

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

April 17, 2024

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A brief recap of the 2024 Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip



The **2024 ACSA-CSBA Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip** to Washington, D.C. was a resounding **success thanks to the dedication of our members** — around **260** of whom traveled about **2,800 miles** to advocate in the halls of Congress on behalf of California students. Trustees and superintendents **met with Senators Laphonza Butler and Alex Padilla, Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, Representatives Zoe**

Lofgren, Pete Aguilar and many more as they explained the needs and challenges schools face related to **increasing special education funding; teacher recruitment,**

retention and retirement efforts; reauthorizing the **Secure Rural Schools Act**; maintaining and expanding broadband access; and protecting student data and establishing cybersecurity resources.

General sessions were led by *Education Week* Assistant Editor Alyson Klein on **artificial intelligence (AI) in education**; White House Domestic Policy Advisor Neera Tanden and U.S. Deputy Education Secretary and former San Diego Unified School District Superintendent Cindy Marten on **federal education policy updates from the Biden Administration**; U.S. Department of Agriculture Acting Under Secretary Kumar Chandran on **school meals**; as well as Lake Research Partners Founder Celinda Lake and K12Counsel, LLC Founder Francisco M. Negrón Jr. We cannot wait to see you all again next year from April 28-30 in Washington, D.C. — registration opens in October 2024! [View a gallery of photos documenting this year's trip »](#)

Register now for CSBA's collective bargaining webinar



Join CSBA on **May 1 for Strategies for Collective Bargaining in Tough Financial Times**, a webinar vital for any local educational agency entering collective bargaining over the next few years. The prospect of **reduced state revenue, expiring federal COVID relief funds, declining enrollment and rising costs casts a shadow over labor negotiations, but CSBA experts** including General Counsel Kristin

Lindgren-Bruzzone, Chief of Policy and Governance Technology Services Joshua Daniels and Chief Legal Counsel Robert Tuerck, **as well as representatives from CSBA partner law firms are here to offer support and expertise to help trustees navigate this challenging time.** [Learn more and register »](#)

State update: California extends priority deadline for financial aid



Urgency legislation signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom has **extended California's priority deadline for financial aid to May 2, 2024.** **Local educational agencies are urged to help ensure that all graduating students complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA) before this deadline.** Despite federal efforts to address technical issues students face

when trying to complete the FAFSA, many students — particularly those from mixed-status families where students who are U.S. citizens or FAFSA-eligible non-U.S. citizens have one or more parents without a Social Security number — are facing a difficult identity-verification procedure and prolonged processing times that jeopardizes their

ability to apply for and receive financial aid that they are entitled to, which can derail their journey to higher education.

In response, the University of California, California State University, California Community Colleges, Newsom's Administration and the Legislature, and the California Student Aid Commission **announced** that **students from mixed-status families who have been unable to complete a FAFSA will be able to complete the CADAA**. This will allow more students who are applying for financial aid for the first time to complete a financial aid application before the May 2 state priority deadline for financial aid. [Learn more »](#)

In other state news:

- On April 10, Gov. Gavin **Newsom announced that the California Department of Health Care Services had awarded over \$51 million in Prop 64 funding to 75 community-based and tribal organizations to further support youth mental health and expand the state's substance abuse prevention programs**. The Elevate Youth Campaign (EYC) provides three-year grants to youth-focused community-based and tribal organizations that implement evidence-based youth development, peer support and mentoring programs that help children heal and recover from trauma, cope with adversity and thrive; empower youth to get involved in their communities; and prioritize harm reduction and public health solutions that address and prevent substance use disorder. [Learn more about the EYC program »](#)

Federal update: New council launched to strengthen cybersecurity in schools



On March 28, the **U.S. Department of Education and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) launched the Government Coordinating Council (GCC) for the Education Facilities Subsector**, a pivotal step forward in the national effort to enhance **K-12 cybersecurity**. "The importance of protecting our schools, students and educators from cyber threats cannot be overstated," said

CISA Director Jen Easterly. "[The GCC] **will have a vital role in helping to guide efforts to ensure a safer and more resilient learning environment for our classrooms across the nation.**"

Resources for High School Voter Education Weeks



State and federal education officials have released resources to support **High School Voter Education Weeks, happening April 15-26**. The goal of the initiative is to **create civic awareness**



in future voters and inspire eligible 16- and 17-year-olds to preregister to vote so they are automatically able to participate in elections when they turn 18. Registration for the 2024

California Student Mock Election, which takes place Oct. 8, opens for middle and high schoolers on April 15. More information on the program and a teacher's guide on statewide elections are available on the Secretary of State's website. [Learn more and find resources on the CSBA blog »](#)

What's Your Why? with Elk Grove USD board member Sean Yang



In CSBA's latest "What's Your Why?" video, Elk Grove Unified School District board member Sean Yang credits those who supported and uplifted him when he came to the country as a refugee at age 12 as the reason he has dedicated his time to giving back to others and helping students achieve their dreams.

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

CSBA's Cash Reserve Program can help your LEA manage state deferrals



The California School Cash Reserve Program helps guard against temporary cash flow shortages in a safe, cost-effective way by creating an additional cash reserve to the general fund. Now in partnership with California Association of School Business Officials, CSBA's Cash Reserve Program has provided local educational agencies a reliable and cost-effective short-term cash flow

funding option for over 30 years. Participants issue Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANS) through a streamlined, pooled process. Learn more today about how the Cash Reserve Program can offer you low borrowing costs and flexible repayment terms, with easy and efficient administration. [Learn more »](#)

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

Sponsors



Virtual events

**MIG Course 4: Human Resources/
Collective Bargaining**

May 15-16 | [Register](#)

2024 CCSA Virtual Spring Workshop

May 17 | [Register](#)

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

May 31-June 1 | [Register](#)

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

June 12-13 | [Register](#)

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

June 20 | [Register](#)

In-person events

**What Executive Assistants and Board
Presidents Need to Know About the
Brown Act**

May 1 | Stanislaus | [Register](#)

2024 May Delegate Assembly Meeting

May 18-19 | Sacramento | [Register](#)

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

June 12-13 | Salinas | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

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