

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

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CSBA seeks to address persistent problems encountered by local charter school authorizers



Recent developments at the state and local levels have highlighted a few troubling deficiencies in current law related to the charter school authorization process. These issues exacerbate the difficulties that both school districts and county boards of education experience in carrying out the careful steps required to fairly evaluate petitions to establish new charter schools. In response, **CSBA, along with Napa Valley Unified School**

District and Vallejo City USD, have co-sponsored Senate Bill 1380 (Dodd, D-Napa) to address the deficiencies and fix a critical loophole that persisted after recent reforms to the Charter Schools Act in 2019.

Among other things, SB 1380 would explicitly authorize a county board of education to make a finding to deny a countywide petition if a substantially similar petition has previously been denied by the governing board of a school district in which the charter school proposes to operate, locate or place its school facilities. The bill would also revise and expand the conditions under which a school district may find it is not in a position to absorb the fiscal impact of the proposed charter school. [Read a full analysis of the bill on the CSBA blog »](#)

Budget events bring CSBA out into the field



CSBA Public Affairs and Community Engagement Representative (PACER) Sarah Bradshaw provided a recap of two separate events in which **CSBA Chief of Governmental Relations Patrick O'Donnell and Legislative Director Chris Reeve discussed with local trustees across the Los Angeles region the importance of advocacy, provided analysis of Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposed state budget** and how it conflicts with

deficit estimates provided by Legislative Analyst's Office, and more. Also **in attendance were Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, chair of the California Assembly Education Committee; Sen. Ben Allen, former chair of the Senate Education Committee; and Speaker Emeritus Anthony Rendon.** [Read the full breakdown on the CSBA blog »](#)

CCEE meeting covers Statewide System of Support Resource Hub, other tools



During the **California Collaborative for Educational Excellence's first board meeting of the year** on Feb. 29, **staff presented the Statewide System of Support Resource Hub, which provides information on state-funded initiatives meant to boost student outcomes and support educators, and other tools available to local educational agencies.** A

product of the CCEE's Transformative Systems for Equitable Educational Outcomes Center (TSEE), the **hub includes more than 130 statewide projects, grants and initiatives, and houses related webinars, toolkits, learning modules, reference guides, self-assessment frameworks and more.** Users can search by initiative, student group, state performance indicators, resource type and additional criteria to find materials that meet their needs. The hub will continue to be updated.

The Statewide System of Support, which CCEE works to grow and strengthen, is intended to connect LEAs to a network of lead agencies (typically located within select county offices of education) that share expertise, program knowledge and resources with educators so they can identify solutions to local issues. **Other TSEE tools discussed were the recently released [Levers for System Change: LEA Self-Assessment website](#) to evaluate an LEA's infrastructure and the [Statewide System of Support Directory](#) that features contact information for all state-funded education initiatives. [Read a full recap of the meeting on the CSBA blog »](#)**

Federal update: New guidance on Title I preschool services



The U.S. Department of Education released **new guidance** on the use of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title I, Part A funds for preschool programs to help local educational agencies and states expand access to high-quality preschool opportunities. The guidance includes ways LEAs can **partner with community organizations and Head Start programs** to extend programs for

children most at risk of not meeting academic standards and **addresses the importance and requirements for coordination with other federal programs, especially for students with disabilities**. It also **clarifies how LEAs can use funds to provide professional development to teachers and paraprofessionals**, including using funds to encourage paraprofessionals to transition to teachers. The new guidance **was released with a [Dear Colleague letter](#)** on Feb. 26 from the Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services **emphasizing utilizing a mixed-delivery approach when providing preschool services**. [Read the guidance »](#)

Other federal news:

- On Feb. 29, Congress passed [House Resolution 7463](#) to extend the deadline to pass the 12 Appropriations bills that make up the fiscal year 2024 Federal Budget. The deadline for passing the bill containing the education budget has been extended to March 22. The U.S. Department of Education's largest K-12 program — Title I-A under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act — has reportedly been a significant point of contention among lawmakers.

State update: ESSER and GEER Annual Reports

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund and Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund Year 4 Annual Reporting is open March 6–April 5. These reports are applicable to activities that



occurred between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023. The **California Department of Education will be hosting an [Annual Reporting Walk-through and Technical Assistance webinar](#) on March 7 from 10–11:30 a.m. to review the ESSER and GEER Funds Annual Reporting and support local educational agencies** so they can effectively and efficiently complete the reporting requirements developed by the U.S.

Department of Education. [Register »](#)

Other state news:

- State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond on Feb. 29 **announced** that **293 middle schools and high schools had been selected for the 2024 California Distinguished Schools Program**, which **recognizes two categories of exceptional schools: those closing the achievement gap and those demonstrating exceptional student performance**. The California Department of Education uses multiple measures to identify eligible schools based on their performance on the state indicators as specified on the California School Dashboard. [Read the list of awardees »](#)

What's Your Why? with San Mateo Union HSD board member Greg Land



In CSBA's latest **"What's Your Why?"** video, **San Mateo Union High School District board member Greg Land explains how** a job as a camp counselor in college propelled him into a career in education — first as a teacher, then as an administrator and now as a trustee. **"I really feel that getting involved is important,"** Land said. **"I want to make a difference for kids in their lives and that's what I've been striving to**

do."

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

CSBA takes home several CalSPRA awards, blog named one of best in California

CSBA took home five awards at the **March 1 California School Public Relations Association (CalSPRA) Annual Awards Gala**, including



awards of excellence for features included in recent issues of *California Schools* magazine — “**Embracing students with disabilities: Inclusive classrooms require investment in supports and teacher training — and lead to gains for all,**” “**Combating fentanyl in schools: Education leaders must be partners in addressing opioid overdoses among students**” and “**Connecting to curb chronic absenteeism:**

How relationship-building and supports are replacing an outdated punitive approach” — and the **April 2023 issue of *California School News***, as well as an award of merit for the feature “**The New Frontier in School Safety: Best Practices for Preventing and Preparing for Cyberattacks in K-12 Schools.**”

Additionally, the **CSBA blog** was selected on **Feb. 25** as one of **Feedspot’s Top 25 California Education Blogs**, alongside the likes of University of California, *EdSource* and *CalMatters*. Blogs were selected by a panel and ranked by traffic, social media followers and other metrics.

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

MIG Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review
March 13-14 | [Register](#)

The Brown Act
March 26 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration

Sponsors



Leading with purpose.



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

**MIG Course 5: Community Relations &
Advocacy/Governance Integration**

March 16 | Sunnyvale | [Register](#)

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

March 22 | West Sacramento | [Register](#)

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](#)



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