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In this Issue

- Thousands of education leaders attend AEC in Anaheim
- State Board's proposed changes to student test score classifications could reduce public's ability to accurately interpret results
- Federal update: Education Department issues guidance on cellphone policies
- Enhance your governance skills in the new year
- What's Your Why? with Anthony Fuentes, Bakersfield City SD
- Reduce costs, streamline compliance and simplify procurement with Golden State Technology Solutions

Thousands of education leaders attend AEC in Anaheim



About **4,000** education leaders convened in Anaheim Dec. 5-7 for CSBA's 2024 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show (AEC). Renowned as the West Coast's largest education leadership conference, attendees and experts shared ideas, networked and had the opportunity to participate in hundreds of **sessions** on topics such as mental health, technology and artificial intelligence, governance

best practices, school finance and funding, labor negotiations, education workforce housing, literacy, learning recovery, achievement and student and community

engagement.

During the three General Session addresses, **Dr. Laurie Santos spoke on the science of happiness and well-being; Dr. Cori Lathan explored the promise and peril of technology and how it can be a tool for a better tomorrow; and Sam Stanton covered the tools needed to leverage AI effectively, driving innovation and improving educational outcomes** for students. Look for a detailed article about the speakers and photos from AEC in the January issue of *California School News*.

AEC 2025 will be held in Sacramento from Dec. 3-5.

State Board's proposed changes to student test score classifications could reduce public's ability to accurately interpret results



The California State Board of Education (SBE) is **currently accepting feedback on significant updates to the Student Score Report that may impact how a student and their parents interpret the student's results on state standardized tests.** At its **November meeting**, the SBE delayed action on these changes, partially in response to concerns that the changes could be too vague and confusing. The SBE also

wanted the California Department of Education to do more outreach to teachers, parents, students and stakeholders.

Two sections will be altered, the labels of achievement levels and their descriptors, which are meant to help families interpret the levels. Achievement levels would change as follows: 4, the highest level, would change from "Standard Exceeded" to "Advanced," level 3 would change from "Standard Met" to "Proficient," level 2 would change from "Standard Nearly Met" to "Foundational" and level 1 would change from "Standard Not Met" to "Inconsistent." **[To read about the descriptor changes, view this CSBA blog post »](#)**

To participate in the state's survey to collect feedback on the proposed changes, complete the **[Survey on the Proposed Changes to the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress Achievement Level Descriptors and Labels](#)**. **Feedback must be submitted by noon on Dec. 12, 2024.**

Federal update: Education Department issues guidance on cellphone policies



On Dec. 3, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology **released a new resource to help education leaders adopt policies around the use of cellphones and**



personal devices on campus. **“Planning Together: A Playbook for Student Personal Device Policies”** calls on states and local educational agencies to adopt policies that guide

students’ use and offers a model process to design the policies and communicate why they are needed. The document focuses on the importance of creating policies that incorporate stakeholder engagement, ensuring broad awareness and a shared stake in participation and implementation of policies.

Beginning July 1, 2026, Assembly Bill 3216 requires California LEAs to adopt a policy limiting or prohibiting the use of cellphones and to update that policy every five years. Read about strategies currently being used by LEAs in this summer 2024 [California Schools article](#).

In other federal news:

- In early December, the Education Department published guidance documents — **“Supporting a Diverse Educator Workforce to Strengthen Teaching and Learning”** and **“Using Title II, Part A Funds Strategically to Support Educator Recruitment, Retention, Professional Learning, and Improved Student Outcomes”** — that highlight how **federal funds can be utilized to address teacher shortages and advance diversity** in the field.
- In November, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy released the **“Federal Strategic Plan for Advancing STEM Education and Cultivating STEM Talent,”** which will be **used to recruit, teach and train and retain individuals in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).**

Enhance your governance skills in the new year



Make 2025 the year your local educational agency’s board members and superintendent all become Masters in Governance® (MIG) graduates! **Starting in January, in-person sessions in Woodland and Visalia will cover the foundations of effective governance and setting direction; student learning and achievement and judicial review; and school finance.**

Additional trainings that take place early in 2025 include alternate in-person and virtual **MIG offerings, Orientation for New Trustees** (for both school districts and county offices of education), **Board Presidents Workshop, Executive Assistant Certification Program** and **Advanced Governance Skills for Transformative Leadership**. There will also be courses for **student board members** to learn about budgeting and resource allocation. Sessions on the **Brown Act and ethics, which trustees are now required to complete a training on every two years during their term under Assembly Bill 2158,** are also available. [See a full calendar of upcoming trainings »](#)

What's Your Why? with Anthony Fuentes, Bakersfield City SD



As a **Bakersfield City School District trustee**, **Anthony Fuentes** understands the incredible responsibility that comes with being a **governance team member**. "It's about the kids in my community, but it's also about what happens in the State of California," said Fuentes.

"What's Your Why" is a series of video vignettes featuring school district and county office of education board members describing why they became trustees and why they continue to serve California public schools. [Watch Fuentes' and other What's Your Why? videos »](#)

Reduce costs, streamline compliance and simplify procurement with Golden State Technology Solutions



Golden State Technology Solutions enables local educational agencies to purchase hardware, software, training, consulting and cybersecurity services — all while 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 **demythifies the purchasing process and help school districts,**

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. Golden State Technology Solutions is a partnership between **CSBA, the California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO) and Carahsoft Technology Corp.** to reduce costs, streamline compliance and simplify technology procurement for California public schools. [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

Student Board Member Training: Understanding Budget and Resource Allocation
Jan. 13 | [Register](#)

Sponsors



**Masters in Governance Course 1:
Effective Governance/Setting Direction**
Jan. 15-16 | [Register](#)

**Executive Assistant: Understanding
Culture 1A/1B**
Jan. 16-17 | [Register](#)

Orientation for New Trustees
Jan. 22 | [Register](#)

Orientation for New Trustees for COEs
Jan. 22 | [Register](#)

The Brown Act
Jan. 24 | [Register](#)

In-person events

**Masters in Governance Course 1:
Effective Governance/Setting Direction**
Jan. 9 | Woodland | [Register](#)

**Masters in Governance Course 2: Student
Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial
Review**
Jan. 10 | Woodland | [Register](#)

**Masters in Governance Course 3: School
Finance, Parts 1 & 2**
Jan. 11 | Woodland | [Register](#)

**Masters in Governance Course 1:
Effective Governance/Setting Direction**
Jan. 11 | Visalia | [Register](#)

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158
Jan. 22 | Apple Valley | 9 a..m | [Register](#)
Jan. 22 | Apple Valley | 3 p..m | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

The logo for spot.ai, featuring a stylized blue paw print icon to the left of the text "spot.ai" in a dark blue, sans-serif font.The logo for Carson Delloso Education, featuring a stylized blue apple icon with a leaf to the left of the text "Carson Delloso Education" in red and blue, sans-serif fonts.