

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

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Legislative Action Week preview: Budget advocacy priorities



As school board members across California prepare to meet with their state legislators during CSBA's virtual Legislative Action Week March 14-16, CSBA is highlighting some of the top issues attendees will be discussing with their representatives. As the state budget cycle continues, CSBA is urging the Legislature to fully fund the Local Control Funding Formula cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) without cutting the Arts, Music and Instructional Materials Discretionary Block Grant (AMIM Grant). While it's encouraging that the Governor's 2023–24 Budget Proposal commits to fully funding the statutory 8.13 percent COLA, the proposed reduction of the AMIM Grant

by \$1.2 billion would create challenges for districts that already have plans in place for that funding. The AMIM Grant is entirely discretionary, and many districts have bargained these funds for incentives to recruit and retain staff, planned to buy down pension obligations and health benefits (especially given recent rate increases) or planned to purchase HVAC system replacements, school safety surveillance equipment and instructional materials.

Recognizing the difficulty in ensuring no cuts are made to LCFF, it's understandable that the AMIM funds were targeted; however, other one-time multi-year funding that has yet to be appropriated can achieve the same goal of keeping LCFF whole without posing the same challenges for districts. **During Legislative Action Week, members will urge the Legislature to reject the proposal to retroactively reduce the AMIM Grant and focus on other far less disruptive reductions to school districts.** For any questions, please contact Teresa Machado at tmachado@csba.org. [Learn more about Legislative Action Week and register »](#)

2023 CSBA Roadshow commencing soon



CSBA's senior staff is hitting the road this year, touring every region of the state as part of the organization's 2023 CSBA Roadshow. **This event revives a tradition from years past in which CSBA hosts town hall-style meetings with members in various parts of California to discuss the organization and its advocacy, member service and strategic initiatives.**

The roadshow provides a unique opportunity for school board members and superintendents to connect directly with CSBA's leadership in an intimate atmosphere focused on local concerns and developments at the state and federal levels. **At the roadshow, trustees will have the chance to voice opinions on education issues, ask questions of CSBA staff, share experiences with other CSBA members and learn about critical budget, legislative, legal, training, policy and compliance issues, as well as new CSBA programs.**

The 2023 CSBA roadshow kicks off with a March 8 meeting at Poway High School (Poway USD) in San Diego County, continues with an April 17 event in Orange County's Huntington Beach USD and includes 17 stops in total. [Registration information and future dates and locations will be available here »](#)

State updates: Funds flowing into California schools target universal pre-K and student mental health



The California Department of Education on Feb. 17 announced the allocation of the 2022–23 **Universal PreKindergarten Planning & Implementation** (UPK P&I) Grant and



Countywide Planning and Capacity Building Grant funds. A total of **\$300 million** has been allocated to school districts and county offices of education for the UPK P&I Grant Program to

be expended by **June 30, 2026**. The money can be used for costs around creating or expanding California State Preschool or transitional kindergarten programs, or to start or strengthen partnerships with other providers of pre-K education in the local educational agency such as Head Start programs to make sure high-quality options are available to 4-year-olds. Updated LEA and COE plan templates will be available this month [here](#) on CDE's website.

Additional state updates:

- **More than a dozen California LEAs have been awarded Bipartisan Safer Communities Act funds to be used to support student mental health and wellness and improve the pipeline of mental health professions in districts that are high need**, according to a Feb. 16 [press release](#) by the U.S. Department of Education. More than \$188 million will be distributed in total across 170 grantees in 30 states.
- On Feb. 15, CDE **announced upcoming efforts to stop the rise in disproportionate discipline and give students the support they need**. The department will be hosting a webinar on March 2 focused on best practices to reduce disproportionate suspension and is planning to release related guidance resources for LEAs around the same time. **A tip line to report “incidents of districts engaging in disciplinary practices that violate California Education Code or mask the actual rate of discipline” has also been established**, according to the department.

CSBA Delegate Assembly election: Ballots due March 15



Ballots for this year's CSBA Delegate Assembly, in subregions that have elections, were mailed to school districts and county offices of education by Feb. 1. **Completed ballots should be returned to CSBA's West Sacramento office and must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service no later than Wednesday, March 15, to be valid.** All districts, county offices of education and candidates will be notified of the results by April 1.

Run-off elections will be conducted in the case of tie votes. All new and re-elected Delegates are eligible to attend the May 20-21 Delegate Assembly meeting in Sacramento. [Learn more about CSBA's Delegate Assembly and candidates for election »](#)

Read the February edition of *California School News* online now



Details of the Governor's January Budget Proposal, **why CSBA's Education Legal Alliance is suing the State Board of Education (SBE) for violations of the charter appeal process**, and the **importance of trustees' advocacy efforts** are some topics explored in the February edition of *California School News*. A spotlight on **programs**

working to close opportunity gaps for African American students, new laws impacting the obligations of school employers, information on March 15 layoff notice requirements, and how schools can save lives by stocking and administering naloxone are also included. Other subjects include **how school boards can prioritize and allocate resources in a small school district, arts in schools and a transportation funding Q&A**. [Read the newsletter here »](#)

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

Board Presidents Workshop
Feb. 28 | [Register](#)

Orientation for New Trustees
March 1 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review
March 2-3 | [Register](#)

When They See Us

Sponsors



March 2 | [Register](#)

Legislative Action Week

March 14-17 | [Register](#)



MIG Course 3: School Finance Part 1 and Part 2

March 14-15 | [Register](#)

Cultural Competence in the Context of America

March 28 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining

March 28-29 | [Register](#)

In-person events

What Executive Assistants and Board Presidents Need to Know About the Brown Act

March 1 | Los Angeles | [Register](#)

County Board Governance Workshop

March 10-11 | Sacramento | [Register](#)

Board Presidents Workshop

March 18 | Rancho Cucamonga | [Register](#)

MIG 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

March 23 | Santa Cruz | [Register](#)

MIG 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review

March 24 | Santa Cruz | [Register](#)

2023 Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip

April 24-26 | Washington, D.C. | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)



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