

# California schoolnews

Weekly Update

April 19, 2023

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## Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip is around the corner



CSBA's second annual federal advocacy trip will be held next week, April 24-26, in Washington, D.C. In partnership with the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), **270 CSBA and ACSA members will travel to the nation's capital for meetings with members of Congress and their staff on Capitol Hill, as well as informational briefings and opportunities to connect with prominent pollsters, journalists, researchers, members of Congress and representatives from the executive branch.**

Attendees will come together for policy briefings and talks by special guests like Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra before heading out

to advocate with decision-makers in Washington on topics such as special education, the teacher shortage and retirement issues, rural schools, mental health, school nutrition, and broadband access and cybersecurity. [Learn more »](#)

## CA attorney general issues guidance on school closures



California Attorney General Rob Bonta issued a statewide guidance on April 11 related to the legal requirements and best practices for school closures, “[Guidance on Laws Governing School Closures and Best Practices for Implementation in California.](#)” The guidance focuses on **Assembly Bill 1912**, which creates a required process and equity-impact analysis for schools in financial distress to use when

**considering school closures, consolidations and mergers.**

The 18-page guidance emphasizes that the AB 1912 requirements may only be required for school districts in “financial distress” in the state, but the requirements are best practices for all school closures that may take place. In addition to AB 1912, the guidance details other anti-discrimination legal mandates that schools must consider when evaluating schools for closures. The **four sections of the guidance describe the specific legal requirements and considerations in the school closure process. It concludes by encouraging districts to create community advisory groups and to work with experts to create a successful equity-impact process** that has a goal of “maximizing equal opportunity and the quality of education it provides to all of its students.” [Learn more on the CSBA blog »](#)

## CalPERS board approves employer contribution rate increase



The California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) board **approved a 26.68 percent contribution rate for Schools Pool employers for the 2023–24 fiscal year.** The approved rate — valid from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024 — represents an **increase of 1.31 percent over the 2022–23 rate** and an additional \$613 million in employer costs.

The increased rate, which is slightly lower than the projected rate in October, is based on CalPERS’ annual schools valuation. CalPERS also determined the pool’s funded status as of June 30, 2022. **A 14.3 percent drop in expected versus reported investment returns for FY 2021–22 helped drive a 10-percentage point decline in the pool’s funded ratio. Unfunded liability increased from nearly \$24 billion in June 2021 to approximately \$37 billion in 2022**, lowering the funded ratio to 67.9 percent for the same period. CalPERS also **updated its projected employer rates for the next several years:** 2025–26 is projected at 28.3 percent; 2026–27 at 28.7 percent; 2027–28 at 30

percent; and 2028–29 at 29.8 percent.

As the investment returns for FY 2022–23 were not known at the time of this valuation, these projections are based on projected investment returns of 6.8 percent. [Learn more »](#)

## CSBA Roadshow stops in East LA County and the Central Coast



**CSBA leadership is visiting members around the state to hear what you have to say.** Good, bad or somewhere in the middle, **CSBA needs your input to shape its legislative, policy and research work, and to more effectively advocate on behalf of members.** Attend these roadshows to express your opinions on public schools; network with colleagues; hear about CSBA advocacy, products and services; enjoy

some free food — and bring a fellow school board member. [Learn more about the roadshow »](#)

Join CSBA:

**May 3, 2023** | 6-8 p.m.

**East LA County – Hacienda La Puente USD**

[Register »](#)

**May 8, 2023** | 6-8 p.m.

**Ventura and Santa Barbara counties – Ventura COE**

[Register »](#)

## Submit your proposal for AEC



CSBA is **accepting workshop and table talk proposals for the 2023 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show in San Francisco, Nov. 30-Dec. 2.** Does your district or county office have an innovative and successful program or initiative to share with other local educational agencies? **Visit the [AEC website](#) to view the call for proposal requirements, criteria for a strong proposal, 2023 strand descriptions, workshop**

**and table talk details, presenter types and more.** Proposals **must be submitted by May 5, 2023.** Don't miss your chance to share your knowledge and expertise with colleagues from across the state. [Learn more and submit proposals »](#)

## Student board members' opinions needed



Are you a student board member with an opinion to share? Does your board have a student board member who could contribute their valuable perspective on education governance? In preparation for the Annual Education Conference in San Francisco, **CSBA is conducting three Student Board Member Focus Groups to gather input** on desired trainings and discuss the

new call for student board member-led sessions at AEC. Student board member participation and input will help set the tone for topics at AEC 2023.

Register at the following links:

**May 8, 4-5:30 p.m.** | [Register »](#)

**May 11, 4:30-6 p.m.** | [Register »](#)

**May 17, 5-6:30 p.m.** | [Register »](#)

## High School Voter Education Weeks aim to improve student civic engagement



The last two weeks in April and September each year are designated as **High School Voter Education Weeks** by California education code. The purpose of this initiative is to **bring awareness to young and future voters and set them on the pathway for continued civic engagement**. Ways to participate include **pre-registering eligible students ages 16 and 17 to vote**, which allows them to automatically become

registered voters when they turn 18. Since the California pre-registration program launched in September 2016, over 1 million students have pre-registered to vote. To further increase student engagement in the democratic process, Senate Bill 955 (2022) enables students in grades 6 through 12 to have one excused absence per year to participate in a civic or political event, such as serving as an election poll worker. The **California Secretary of State's office provides resources including social media infographics, frequently asked questions and links** to get young people informed and involved. [Find resources »](#)

## High-quality, data-informed maps driven by transparency



Redistricting is the process of redrawing and rebalancing legislative and local jurisdictional district boundaries every 10 years following the decennial U.S. Census — a process that has only become more complex since the passage of the Fair Maps Act in 2019. **Redistricting Partners has developed a program that allows boards to**

have a fair, open redistricting that follows best practices and engages communities while ensuring the highest-quality final product. Redistricting Partners has partnered with CSBA to deliver districting or redistricting services to school boards in a cost-effective way that is data informed, community driven and board focused. [Learn more »](#)

## Sponsors

The logo for aalrr, featuring the lowercase letters 'aalrr' in a serif font. The 'a' and 'l' are dark blue, while the 'r' is a vibrant green.

Atkinson, Andelson  
Loya, Ruud & Romo  
A Professional Law Corporation

The logo for Lozano Smith Attorneys at Law. It features a dark blue square on the left containing the white letters 'LS'. To the right of the square, the name 'Lozano Smith' is written in a large, dark blue serif font, with 'Lozano' on the top line and 'Smith' on the bottom line. Below the name, the words 'ATTORNEYS AT LAW' are written in a smaller, dark blue, all-caps sans-serif font.

WellnessTogether.org

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

## Virtual events

### **MIG 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction**

April 26-27 | [Register](#)

### **Student Board Member Focus Groups**

May 8 | [Register](#)

May 11 | [Register](#)

May 17 | [Register](#)

### **MIG Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review**

May 9-10 | [Register](#)

### **MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction**

May 11-12 | [Register](#)

## In-person events

### **CSBA Roadshow**

May 3 | East LA County | [Register](#)

May 8 | Central Coast | [Register](#)

June 7 | Sacramento County | [Register](#)

June 23 | Humboldt County | [Register](#)

### **MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration**

May 2 | Santa Cruz | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)



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