

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

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CSBA's AI Taskforce launches to study the use of artificial intelligence in schools



The explosive **growth of artificial intelligence (AI)** presents a chance to prepare students for careers in technology and to re-evaluate how technology influences governance, policy, operations, instruction and communication in public schools and adjust practices to set the stage for a better future. For these reasons, **CSBA** created its **AI Taskforce: Education in the**

Age of Artificial Intelligence, which met for the first time during the Annual Education Conference and Tradeshow in December and will continue its work this year. The AI Taskforce is a **multidisciplinary team of technology experts, board of education members, educators, school administrators, researchers, academics, and other school and community partners collaborating to provide guidance, promising practices, policies and legislative recommendations that address the challenges and opportunities posed by AI in our schools and society.**

The AI Taskforce **will ensure boards across the state are prepared to make informed governance decisions** on behalf of students entering a radically different era of teaching and learning. By harnessing the potential of AI technology in education, **CSBA aims to enhance learning outcomes and prepare students for the demands of the future workforce, while also addressing ethical concerns and guarding against the potential for abuse of AI in public schools.** [View the taskforce members »](#)

State updates: Updated COVID guidance



The **California Department of Public Health** announced **new COVID-19 guidance recommendations** on Jan. 9, reflecting a **more relaxed approach to isolation and testing**, and **allowing people who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have symptoms to return to work and school.** Under the new approach, if someone presents with COVID-19 symptoms, they should be tested as soon as

possible and wear a mask while in the company of others. People can resume their usual activities 24 hours after their symptoms improve and their fever is gone without the use of fever-reducing medications.

If someone is asymptomatic, the updated guidance says they can go about their normal activities but should avoid contact with high-risk individuals for 10 days and wear a mask indoors during this period. Previously, the state recommended a mandatory five-day isolation period for anyone testing positive for the virus. [Read the updated guidance »](#)

In other state updates:

- **State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond on Jan. 18 announced a mathematics convening**, calling on math educators and leaders, curriculum experts, researchers, industry professionals and ed-tech innovators to **submit innovative and effective professional development modules, training programs and curricula aligned to support California’s newly adopted Math Framework.** The submissions should emphasize proven strategies for increasing student proficiency and engagement in mathematics. The California Department of Education will host this convening, “Proven Professional Development in Mathematics,” on Jan. 26 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the CDE Board Room at 1430 N Street in Sacramento. The event will be livestreamed on the [CDE Facebook page](#). [Register to submit proposals and to participate in the event »](#)

Federal update: Department of Education announces plan to improve student achievement



On Jan. 17, the **U.S. Department of Education** announced a plan for states to provide more **tutoring, after-school and summer programs and funding to tackle chronic absenteeism**. The **“Improving Student Achievement Agenda for 2024”** was unveiled during an **event** with state leaders, during which Domestic Policy Advisor Neera Tanden cited data showing high rates of chronic absenteeism and how high-dosage

tutoring can accelerate student learning.

The initiative **urges states and districts to make specific, quantifiable commitments to double down on their investments in evidence-based strategies**, and encourages **states to identify the local educational agencies with the greatest gaps between pre-pandemic and current achievement levels — including gaps among student groups**. States should direct additional resources to those LEAs and **prioritize them for support in order to eliminate gaps as quickly as possible, targeting acceleration efforts like high-dosage tutoring and summer, extended and after-school learning time in LEAs and schools with the greatest need**. [Read more »](#)

In other federal news:

- The **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)** met Jan. 18 to discuss the agency’s **proposed changes to the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Rule**. Staff from the FTC’s Division of Privacy and Identity Protection provided an overview of the **proposed changes**, which include **addressing when schools may consent to the collection of personally identifiable data from younger students**, imposing limits on “nudging” children without parental consent, and strengthening the rule’s data security and data retention requirements.

State Board starts the year with a STEM-centered agenda



Kicking off the **first State Board of Education meeting in 2024** on Jan. 18, the board moved ahead on items related to assessment, instructional materials, guidance for local educational agencies, the California School Dashboard, grant allocations and more — with a particular focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM. Some of **the most in-depth discussions of the day**

covered guidance on the use of artificial intelligence in the classroom, next steps in the 2025 K-8 mathematics instructional materials adoption process, and a proposal

to include “performance tasks embedded in learning” that provide teachers and students authentic and engaging experiences through science exploration. [Read a full recap of the meeting on the CSBA blog »](#)

Budget Perspectives Workshop: Governor's Budget 2024–25



CSBA is partnering with Capitol Advisors to present the **Budget Perspectives Workshop: Governor's Budget 2024–25** in locations throughout the state. These **two-hour, in-person workshops are taking place in more than 30 locations, with three virtual options available** as well. Some workshops have already taken place since CSBA announced them last week, so don't miss your chance to take a deep dive into

the Governor's Budget Proposal! [Register »](#)

School Board Recognition Month continues



January is **School Board Recognition Month**, a time to **salute** the more than 5,000 California school district and county office of education board members — **the largest group of elected officials in the state** — that aid in supporting student success by establishing their local educational agency's mission, vision, policy, priorities, budget and benchmarks.

To continue the celebration, **San Carlos School District Board Vice President Neil Layton shares his “why” in the latest video in CSBA's What's Your Why? series.** His mother's 25-year tenure as a classroom teacher taught him the importance of public education, Layton said, “**but more importantly, always having different perspectives on the board and different people who bring different backgrounds and voices — that's what got me started in wanting to be a school board trustee.**” Learn what inspires him now. [Watch Layton's What's Your Why? video »](#)

Register now for Business Partner webinar on technological integration in schools



Register for the **Feb. 6 CSBA Business Partner webinar, "Elevate, Educate and Empower: The tech-forward California classroom,"** with **Lincoln Learning Solutions.** This webinar zeroes in on the pivotal role of technological



integration in addressing current educational challenges. Learn how the Lincoln Content Bank, a comprehensive digital repository of educational

resources, can redefine teaching and learning experiences by **providing equitable access to high-quality, engaging and contemporary instructional materials for all students, thereby fostering inclusivity and equity.** The Lincoln Content Bank also supports educators by offering ready-to-use resources that reduce preparation time and enhance teaching effectiveness. [Register »](#)

Districts can diversify investments with OPEB Solutions Program



The OPEB Solutions Program is a full-service GASB-compliant, IRS-approved **trust program designed to help local educational agencies safely and securely set aside funds to address and lower your Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability.** This program gives districts local control of assets, providing LEAs with the flexibility to make contributions as deemed appropriate and the ability to access and

withdraw funds to pay for OPEB expenses at any time. [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

Student Board Member Trainings

Advocacy and Engagement | Jan. 29 |

[Register](#)

Transition Planning, Legacy Building, and

Next steps | April 15 | [Register](#)

Student Board Member Governance Q&A and Networking

Feb. 12 | [Register](#)

March 4 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

Feb. 21-22 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining

Feb. 26-March 18 | [Register](#)

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Governance with an Equity Lens

March 1-4 | [Register](#)

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

March 13-14 | [Register](#)

The Brown Act

March 26 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 3: School Finance Part 1 and Part 2

April 3-4 | [Register](#)



In-person events

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/ Collective Bargaining

Feb. 3 | Sunnyvale | [Register](#)

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

Feb. 10 | Monterey | [Register](#)

The Brown Act

Feb. 20 | Riverside | [Register](#)

Recentering Governance Practices with an Equity Lens

March 1-4 | West Sacramento | [Register](#)

2024 CSBA County Board Governance Workshop

March 8-9 | Sacramento | [Register](#)

MIG Course 3: School Finance

March 9 | Monterey | [Register](#)

MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration

March 16 | Sunnyvale | [Register](#)

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/ Collective Bargaining

April 6 | Monterey | [Register](#)

Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip

April 8-10 | Washington, D.C. | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)



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