



November 27, 2024

In this Issue

- Modest progress on School Dashboard continues trend of sluggish growth
- LAO releases much-anticipated state budget revenue projections for 2025–26
- Federal update: New FAFSA form released
- CSBA webinar breaks down the basics of behavioral threat assessment
- Read the latest edition of *California School News*
- IQC makes selections for new math instructional materials reviewers
- Convert property ownership into an active asset

Modest progress on School Dashboard continues trend of sluggish growth



The California Department of Education (CDE) unveiled **the latest edition of the California School Dashboard** on Nov. 21, touting “continued progress in academic achievement and graduation rates” and a “decline in chronic absenteeism.” While some growth was evident, a look at the underlying data reveals a more complicated picture of student performance — one that **demands greater scrutiny of the status quo,**

increased investment in public schools, and wider replication of local strategies that have accelerated student achievement and well-being.

Overall, the snapshot of student performance shows that, starting from a low baseline, most student groups are demonstrating modest improvement, but at an extremely sluggish pace that will fail to close achievement gaps or vault overall student performance to an acceptable level within this generation or the next. [View CSBA's summary of the data »](#)

LAO releases much-anticipated state budget revenue projections for 2025–26



On Nov. 20, the state's nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) released its [annual fiscal outlook](#) for the 2025–26 state budget. Slightly higher state revenues driven by continued stock market growth means the LAO's assessment offers a brighter picture than last year's dismal forecast, but storm clouds remain on the horizon due to weakness in the overall state economy, the unpredictability of

future tax revenues, and fiscal pressures that are problematic for local educational agencies.

An important tool for the Legislature, the LAO's fiscal outlook provides the Assembly and the Senate, as well as the public, an independent and critical analysis of the state budget, its revenues and what to expect as Gov. Gavin Newsom prepares the release of his January Budget Proposal. The report provides a valuable assessment of the state's financial health for the current budget year and into the near future. [Read CSBA's breakdown of the report »](#)

Federal update: New FAFSA form released



On Nov. 21, the U.S. Department of Education [published the 2025–26 Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\) form](#) for those seeking financial aid for college or career school. The new form incorporates feedback from students, parents and educators and withstood multiple rounds of testing following the previous year's botched rollout. A number of accompanying resources, including a [tool](#) to help applicants

determine who needs to provide contributor information and an [aid estimator](#), are also available on the [federal student aid website](#).

In other federal news:

- The Education Department's Office of Civil Rights published the [guidance document "Avoiding the Discriminatory Use of Artificial Intelligence"](#) for use by K-12 educators to ensure the technology is used in accordance with federal civil rights laws.

- The Education Department released the guidance document “**Using Functional Behavioral Assessments to Create Supportive Learning Environments**” that provides information on the topic as well as behavioral plans to address student behavior with a focus on how such evidence based-practices can lessen reliance on exclusionary discipline.

CSBA webinar breaks down the basics of behavioral threat assessment



Creating a sense of trust within an education setting so community members feel comfortable reporting concerning behaviors is a key component to stopping potential incidents and keeping campuses safe, according to panelists at CSBA's Nov. 21 webinar, “**Spotting the Signals: Understanding behavioral threat assessment.**”

The event provided background on the model and its uses, information on how local educational agencies can implement their own behavioral threat assessment team and related resources. [Read a full recap »](#)

Read the latest edition of *California School News*



The **November newsletter is here and features details on training opportunities for new trustees**, a recap of CSBA's recent legislative wins and legal action to protect Proposition 98, a new resource on reporting requirements and a **farewell message from outgoing CSBA President Albert Gonzalez**. Also covered is a brief on how local educational agencies can leverage the Local Control and Accountability Plan

for strategic governance and improved student outcomes, legislation to provide accurate native American studies curricula, the latest on parental notification rights, a policy update about regular school attendance and participation and more. [Read the newsletter »](#)

IQC makes selections for new math instructional materials reviewers

At its last **meeting** of 2024, the **Instructional Quality Commission (IQC)** on **Nov. 20** considered applications for instructional materials reviewers (IMRs) and content review experts (CREs) for the **2025 Mathematics**



Instructional Materials Adoption and voted on the list of individuals it is recommending to the State Board of Education.

Recruitment efforts took place between April and September 2024 and California Department of Education staff presented 165 IMR and seven CRE applicants for consideration by the IQC — all of whom were approved. [Read a full meeting recap »](#)

Convert property ownership into an active asset

**Property
Planning**
Solutions



Property Planning Solutions by DCG Strategies aims to **help school leaders explore the ways in which their real estate assets can be leveraged** to secure additional funding for district initiatives, equip students with the education and experiences they need to be successful, invest in deferred facilities maintenance and capital improvements, reduce cost and liability from holding closed or grossly underutilized sites,

bolster general fund reserves and even attract new staff. School leaders and board members can gain access to real estate experts that work to align a local educational agency's priorities with the realities of the real estate market. Services include **real estate consulting, property planning, strategic asset management, educator housing development and real property brokerage services.** [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

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

**Student Board Member Training:
Understanding Budget and Resource
Allocation**
Jan. 13 | [Register](#)

**Masters in Governance Course 1:
Effective Governance/Setting Direction**
Jan. 15-16 | [Register](#)

Executive Assistant: Understanding

Sponsors



Culture 1A/1B

Jan. 16-17 | [Register](#)

Orientation for New Trustees

Jan. 22 | [Register](#)

Orientation for New Trustees for COEs

Jan. 22 | [Register](#)

**CERTIFICATES OF
PARTICIPATION
Program**

In-person events

**2024 Annual Education Conference and
Trade Show**

Dec. 5-7 | Anaheim | [Register](#)

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

Jan. 9 | Woodland | [Register](#)

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

Jan. 10 | Woodland | [Register](#)

**Masters in Governance Course 3: School
Finance, Parts 1 & 2**

Jan. 11 | Woodland | [Register](#)

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

Jan. 11 | Visalia | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)