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Legislative Action Week is underway!



The **flagship three-day virtual legislative advocacy event connecting school district and county board members with members of the California Legislature and their staff is happening now!** More than 300 governance team members are meeting with their local senators, assemblymembers and legislative staff this week to shine light on the critical issues facing California's schools and influence vital budget and

legislative issues.

Prepared with training, tips, talking points and reference materials provided by CSBA's Governmental Relations team, Legislative Action Week participants are advocating to maintain Proposition 98 investments and voicing support for bills including **Senate Bill 1315** on assessing annual reporting requirements for local educational agencies; **Assembly Bill 2831**, which seeks to give small school districts greater access to the state's school facilities program; and **AB 247** and **SB 28** to put a school facilities bond on the November ballot.

Customizable budget presentation available to CSBA members



Local educational agencies across California are starting to feel the headwinds of a possible financial storm. The historic pandemic-era federal relief, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief, is set to expire in September and state budget projections indicate a deficit that may impact school funding from Sacramento. On top of that, enrollment patterns across the state are trending downward.

District and county board members need to engage their communities to help them understand how these factors combine to impact local budgets. CSBA's Research and Education Policy Development department has created a **customizable PowerPoint presentation** that LEAs can use to help explain the current state budget situation, with opportunities to juxtapose it with their local budget. This comprehensive tool can help boards connect with their communities so that they fully grasp the different dynamics impacting local budgets. [View the template and additional state budget resources »](#)

New brief from CSBA and Attendance Works: Using chronic absence data to create change



Considered an early warning sign of academic risk for all grade levels, **chronic absence is plaguing schools in California and across the nation.** The brief "**Seize the Data: Using Chronic Absence Data to Drive Student Engagement,**" a joint publication of CSBA and Attendance Works, provides an overview of chronic absenteeism in California and information on the student groups it impacts

most as well as questions that board members can consider when assessing the issue, ways to address it and related resources.

"Chronic absenteeism is not returning to pre-pandemic levels as quickly as we would

hope. This carries a whole range of negative consequences for students that extend beyond just academic achievement,” said CSBA Principal Research Manager [Jeremy Anderson](#) — one of the brief’s authors. **“We want board members to know they play a critical role in engaging with their LEA communities to encourage attendance and make students feel like they want to return to the classroom.”** [Read the brief »](#)

A new edition of *California Schools* magazine is here



How career technical education unites job training and academics, school closure guidance and best practices for local educational agencies and ways school systems are striving to help newcomer students succeed are covered in the latest issue of *California Schools* magazine. Other topics explored include Glendale USD’s Super Tutors program, the benefits of expanded learning

opportunities, findings from a recent study from the American Institutes on Research on the association between school safety and student outcomes, tips on establishing governance agreements and legal trends. The issue features **interviews with 2023 Board Member of the Year Mary Helen Ybarra** of Corona-Norco USD and **2024 CSBA President Albert Gonzalez** of Santa Clara USD as well as a **CEO’s note on challenges related to unfunded mandates.** [Read the magazine »](#)

CSBA Delegate Assembly election: Ballots due March 15



Ballots for this year’s CSBA Delegate Assembly, in subregions that have elections, were mailed to school districts and county offices of education by Feb. 1. **Completed ballots should be returned to CSBA’s West Sacramento office and must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service no later than Friday, March 15, to be valid. All districts, county offices of education and candidates will be notified of the results by**

April 1. Run-off elections will be conducted in the case of tie votes. All new and re-elected Delegates are eligible to attend the May 18-19 Delegate Assembly meeting in Sacramento. [Learn more about CSBA’s Delegate Assembly and candidates for election »](#)

State update: Year 4 ESSER and GEER Annual Reporting support



The **California Department of Education (CDE)**



Federal Stimulus Team is holding an office hour at 10 a.m., March 19, to support local educational agencies with the Year 4 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) and Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Annual Reports. Year 4 Annual Reporting is now open and is scheduled

to close April 5, 2024. These reports are applicable to activities that occurred July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023. The CDE's session will focus on answering questions about the reports. **The department strongly recommends LEAs begin the reporting process prior to the office hour so that they can have their questions answered. This session will not be recorded. [Register now »](#)**

BuyBoard spotlight: EV buses and charging stations



To recognize National Procurement Month in March, CSBA is kicking off a procurement spotlight that will highlight BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative vendors that are regularly used by local educational agencies across California. The rigorous criteria of both CSBA and BuyBoard ensure that these vendors meet high expectations for quality and service.

BuyBoard members can purchase **EV buses from A-Z Bus Sales and Model 1 (carrier of BYD bus models)**. These vendors are among the nation's largest bus dealers with large selections of zero-emissions student transportation. Both are long-established bus dealers in California and are passionate about the environment and the community. Members can also find **charging stations from A-Z Bus Sales** through BuyBoard. These BuyBoard products have already been competitively procured, saving districts valuable time and resources. For more information, contact Doug Williams at 425-260-4423 or douglas.williams@buyboard.com.

Raise funds needed for real property acquisitions and capital improvements

CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION
Program

CSBA's Certificates of Participation program **assists California school districts, county offices of education and community college districts in their efforts to raise funds for capital equipment or real property acquisitions and improvements** and allows capital project finance or loan refinancing without voter approval. Finance construction, renovations, equipment, energy projects and more with fast and efficient

financing. [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

The Brown Act

March 26 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration

April 8-May 6 | [Register](#)

Executive Assistants Certification Program Xi Cohort

April 11-June 21 | [Register](#)

Student Board Member Trainings

Transition Planning, Legacy Building, and Next steps | April 15 | [Register](#)

The Role of the School Board in Achieving Equity Through Strategic Budgeting

April 19-20 | [Register](#)

In-person events

Small School District Financial Workshop

March 23 | Orland | [Register](#)

April 6 | San Bernardino | [Register](#)

April 20 | Fowler | [Register](#)

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining

April 6 | Monterey | [Register](#)

Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip

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

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

April 13 | Redding | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

Sponsors





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