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State assessment results show little progress, raising concern for big picture



The **2023–24 scores for statewide English language arts (ELA), math and science assessments released** by the California Department of Education (CDE) on Oct. 10 **show little improvement or decline** in most student groups compared to the previous year. **California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress results**, which represent students in grades 3-8 and 11 for math and ELA and grades

5, 8 and 10-12 for science, show that 47 percent of students met or exceeded the standard for ELA — a very slight uptick from 46.7 percent in 2022–23 academic year — and 35.5 percent met or exceeded math standards — up from 34.6 percent. The rate of

students meeting or exceeding science standards increased slightly from 30.2 percent in 2022–23 to 30.7 percent this year. [Read an analysis on the CSBA blog »](#)

“Despite incremental improvement of less than half a percentage point in ELA and less than one percentage point in Mathematics, overall student performance remains below pre-pandemic levels — which were already unacceptable. **While we continue to study the data, our initial review of the 2023–24 state assessment results provides some evidence that the leadership of local governing boards and superintendents produced pockets of positive results — but the rate of growth is simply not enough to achieve our goals for the public education system. Nor is it sufficient to provide all current students with the skills needed for academic success,**” said CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy. [Read Billy’s full statement »](#)

CSBA releases full report on the burdens of LEA reporting requirements



For years, school district leaders sounded the alarm: Student needs have multiplied in the wake of the pandemic hours in the day remain finite; and yet, local educational agencies are expected to complete an ever-growing number of plans, reports and data submissions. **CSBA’s Research and Education Policy Development (REPD) Department released a comprehensive list of the myriad state and federal reports they must**

submit in support of CSBA-sponsored Senate Bill 1315, signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in September. The new law requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to report to the Governor and Legislature the total number of reports, scope of reports and recommendations on which reports should be maintained, combined or eliminated.

However, a list alone can’t offer guidance for improving the system. REPD worked with local district, county and state leaders to gather data about how these requirements impact LEAs at the local level. A new report, [Drowning in Documentation: Toward More Effective and Manageable LEA Reporting](#), the result of that research. Among key findings, the report **details the cumbersome nature of existing requirements, including issues with volume, timing, redundancy and frequency, along with issues moving between outdated data systems and the time spent adapting to changing requirements.** [Read the full report »](#)

CSBA resources for National Bullying Awareness Month



October is National Bullying Awareness Month, a **timely reminder for local educational agencies that safe and supportive school environments can help prevent bullying.** Governance teams can support their LEAs **by reviewing policies and regulations, analyzing data on bullying in**



their districts and county offices of education and advocating for ways to improve student and staff well-being and school climate.

CSBA's [Safe Schools Toolkit](#) covers both [bullying prevention](#) and [supporting a positive school climate](#).

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in 2021, **one in five teenagers experienced bullying at school and one in six experienced cyberbullying**. Bullying can cause lasting emotional, psychological, and educational harm to both victims and perpetrators. Since the 2018 passage of Assembly Bill 2291, all LEAs are required to adopt procedures for preventing acts of bullying and cyberbullying. **This brief links to various resources to assist LEAs in the work of building safe and inclusive schools so all students can learn and thrive.** [Read the “Bullying and Cyberbullying” brief »](#)

State update: CDE announces Teachers of the Year



The California Department of Education has named five exceptional educators as the **2025 California Teachers of the Year**. **These educators are ambassadors of the profession and serve as representatives of the state for the calendar year.** The Teachers of the Year are: Matthew Winheim, a middle school STEM aviation and mathematics teacher at Space Aeronautics Gateway to Exploration Magnet Academy in the

Palmdale Unified School District; Kristen LoPrell, a high school math and Advanced Placement Calculus teacher at Grossmont High School in the **Grossmont Union High School District**; Robert Mauger, a high school career technical education transportation automotive teacher at Corona High School in the **Corona-Norco USD**; Nicholas Westfall, a high school physical education teacher at Alexander Hamilton Senior High School in the **Los Angeles USD**; and Arby Jean Wolkov, a high school American Sign Language teacher at William Howard Taft Charter High School in the **Los Angeles USD**.

What's Your Why? with Sutter COE's Harjit Singh



For as long as he can remember, Harjit Singh has had one passion in life: Helping others. Now, as a board member for Sutter County Office of Education, he fulfills this passion. **"My why is helping others, having an impact and making sure that the youth of today have the skills that they need to really be the leaders of tomorrow,"** said Singh.

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 Singh's and other videos from the "What's Your Why" series »](#)

Coverage you need to ensure student and district safety



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 Networking Call
Nov. 4 | [Register](#)

Masters in Governance Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining
Nov. 6-7 | [Register](#)

The Role of the School Board in Achieving Equity Through Strategic Budgeting
Nov. 14-15 | [Register](#)

Sponsors



In-person events

Small School District Financial Workshop

Nov. 2 | San Jose | [Register](#)



[View complete calendar](#)

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