CSBA press conference calls for support for AB 1023 to boost schools’ cybersecurity resources

“Schools have access to more sensitive information and fulfill a more essential purpose than virtually any other local government agency and deserve robust, focused support to prepare for ransomware attacks,” CSBA President Susan Markarian said during a June 26 press conference held in support of Assembly Bill 1023, which aims to improve cybersecurity and preserve data privacy in California TK-12 schools.

The CSBA-sponsored legislation, authored by Assemblymember Diane Papan (D-San Mateo), would allow schools the same access to the information, guidance and coordination needed to effectively implement cybersecurity as other government
agencies receive through the California Cybersecurity Integration Center (Cal-CSIC). It would also require Cal-CSIC to gather input from local educational agencies. “I’m so honored to be able to do this bill … to make sure that all of our elementary schools, all the way through high school, are protected from cyberattacks,” Papan said during the event, which took place at Elk Grove Unified School District’s Florence Markofer Elementary. “As technology begins to play a bigger and bigger role in schools, we’ve got to make sure that they’re protected.” A day after the press conference, on June 27, the bill passed out of the Senate Governmental Organization Committee with a 13-0 vote and is headed for the Senate Appropriations Committee. Read a full recap of the event on the CSBA blog | Watch the press conference

In addition to sponsoring legislation to support local educational agencies in their cybersecurity efforts, CSBA has also developed a "Cybersecurity guidance, questions and resources for school governance teams" document and a cybersecurity resources webpage.

Legislative update: CSBA advocacy yields wins in a tough budget year

After a long standoff, the Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom have reached a final agreement on the 2023–24 state budget. The deal, executed in two follow-up bills known as “Budget Bill Jr.” and numerous budget trailer bills, will retain most of the wins achieved by CSBA’s advocacy. These bills fill in some of the critical implementation details and include revised program funding levels and policy changes negotiated by the Legislature and Governor.

The budget agreement provides a Proposition 98 Guarantee of $108.3 billion (adopting the higher figure proposed by the Legislature). CSBA’s advocacy resulted in wins on three key priorities:

- **Critical funding allocated for juvenile court and county community schools:**
  The budget provides a new funding model to support juvenile court and county community schools.

- **Cuts to key block grants reduced:**
  - Most of the cuts proposed to the Arts, Music & Instructional Materials Block Grant were restored, for a reduction of $200 million rather than the $1.8 billion proposed in the May Budget Revision. This is a 5.5 percent reduction to funding rather than the 50 percent cut proposed by the Governor in May.
  - A compromise was struck to reduce the Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant by $1.6 billion, or 20.2 percent, rather than the $2.5 billion, or 32 percent, proposed by the Governor or the $494.5 million proposed by the Assembly, with trailer bill language declaring the intent to allocate $379 million in 2025–26 and 2027–28 for the grant.
• COLA and continued investment in big programs: The final deal honors the statutory cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) at 8.22 percent for the Local Control Funding Formula and specified categorical programs and fully funds major program expansions made in recent years, such as school transportation, universal transitional kindergarten implementation, universal school meals and more.

Read more about the final budget deal on the CSBA blog »

Federal update: Historic investment in high-speed internet infrastructure

On June 26, the Biden-Harris Administration announced $42.45 billion in funding for the deployment of high-speed internet infrastructure via the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program. High-speed internet is not considered a luxury anymore, the Administration said, as Americans require it to work, participate equally in school, access health care and more. Still, more than 8.5 million households and small businesses reside in areas that lack the infrastructure for high-speed internet and millions more are subject to limited or unreliable internet options.

Labeled the largest internet funding announcement in history, every state will receive at least $107 million in funding. California will receive more than $1.86 billion. Paired with other investments the Administration has made, all states now have the resources to connect all residents to reliable, affordable high-speed internet by 2030, officials said. Learn more »

In other federal news:

• The U.S. Department of Education released the toolkit, Creating Inclusive and Nondiscriminatory School Environments for LGBTQI+ Students, with resources on supporting LGBTQI youth and families, a Q&A section on student-led groups to support LGBTQI students and allies, information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on LGBTQ-supportive school policies and practices as well as an overview of the U.S. Department of Justice’s hate crime threat guide and community relations services. Learn more »

New taskforce aims to address diversity in curriculum and more

Representatives from four textbook publishers committed June 21 before the new Taskforce on Inclusive Education to protect and provide student access to information free from discrimination and inclusive of the diverse
narratives that reflect the student body of California. The taskforce was convened by Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond following the June 1 release of a joint letter from Gov. Gavin Newsom, Attorney General Rob Bonta and Thurmond cautioning against book banning or restricting access to curriculum and instructional materials that “reflect the diverse experiences and perspectives of Californians.”

Questioned during a press conference prior to the taskforce meeting about how state efforts align with local control in schools, Thurmond said, “There’s no doubt that this is a state with local control as a practice and priority, but as you’ve heard from my colleagues, there are at least two bills that aim to curtail the actions of those who are hiding racism and hate under the guise of local control. Local control doesn’t give you the right to inflict pain on someone or to threaten someone. Students have been asking for the right to not be bullied because they’re LGBTQ. They have been bullied by adults simply for raising their voices for what they believe. So, there will be legislation — there is legislation — that will address the actions of these school boards.” Read more on the CSBA blog »

Streamlined superintendent hiring for districts and COEs

CSBA, in partnership with McPherson & Jacobson, L.L.C., offers the Executive Search Service to provide districts and county offices of education with a streamlined process to meet their executive hiring needs. From identifying possible candidates to the selection of a qualified superintendent, Executive Search Services offers an extensive and comprehensive process that guides the board through this critical time with ease and professionalism. Learn more »

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

Virtual events

Executive Assistants Certification Program — Lambda Cohort
July 13-Nov. 9 | Register

The Brown Act
Aug. 25 | Register

In-person events
CSBA Roadshow
Aug. 10 | Riverside/San Bernardino counties | Register
Aug. 12 | West Los Angeles County | Register
Aug. 16 | South San Diego County | Register

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction
Aug. 12 | San Marcos | Register

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction
Aug. 26 | Sunnyvale | Register

CCBE Annual Conference
Sept. 8-10 | Monterey | Register

View complete calendar