CSBA's Education Legal Alliance filed a lawsuit against the California State Board of Education on Jan. 10 seeking to enforce the limited role of the State Board of Education in all charter appeals established by AB 1505 while supporting the Napa Valley Unified School District's position in its litigation related to the Mayacamas Charter School petition. The litigation involves the SBE decision to reverse the denial of the Mayacamas Charter petition by both Napa Valley USD and the
Napa County Office of Education per the terms of Assembly Bill 1505, a charter school reform bill signed into law in October 2019. CSBA was actively involved in the legislative process leading to the enactment of AB 1505, which resulted in the establishment of a new framework for transparency and delegation of authority related to charter schools, including the charter authorization and appeal process, and limited the authority of the SBE to reconsider charter petition appeals. The SBE is scheduled to approve a charter school number assigned to Mayacamas Charter on the second day of its Jan. 19–20 meeting.

“It’s disheartening to see the State Board of Education disregard not only the law but also the work of stakeholders on all sides of the charter issue that produced the carefully crafted reforms sought by authors and charter proponents in AB 1505,” said CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy. “A key provision of this bipartisan legislation was that local authorizers — both school districts and county offices of education — could more closely consider the impact of a charter school on a local community and tailor their decision-making processes regarding petitions and renewals accordingly. The SBE undermined this agreed-upon principle, overstepped its authority and sidestepped the law in reversing the denials of the petition by the local governing boards." Read more on the CSBA blog »

CSBA webinar explores Governor’s 2023–24 January Budget Proposal

On the heels of Gov. Gavin Newsom’s introduction of the 2023–24 Budget Proposal on Jan. 10, CSBA on Jan. 11 held a webinar to review the proposal and discuss its impact on local educational agencies. The Governor’s announcement came at a time when the state is anticipating a $22.5 billion deficit, resulting in some cuts or delays to spending following years of budget surpluses. TK-12’s portion of Proposition 98 in 2023–24, for example, decreased from $98.3 billion in the Budget Act of 2022–23 to $96.8 billion in Newsom’s proposal.

In preparation for what is shaping up to be a challenging budget cycle, CSBA is focusing on key budget priorities including increased funding for learning recovery, mental health services, staff recruitment and retention, implementation of transitional kindergarten (TK), cybersecurity and internet infrastructure, and pension relief, among other topics. CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy reminded the audience that there are many new members of the Legislature, something CSBA will be mindful of in its advocacy. “I think if we keep that in mind, keep the focus on our priorities and getting more funding into schools and maintaining what we have, we’re going to be able to be very effective this year in protecting the things that are important to you at the local level,” he said. Watch a recording of the webinar | Read the full recap on the CSBA blog
Register now for Legislative Action Week 2023

Join CSBA March 14-16 for the flagship virtual legislative advocacy event connecting local school board members with members of the California Legislature. Recognized as one of the leading statewide educational advocacy events of the year, CSBA's Legislative Action Week plays a key role in influencing vital budget and legislative issues. Over three days, attendees will have the chance to meet virtually with the Senators, Assemblymembers and staff who represent their district or county office of education and shine light on the most pressing issues facing their schools and students. CSBA staff will do everything from scheduling virtual meetings to providing advocacy training and talking points — all trustees have to do is log on. Please contact Teresa Machado at tmachado@csba.org with any questions. Learn more | Register now

School Board Recognition Month: Gustine Unified School District trustee Zachery Ramos

While January marks School Board Recognition Month, CSBA celebrates the work of dedicated trustees year-round through its School Boards in Action campaign. The multi-platform effort allows trustees to share the experiences of their districts alongside anecdotes from their personal lives. Components of the campaign have included online ads, commercials on streaming radio services, board member profiles in California Schools magazine, video interviews, monthly features in the California School News newsletter and 5 Questions interviews on CSBA's blog.

A graduate of the Gustine Unified School District, trustee Zachery Ramos discusses the status of The Traveling Library, an organization he started as a high schooler to provide free books to children; his life-long love of science and engineering; how the district engages families, teachers and school site administrators to improve everything from classroom to district operations; and how funding is being used to support student wellness. Learn more about his and other trustees' stories »

Sudden cardiac arrest in student athletes: What are schools' responsibilities?

There is renewed attention on how quickly the health of athletes can change following the on-
field collapse of NFL player Damar Hamlin on Jan. 2, when the Buffalo Bills safety suffered sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) during a game. The incident has left many families wondering what protocols are in place to prevent student athletes from experiencing similar situations and what plans are to potentially save their child’s life should they go into cardiac arrest.

Under Education Code §35179.6, school districts must have at least one automated external defibrillator (AED) for each school that participates in an interscholastic athletic program, and ensure that the AED(s) are available to athletic trainers, coaches and authorized persons during practices, games and matches. The AED must be maintained and tested regularly. Any expected users (such as coaches) are required to undergo CPR and AED training as well as training on SCA. Coalinga-Huron Unified School District has information and resources regarding SCA on its website. The California Department of Education has resources including a free SCA prevention training, fliers and fact sheets, FAQs and more available for local educational agencies. To view related policies, subscribers of CSBA’s GAMUT Policy and Policy Plus can access sample Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 5141 - Health Care and Emergencies and AR 6145.2 - Athletic Competition. Read more on the CSBA blog »

Federal updates: Special Education Parent Information Centers grants available

On Jan. 12, the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services invited applications for the Special Education Parent Information Centers grant program, which provides funding to assist parents of children with disabilities to receive training and information to help them improve outcomes for their children. Funds totaling $2.94 million will be used to establish and operate five parent technical assistance centers and are contingent upon the availability of funds and quality of applications. Applications are due by March 28. Learn more »

Convert property ownership into an active asset

Property Planning Solutions by DCG Strategies aims to help school leaders explore the ways in which their real estate assets can be leveraged to secure additional funding for district initiatives, equip students with the education and experiences they need to be successful, invest in deferred facilities maintenance and
capital improvements, reduce cost and liability from holding closed or grossly underutilized sites, bolster general fund reserves and even attract new staff. School leaders and board members can gain access to real estate experts that work to align a local educational agency’s priorities with the realities of the real estate market. Services include real estate consulting, property planning, strategic asset management, educator housing development and real property brokerage services. Learn more »

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

Virtual events

Institute for New and First-Term Board Members
Jan. 24-25 | Register
Feb. 14-15 | Register

MIG COE COURSE 1 Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction
Jan. 27-28 | Register

Executive Assistants Certification Program - Kappa Cohort
Feb. 2-May 11 | Register

2023 Governance with an Equity Lens
Feb. 4-May 6 | Register

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction
Feb. 6-8 | Register

Executive Assistants Certification Program - Iota Cohort
Feb. 10-April 21 | Register

The Brown Act
Feb. 10 | Register

MIG COE Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review
Feb. 24-25 | Register

Board Presidents Workshop
Feb. 23 | Register
Feb. 28 | Register
Orientation for New Trustees
March 1 | Register

MIG COE Course 3: Finance
April 1 | Register

MIG COE Course 4: Charter Schools
April 15 | Register

MIG COE Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration
May 5-6 | Register

In-person events

Orientation for New Trustees
Feb. 21 | Sacramento | Register
March 8 | Redding | Register

County Board Governance Workshop
March 10-11 | Sacramento | Register

Board Presidents Workshop
March 18 | Rancho Cucamonga | Register

2023 Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip
April 24-26 | Washington, D.C. | Register

View complete calendar