

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

October 30, 2024

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Assessing 2023–24 CAASPP scores and achievement gaps



The California Department of Education recently released the results of the 2023–24 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress. **CDE celebrated these results** because some historically disadvantaged student groups saw positive progress that outpaced statewide averages in math and English language arts. While **there was notable improvement in some assessment areas, particularly for**

Hispanic or Latino and African American students, the statewide improvement rate

was exceptionally modest, and achievement gaps across student groups remain consistent.

CSBA Principal Research Manager Jeremy Anderson reviewed the data and is sharing his findings in a [blog post for members](#), offering a practical breakdown of average performance by student group, achievement gaps and why more needs to be done to support historically disadvantaged students. [Read the blog »](#)

State update: Deadline to request an ESSER liquidation extension approaches



California local educational agencies interested in **applying for a liquidation extension for the third and final round of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds have until this Friday, Nov. 1**, to do so. Related details and the application form can be found on the California Department of Education's (CDE) [website](#).

Expenditures were required to be obligated by Sept. 30, 2024. The U.S. Department of Education previously issued guidance allowing LEAs to request liquidation extensions for the funds on a project-by-project basis. **Should extensions be granted, individual obligations may be liquidated up to 18 months after the Sept. 30 obligation date.**

In other state news:

- On Oct. 25, the CDE published **updated [School Outdoor Air Quality Activity Recommendations](#)**. The recommendations aim to help education leaders make informed decisions on potential campus closures and to conduct activities based on air quality conditions when a community is experiencing wildfire smoke.

Federal update: AI toolkit for education leaders



On Oct. 24, the U.S. Department of Education published the **toolkit, “[Empowering Education Leaders: A Toolkit for Safe, Ethical, and Equitable AI Integration](#),”** which offers **guidance on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in classrooms**. The document has three primary areas of focus: mitigating risk, building strategies for AI integration in the instructional core and maximizing opportunity.

Representatives from multiple California school districts, including Fremont Unified School District, El Segundo USD, Lynwood USD, San Ramon USD and Mountain View-Los Altos Union School District, served as contributing members of the educational leader community on the project. [Access the toolkit »](#)

In other federal news:

- **Final rules that require lead pipes in schools across the country to be replaced within the next decade were recently released** by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with a goal of reducing lead contamination in drinking water. **Also announced was \$2.6 billion in new drinking water infrastructure funding** through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which may be used to support the replacement of lead pipes. [Learn more »](#)

CSBA officer candidates



Pursuant to Standing Rule 222, C (10), **the Candidate Review Committee interviewed the first-round candidates in person on Aug. 24.** Debra Schade, Solana Beach School District, was interviewed for the Office of President-elect. David Gracia, Napa Valley Unified School District, and Sabrena Rodriguez, Ventura USD, were interviewed for the Office of Vice President. The Candidate Review Committee recommends Debra

Schade for the Office of President-elect and Sabrena Rodriguez for the Office of Vice President.

Second round nominations closed on Oct. 20, and there were no new candidates nominated for either office. For more information and to read the candidate statements, [click here »](#)

What's Your Why? with Needles USD's Christina Cameron



Board President Christina Cameron of Needles Unified School District believes the public education system is the way to elevate all students and even the playing field among California's children. "That's why I do what I do," said Cameron in the latest What's Your Why? video. Cameron, who serves as CSBA Director-at-Large, American Indian, **also spoke on how [CSBA's Annual Education Conference and](#)**

[Trade Show](#), happening this year from Dec. 5-7 in Anaheim, is the perfect opportunity to network and gain new ideas and fresh perspectives on situations many local educational agencies face.

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

School Boards in Action: 5 Questions with Kailee Watson, Desert Sands USD



In CSBA's continuing effort to highlight the hard work and effective practices of boards throughout the state, the association's 5 Questions blog series shares the experiences of board members. In this interview, **Desert Sands Unified School District Board President Kailee Watson** discusses why she is passionate about being a trustee, offers advice to other board of education members on the importance of

relationship building and gives updates on happenings in the local educational agency. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Interested in participating in CSBA's 5 Questions series? Email editor@csba.org.

Maximize your budget, lower administrative costs and streamline the procurement process



Since 1998, BuyBoard has been providing local educational agencies with increased purchasing power, lower administrative costs and compliance with legal requirements. **BuyBoard vendors have been awarded contracts for products and services through a competitive procurement process, thereby giving members the opportunity for bulk discounts, combined with the ease of online shopping.** Find everything

from classroom teaching aid supplies and equipment and furniture to custodial supplies and equipment or field lighting products. [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](#)

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

**Masters in Governance Course 5:
Community Relations & Advocacy/
Governance Integration**

Sponsors



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 | 1:30 p.m. | [Register](#)

Nov. 18 | Downey | 5 p.m. | [Register](#)



[View complete calendar](#)