



July 31, 2024

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CSBA lends expertise to SPI's education workforce housing initiative



On July 30, CSBA joined State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) Tony Thurmond, school district leaders and University of California researchers at the California Department of Education's headquarters in Sacramento to launch a statewide initiative that aims to increase employee housing on land owned by local educational agencies.

During the event, Andrew Keller, CSBA Senior

Director of Executive Office Operations and Strategic Initiatives who oversees the

organization's workforce housing efforts, explained that CSBA has been exploring the use of "surplus school property" since before the pandemic. The directive came from CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy who was determined to change how state policymakers and school officials view the land and its possible functions.

Some LEAs have considered selling surplus property for short-term financial gains, but Billy has long advocated for preserving assets and so they can benefit communities for years to come.

"As a matter of principle that is the idea behind this approach, it's keeping these assets in the community and finding ways that they can support the long-term financial health of these districts and county offices and ultimately benefit the students they serve by having those teachers stay in the community," Keller said.

With support from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative and in partnership with UCLA's cityLAB and UC Berkeley's Center for Cities + Schools, **CSBA released a [report](#) and a [companion handbook](#) explaining the process of creating education workforce housing. Additional resources include examples of projects and case studies from California, training materials and templates, research and media coverage and more — all of which are [available here](#). [Read a full recap of the press conference on the CSBA blog](#) »**

Has your legislator stood up for public schools this year?



For more than 30 years, CSBA has honored current members of the California Senate and Assembly, as well as members of Congress, who actively work to improve the state's public schools, support local school board governance and exercise leadership in the legislative arena. **The nomination period for the 2024 CSBA Legislative Awards Program is open through Sept. 6.**

CSBA encourages all school district and county office of education boards to nominate a member of the California State Legislature, the California Congressional delegation or federal/state elective or appointed office who has proven their dedication to supporting public schools. Nominees must be from within your local educational agency's boundaries.

School and county boards can nominate leaders from their district in one of five categories:

- Outstanding Legislator (State or Federal)
- Outstanding Freshman Legislator
- Special Recognition
- Albert S. Rodda Lifetime Achievement Award
- Dede Alpert Award for Exemplary Education Leadership

Nominations must be received by Sept. 6, 2024. [Learn how to nominate your local representatives »](#)

Student board members: Get ready to lead sessions at AEC!



Student board members attending the 2024 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show (AEC) from Dec. 5-7 in Anaheim are invited to submit a proposal and lead a workshop session. AEC offers a **unique platform for student trustees to share their invaluable insights, experiences and innovative ideas that can shape the future of education.** Students' firsthand experience with the current educational

landscape provides them with a unique vantage point that can contribute to meaningful discussions and solutions. **All trustees should encourage their student board member to voice their ideas and engage with fellow students, educators and trustees in a collaborative and impactful environment at AEC.**

Proposals related to this year's conference strands are being accepted through Sept. 13. To participate, complete the submission form [here](#). Collaborating with fellow students or local board members to enhance presentations is encouraged. Need assistance with your proposal or looking for a co-presenter? Feel free to reach out to the AEC team at aec@csba.org for guidance and support. [Learn more »](#)

In other student board member news:

- There is still time to **register for CSBA's Student Board Member Training program dates in August, September and October.** Upcoming topics include navigating roles, governance and legal compliance; mastering meeting protocol and stakeholder engagement; understanding budgeting and resource allocation and more. [Learn more and register »](#)

Legal update: Attorney General clarifies remote meeting accommodations for people with disabilities



On July 24, 2024, **California Attorney General Rob Bonta issued an opinion clarifying the interplay of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with the Brown Act requirement that legislative bodies of local agencies conduct their meetings in person at a location open to the public (Opinion No. 23-1002).** The specific question that prompted the opinion involved whether allowing remote

participation of a member of a legislative body could be a reasonable accommodation in light of the Brown Act requirement that meetings of such bodies be in person and at a location open to the public.

According to the Attorney General, such **remote participation could be a reasonable accommodation where the individual involved has a qualifying disability that precludes their in-person participation.** The Attorney General cautions that even when such accommodation is granted, **the remote participation must be conducted in a manner that simulates in-person attendance, namely, by using two-way live video and audio streaming and disclosing the identity of any adults present in the room with the member.**

County Board Transitional Working Group update



All county board members were recently invited to complete an electronic survey that included questions about priority training topics specific to the county board member role and other relevant topics. **CSBA will use the survey results to help shape the content that will be offered during the CSBA County Board Member Services Conference — formerly known as the CCBE Annual Conference — in Monterey from Sept.**

13-15. Topics will include student mental health and wellness; county boards and county office of education budgets; shared governance; charter authorization, renewals and appeals; community schools; advanced advocacy legislative leadership; setting the superintendent's salary; and getting to know CSBA's governance structure and how to get involved. **The final schedule of workshops will be posted on Aug. 1. [Learn more and register »](#)**

In other Transitional Working Group news:

- **All county Delegates will continue to serve in their existing geographic region under the leadership of the Regional Director and will also serve in the new statewide Region 14,** under the leadership of Director John McPherson of Monterey County Office of Education. **Region 14 Delegates will meet at the September conference. Region 14 representatives include** McPherson, Angela Normand (Alameda COE), Michael Greer (Del Norte COE/Unified School District), Marcy Masumoto (Fresno COE), Lucy Hendry (Imperial COE), Monte Perez (Los Angeles COE), Janet Wohlgemuth (Monterey COE), David Patterson (Placer COE), JoDee Read (Plumas COE/USD), Laura Mancha (San Bernardino COE), Guadalupe Gonzalez (San Diego COE), Beverly Gerard (San Mateo COE), Maimona Afzal Berta (Santa Clara COE), Peggy Cohen-Thompson (Solano COE), Juliana Feriani (Tuolumne COE), Joe Enea (Tulare COE), Arleigh Kidd (Ventura COE) and Shelton Yip (Yolo COE).
- **Mike Walsh,** Butte COE trustee, member of the Transitional Working Group and former CSBA President, is **now the CSBA Director of County Board Member Services.**

What's Your Why? with Woodland Joint USD's Kandice Richardson Fowler



In CSBA's latest "What's Your Why?" video, **Woodland Joint Unified School District board member Kandice Richardson Fowler** cites the importance of listening to students as a means of making sure they're engaged. "What keeps me going is the kiddos — it's engaging with them, making sure their voice is heard, making sure we're answering the questions that need to be answered. What are your interests? How can we

get you more engaged? What are your passions? What are your goals for the future?" Fowler said.

"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. [View Fowler's and other videos from the "What's Your Why?" series »](#)

Let Total School Solutions help with your Facilities Master Plan



Do your facilities support your educational and programmatic goals? **A Facilities Master Plan provides a district with vital information regarding current and future needs for student housing, quality of existing facilities, and facilities renovation and expansion requirements to meet the district's educational and programmatic goals.** The master plan also

assists the district in identifying funding needs for capital improvement and developing financing options. **Total School Solutions facilities master plans include** accurate projections regarding enrollment, careful determination of school site capacity, educational specifications to ensure programmatic needs are served, a detailed need assessment, and conclusions and recommendations about the availability and timing of financing and funding. [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158
Aug. 14 | [Register](#)

Sponsors



Oct. 10 | [Register](#)

**Executive Assistant Omicron:
Governance 2A/2B**

Aug. 15-16 | [Register](#)

**Student Board Member Training:
Navigating Roles, Governance, and Legal
Compliance**

Aug. 19 | [Register](#)

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

Aug. 26-Oct. 7 | [Register](#)

**Student Board Member Training:
Mastering Meeting Protocol and
Stakeholder Engagement**

Sept. 9 | [Register](#)

**Executive Assistant Omicron: Job
Mechanics 3A/23B**

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

In-person events

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

Aug. 24 | Ventura | [Register](#)

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

Sept. 7 | Ventura | [Register](#)

**California School Board Ethics Pre-
Conference Training**

Sept. 12 | Monterey | [Register](#)

**Key Elements of the Brown Act Pre-
Conference Training**

Sept. 12 | Monterey | [Register](#)

**CSBA County Board Member Services
Conference**

Sept. 13-15 | Monterey | [Register](#)

Masters in Governance Course 1:

Loya, Ruud & Romo
A Professional Law Corporation



**Foundations of Effective Governance/
Setting Direction**

Sept. 21 | Tulare | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)



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