

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 | 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 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

Aug. 12 | San Marcos | [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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