



January 8, 2025

In this Issue

- [Register for CSBA webinar on state budget proposal](#)
- [Celebrating School Board Recognition Month](#)
- [Upcoming CSBA webinars](#)
- [State update: CDE announces approved list of screeners for reading difficulties](#)
- [Federal update: Special Education Parent Information Centers applications open](#)
- [CTC takes deep dive into teacher workforce data](#)
- [Coverage you need to ensure student and district safety](#)

Register for CSBA webinar on state budget proposal



Gov. Gavin Newsom on Jan. 6 released a brief preview of his January Budget Proposal, which included \$4.4 billion for before-, after- and summer school funds as well as \$2.4 billion for universal transitional kindergarten, \$2 billion for universal school meals and \$1 billion for arts and music funding. While the Governor did not provide much detail, he did share two overall estimates. First, **Proposition 98** is estimated to be \$118.9 billion for TK-14 public education. Second, the statutorily required cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) is estimated to be 2.43 percent.

“We’re pleased to see the Governor announce he intends to keep education funding whole and meet his statutory obligation to fully fund Proposition 98 and the COLA,” said CSBA President Dr. Bettye Lusk. “We’re also encouraged that the Governor pledged to allocate more resources toward the full rollout of universal transitional kindergarten, but whether that includes necessary funding for the new grade, lower student-teacher ratios and increased facilities needs remains to be seen.”

The **Governor is expected to release his full budget proposal on Jan. 10**, marking the official start of budget season. **CSBA has been engaged in behind-the-scenes discussions, advocating** for any additional funding to go to the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) base; an annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) that is sufficient to cover any growth in expenses; a statewide fund or insurance pool to act as a backstop against financial damages stemming from Assembly Bill 218 litigation that inhibit a local educational agency’s ability to support current students; and more. **CSBA made these points and more in its [annual budget letter](#) to the Newsom Administration** and will ask **membership to reinforce this messaging during the association’s 2025 Legislative Action Week from March 11-13 ([register here](#))**.

Members can expect a detailed analysis of the budget proposal from a public school perspective in an email on Jan. 10. On Jan. 13, CSBA will host a webinar featuring CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy and CSBA’s Governmental Relations staff providing an overview of the budget proposal, answering member questions and charting an advocacy path for the coming months. [Register for the budget proposal webinar](#) »

Celebrating School Board Recognition Month



January is School Board Recognition Month, a time to salute the nearly 5,000 California school district and county office of education board members — the largest group of elected officials in the state — that help support student success by establishing their local educational agency’s mission, vision, policy priorities, budget and benchmarks. Trustees provide a critical accountability link between schools and the

community and offer a level of accessibility to voters that is unrivaled by other public officeholders. **CSBA encourages LEAs, community organizations, mayors and other local officials to designate January as a time to recognize their hard-working board members and educate the public about the important role that boards of education play in schools and communities.**

CSBA is making it easy to recognize the hard work and dedication of your board by **providing a sample press release to get the word out to local reporters, a sample proclamation for city officials and a social media toolkit to show appreciation for the LEA’s board.** Board members are encouraged to share these resources with communications contacts in their LEAs. Through initiatives like this, the What’s Your Why? video series, board member profiles and more, **CSBA recognizes and celebrates the crucial work of boards of education in supporting the conditions for student**

success. [Access the materials »](#)

The Legislature has gotten a head start with **2025 CSBA-sponsored School Board Recognition Month resolutions introduced in both the Assembly [House Resolution 6 (Connolly, D-San Rafael)] and Senate [Senate Resolution 7 (Ochoa Bogh, R-Yucaipa)].**

Upcoming CSBA webinars



January will be filled with significant developments for California public schools as well as related CSBA events, trainings and resources to help members address these issues. Register now for these [upcoming webinars](#):

High-Quality Professional Development for Mathematics Instruction, Jan. 22, 12 p.m.

Learn more about high-quality professional development for mathematics instruction from a panel of experts who will share **examples of professional development practices and community partnerships**. **Panelists include Linda Darling Hammond**, President and CEO, Learning Policy Institute; **Kyndall Brown**, Executive Director, California Mathematics Project; **Ellen Barger**, Associate Superintendent, Santa Barbara County Education Office; and **Aaron Carter**, Senior Director Teaching and Learning, Lake COE and a member of the Rural Math Collaborative. [Register »](#)

Immigration Policy and Resources, Jan. 23, 10 a.m.

CSBA's Legal, Governmental Relations and Research and Education Policy Development staff will **review all aspects of immigration policy related to California public schools, with particular attention paid to any potential executive orders issued or legislation passed by the new presidential administration, United States Congress or the California Legislature**. In the meantime, [check out updated legal guidance from CSBA](#) intended to give local educational agency governing boards clarity **regarding their responsibilities under federal and state immigration law**, using information about current law and policy as of December 2024. [Register »](#)

Ethical AI in Education: Building transparent frameworks for the future, Jan. 29, 10 a.m.

Designed for decision-makers and practitioners, this **webinar presented by CSBA's AI Taskforce provides a roadmap for crafting artificial intelligence (AI) policies that align with organizational goals while safeguarding equity and transparency**. This webinar will **explore the benefits and challenges of AI in education**, including its **impact on curriculum delivery, student assessment and resource allocation**, and examine the **ethical concerns surrounding student privacy, data ownership and the intersection of technology with democratic values in education**. [Register »](#)

Learn more about upcoming CSBA events, trainings and resources available to help members address issues related to the budget, immigration, testing and accountability and more »

State update: CDE announces approved list of screeners for reading difficulties



The **California Department of Education (CDE)** on **Dec. 17** announced the **statewide list of approved screeners for reading difficulties** as part of the state's efforts to ensure all students can read by third grade. The screening instruments were selected by the Reading Difficulties Risk Screener Selection Panel (RDRSSP), established by Senate Bill 114 (TK-12 Education Omnibus Trailer Bill). The four tools were **selected using a process, rubric and evaluation criteria that prioritized the validity and reliability of the screening instruments.** [Learn more about the RDRSSP process, requirements and screening instruments »](#)

In other state news:

- Gov. Gavin **Newsom** on **Jan. 3** issued an **executive order** directing the **Executive Director** of the State Board of Education and the California Department of Education, by Oct. 1, 2025, **to identify areas where California may adopt higher standards for healthy school meals than national standards, but to take into account costs, logistical considerations and any other factors deemed relevant.** The order also calls for the California Department of Food and Agriculture and its Office of Farm to Fork to **explore developing new standards and partnerships to further protect and expand universal school food programs.** [Read the executive order »](#)

Federal update: Special Education Parent Information Centers applications open



The **U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services** is **accepting applications for the Special Education Parent Information Centers grant program** to help local educational agencies fund centers that serve parents of children with disabilities to ensure they receive high-quality, relevant, and useful training and information, with a goal of improving outcomes for children.

Applications are due by **March 3.** [Learn more »](#)

CTC takes deep dive into teacher workforce data



The **final meeting** of 2024 for the **California**



Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) debuted a new set of educator workforce dashboards and covered a wide range of teacher-centric, data-rich reports. CTC staff premiered new and enhanced assignment monitoring and educator workforce data dashboards to the commission prior to their public release. While previous dashboards focused solely on monitoring outcomes (e.g. number of misassignments, vacancies and local assignment options), the **new dashboards presents the credentialing compliance of local educational agencies** and is a critical component to ensure the rate of educator misassignments remains low. **The three new dashboards are: Educator Assignment Preparation, Statewide and Regional Trends, and Assignment Preparation by Service Area.**

The commission bid goodbye to former Natomas Unified School District trustee and CSBA Past President Susan Heredia, following her retirement from her school board in November. “Susan was appointed to the commission as a school board member representative in March 2021,” said CTC Chair Marquita Grenot-Scheyer. “Her experience and knowledge made her a very valued colleague. On behalf of the commission, I would like to thank Susan for her service and wish her well in her future endeavors.” [Read a full recap of the meeting on the CSBA blog »](#)

Safe-breathing zone delivered directly to LEAs



Accidents happen. Are your students covered? To help members best address insurance-related issues, **CSBA has joined forces with California’s leading provider of student accident and sickness insurance.** Myers-Stevens & Toohey is a full-service administrator based in Southern California that has worked closely with public K-12 schools for over 35 years. **CSBA’s sponsored catastrophic injury**

coverage is affordable and can be extended to cover all school activities, including travel to and from home and school. [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



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](#)

Masters in Governance Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/ Setting Direction

Feb. 3-March 10 | [Register](#)

Masters in Governance Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining

Feb. 6-7 | [Register](#)

Masters in Governance Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review

Feb. 12-13 | [Register](#)

In-person events

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

Jan. 22 | Apple Valley | 9 a.m. | [Register](#)

Jan. 22 | Apple Valley | 3 p.m. | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)





California School Boards Association | 3251 Beacon Blvd., West Sacramento, CA 95691
Phone: (800) 266-3382 | Fax: (916) 371-3407