



August 14, 2024

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Legislative update: Last chance to tell the State Senate not to undermine local control in hiring

On Aug.15, the Senate Appropriations Committee will consider **Assembly Bill 2088** (McCarty, D-Sacramento), a one-size-fits-all approach to local educational agency labor policies that would override local control and mandate how and when classified staff must be hired or promoted, with no ability to determine



whether a candidate is well suited for the position. If adopted, it would also exacerbate the educational staffing shortages LEAs are facing across the state by impeding timely hiring and prolonging staff vacancies.

The Senate Appropriations Committee will be the best chance to stop AB 2088 from moving forward, and **today is the last day before decision time in the Legislature. It is critical**

that the committee members hear from as many LEA leaders as possible to urge them to vote no on AB 2088. [Click here to urge the Senate to vote no on AB 2088](#) »

Legal update: SB 1439 restricts campaign contributions from those with business before the board



With election season in full swing, **elected board members should be aware of laws that affect campaign activities and contributions**, including the pay-to-pay provisions of Senate Bill 1439 (2022). **As of Jan. 1, 2023, the pay-to-play rules apply to elected school district and county board members, and candidates for such offices**, who should be aware of and comply with Government Code Section 84308's

requirements.

Generally, **the requirements are a series of restrictions on campaign contributions and solicitations before, during and after a “proceeding,”** which is a decision related to a license, permit or other entitlement for use. **The definition of a “proceeding” includes a contract before the board for approval**, the most relevant proceeding applicable for board members. **Importantly, labor agreements, personal employment contracts (e.g., the superintendent’s employment contract) or contracts that are competitively bid are exempt. Section 84308 applies to contributions over \$250**, cumulatively from one source, and to campaign contributions to candidates and committees in federal, state or local elections. The restrictions apply to the receiving of campaign contributions as well as soliciting contributions for, or directing contributions to, another campaign or committee. [Read the details on the CSBA blog](#) »

What’s Your Why? with Chico USD’s Caitlin Dalby



In CSBA's latest “What's Your Why?” video, **Chico Unified School District board member Caitlin Dalby spoke about how her passion as a public school teacher led her to pursue service on the board of education.** “My passion for education and the students that we impact holistically on a daily basis in public education is

what drives me to do the work I do, and to talk to the people that I talk to, and learn about how things are going in the classroom and how the decisions we make trickle down to the individual level for our staff and for our students, and to make sure that the work that we're doing is setting them up for success in the long term," Dalby said.

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

Student board members wanted: Lead a session at AEC!



Student board members attending the 2024 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show (AEC) from Dec. 5-7 in Anaheim are invited to submit a proposal and lead a workshop session. AEC offers a unique platform for student trustees to share their invaluable insights, experiences and innovative ideas that can shape the future of education. **Students' firsthand experience with the current educational landscape provides them with a unique vantage point that can contribute to meaningful discussions and solutions.**

All trustees should encourage their student board member to voice their ideas and engage with fellow students, educators and trustees in a collaborative and impactful environment at AEC. **Proposals related to this year's conference strands are being accepted through Sept. 13.** [Learn more and submit a student proposal »](#)

State update: CSBA advocates for local control over cellphone policies



The question of whether and how to restrict cellphone use in public schools continues to garner attention, and was amplified by a [letter Gov. Gavin Newsom sent Aug. 13 to local educational agencies](#), urging them to ban or crack down on cellphone and social media use in schools. **The letter does not constitute a mandate**, but may indicate the possibility of stronger action in this legislative session.

CSBA agrees that the use and potential abuse of cellphones on campus is a serious issue that demands attention but opposes a blanket restriction or ban from Sacramento. Given the differences between various LEA demographics, topography, school culture and community needs, the discussion of how to regulate cellphone usage is best held at a local level in concert with students, staff and families. **CSBA encourages**

continued examination of the tradeoffs and potential dangers posed by cellphone use on campus and supports LEAs that take action at the local level to regulate cellphone usage.

That is why **CSBA has a Support position on Senate Bill 1283 (Stern, D-Calabasas), which would expand existing law allowing, but not mandating, LEAs to adopt a policy regarding the possession and use of a smartphone on campus.** And it's why CSBA opposes Assembly Bill 3216 (Hoover, R-Folsom), which would require the governing body of an LEA to develop and adopt a policy to limit or prohibit smartphone use by pupils while at a school site or under the supervision and control of an employee by July 1, 2026.

Federal update: Digital equity grant opportunity



The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced the final funding opportunity through the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program, which authorizes funds to be used for the “development and implementation of digital inclusion activities that benefit the **covered populations**; training programs that cover basic, advanced, and applied skills; workforce

development programs; access to equipment, instrumentation, networking capability, hardware and software or digital network technology for broadband services at low or no cost; and the construction or operation of public access computing centers for covered populations.” **Applications are due by Sept. 23. [Learn more »](#)**

BuyBoard spotlight: Classroom teaching supplies



This month's spotlight highlights classroom teaching supplies available from BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative vendors 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 a vast array of art supplies from CSBA Business Affiliate Blick Art Materials,**

from clay to drawing and painting materials and crafts and more. Members can also find additional teaching supplies and material options from many other BuyBoard awarded vendors including **Lakeshore Learning Materials** and **Kaplan Early Learning Company**. For more information about the procurement of classroom teaching supplies and many other contract categories, reach out to Doug Williams at douglas.williams@buyboard.com or 425-260-4423. **[Learn more »](#)**

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

Student Board Member Training: Navigating Roles, Governance, and Legal Compliance

Aug. 19 | [Register](#)

Student Board Member Training: Mastering Meeting Protocol and Stakeholder Engagement

Sept. 9 | [Register](#)

Executive Assistant Omicron: Job Mechanics 3A/23B

Sept. 12-13 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

Sept. 18-19 | [Register](#)

CCSA Virtual Fall Workshop

Sept. 20 | [Register](#)

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

Oct. 10 | [Register](#)

In-person events

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

Sponsors



Keenan[®]



Review

Sept. 7 | Ventura | [Register](#)

California School Board Ethics Pre-Conference Training

Sept. 12 | Monterey | [Register](#)

Key Elements of the Brown Act Pre-Conference Training

Sept. 12 | Monterey | [Register](#)

CSBA County Board Member Services Conference

Sept. 13-15 | Monterey | [Register](#)

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

Sept. 21 | Tulare | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)