

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

October 23, 2024

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Court-ordered state task force recommends changes to detect and curtail charter school fraud



In late September, the **California State Controller released a report with recommendations intended to combat charter school fraud**. Development of the recommendations was ordered by a San Diego Superior Court judge following the criminal cases associated with the Academics Arts and Action Education charter school network. **The court order involved the formation of the Multi-Agency Charter School Audits Task Force, which was led by Controller Malia**

Cohen and included representatives from several organizations including CSBA. The task force's objective was to examine “the audit functions of the California charter schools and **develop comprehensive guidelines that will assist charter school authorizers, county offices of education, California Department of Education, and State Controller’s Office to promptly identify financial issues or misconduct.”**

Recommendations focused on improvements in the following areas:

- Certified public accountant firm authorization, qualifications, training, evaluation and compliance with K-12 audit guide
- Certified public accountant firm selection, rotation and late audit report notifications
- K-12 audit guide procedures
- Financial statement audit report disclosures

[View a full copy of the report and recommendations »](#)

Recognize Safe Schools Week with CSBA’s safety toolkit



America’s Safe Schools Week, observed from Oct. 20-26, 2024, emphasizes the importance of creating safe learning environments and encourages communities to work together to prevent violence and ensure the well-being of students and staff. CSBA’s Safe Schools Toolkit is available to support local educational agencies in their efforts to adopt policies, establish procedures and more

to promote safe school climates where students can learn and thrive. [Download the toolkit »](#)

October newsletter available online



The October edition of *California School News* is packed with **need-to-know information for local educational agencies**. Check out a **recap of the CSBA County Board Member Conference**; a preview of what to expect from the **2024 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show keynote speakers**; **tips for welcoming and onboarding new governance team members**; a detailed explainer of the

need for **Proposition 2, the statewide school facilities bond**; the importance of the **Local Control Funding Formula** and educating new legislators about the law; **legal analysis of recent legislation impacting the school curriculum adoption process** and much more. [Read the newsletter »](#)

Commission on Teacher Credentialing examines preparation programs



The **California Commission on Teacher Credentialing** met on Oct. 17-18 to discuss the **status of teacher preparation programs**, move forward work on **revised criteria for the state's Child Development Permit** and decide upon **alternate assessment options for candidates** that find themselves in between official reading tests as the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) is set to sunset on June 30,

2025. [Read a full recap of the meeting on the CSBA blog »](#)

Federal update: Twelve California LEAs among awardees of school-based mental health services grants



On Oct. 17, the **Biden-Harris Administration** announced an **additional investment of \$70 million to expand student access to school-based mental health services** across the nation to help local educational agencies meet the Administration's **goal of doubling the number of school counselors, social workers, psychologists and other school-based mental health professionals**. A dozen LEAs throughout

California received grants. [View the full list of awardees »](#)

Other federal news:

- **Two California school principals were awarded the national Terrel H. Bell Award for Outstanding School Leadership**: Paulette Smith from Madison Elementary School in San Leandro Unified School District and Principal Belinda Averill from South Lake Middle School in Irvine USD. The award **honors school leaders who are committed to education as a powerful and liberating force in people's lives. They are among just nine school leaders nationwide selected from the 2024 cohort of National Blue Ribbon Schools.**

Let Total School Solutions help with your Facilities Master Plan



Up-to-date facilities can support the educational and programmatic goals of local educational agencies. **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 its educational and programmatic goals. The

master plan also assists 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

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](#)

The Brown Act
Nov. 15 | [Register](#)

Masters in Governance Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration
Dec. 18-19 | [Register](#)

In-person events

Masters in Governance Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration
Nov. 16 | Ventura | [Register](#)

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158
Nov. 18 | Downey | [Register](#)

Sponsors



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