

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

November 12, 2025

In this Issue

- [Federal update: Possible deal reached to end government shutdown](#)
- [State Board meeting addresses instructional materials, accountability and more](#)
- [The AEC app launches Nov. 13](#)
- [What's Your Why with Josh Spira, Menlo Park City SD](#)
- [Strengthening home-school relationships this Family Engagement Month](#)
- [Total School Solutions can help with Facilities Master Plans](#)

Federal update: Possible deal reached to end government shutdown



On Nov. 9 it was announced that a deal to end the government shutdown had been reached in the U.S. Senate, which would end the longest federal government shutdown in history. This was made possible after eight Democratic senators broke ranks with their Democratic Leadership and joined with Republicans in reaching the 60-vote threshold required by Senate rules. **According to the**

[*Associated Press*](#), **the deal will fund the**

government through January 2026 and reflects three separate continuing resolutions combined into one package. It will also include three continuing resolutions, which will fund the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program through

September 2026, ensure that furloughed federal workers will receive backpay and revoke the mass firing of federal workers that occurred as a result of the shutdown, which began on Oct. 1.

As part of the deal **there is a commitment to host a vote on the extension of health care subsidies under the Affordable Care Act in December**. However, not all are happy. Many Democrats are upset that **the deal does not guarantee the extension of the subsidies**, which remains a core demand of the Democratic Caucus.

Based upon statements by the Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, it is expected that the House of Representatives will schedule a vote to end the shutdown tonight, Nov. 12. It has also been **reported** that the President will sign the full package when it reaches the White House. **Negotiations ahead will likely focus on the health care subsidies, funding levels and possible rule-changes in Congress**, underscoring just how razor-thin and contentious the majority control and legislative agenda remain.

State Board meeting addresses instructional materials, accountability and more



The California State Board of Education's (SBE) **final meeting of 2025 on Nov. 5-6** included action taken on several items related to instructional materials and career technical education, as well as deep discussion on assessment and accountability items, community schools and student leader recommendations. The board **moved forward in the process of adopting new English language arts/English language development instructional materials for transitional kindergarten through grade 8 by approving guidance** around the evaluation and adoption of TK–8 instructional materials that align with current evidence-based literacy instruction principles.

The board conducted a study session on the state's Differentiated Assistance (DA) system focused on criteria for identifying local educational agencies for DA. **CSBA Legislative Advocate Carlos Machado noted during public comment that CSBA's "Close the Achievement Gap" effort, which focuses on examining how state agencies should hold themselves accountable for better supporting the efforts of LEAs to accelerate student achievement**, could act as a starting point to augment and bring coherence to California's fragmented collection of TK-12 programs as the SBE works to develop an accountability system that ensures fidelity and alignment across the entire system. [Read more in the full meeting recap »](#)

The AEC app launches Nov. 13



CSBA is gearing up for the **2025 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show (AEC)** taking place Dec. 3-5 in Sacramento. The AEC app will launch on Thursday, Nov. 13, featuring



the most up-to-date program information for the conference. CSBA recommends accessing the app before arriving on site to make the most of its features. A web-based version will also be

available. The app allows users to view schedules, explore sessions and find networking events; create a personal agenda for easy conference attendance; and download session materials, access location and speaker information, explore sponsors and exhibitors, interact with a real-time feed of event activity and participate in gamification for a chance to win a great prize. **Registered attendees will receive an email with information on downloading the app later this week.**

What's Your Why with Josh Spira, Menlo Park City SD



Good policies directly impact students. **As a teacher, Menlo Park City School District trustee Josh Spira saw firsthand how his students were being affected over time.** "I also see how program changes and policy changes really can impact not only just a student's time while they're at my school but what happens to them once they move up to high school," Spira 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 Spira's What's Your Why along with the whole collection »](#)

Strengthening home-school relationships this Family Engagement Month



Parents and families are children's first teachers, and participation in their education shouldn't stop as young people enter the TK-12 system. November is Family Engagement Month and the **California Family and Community Engagement Initiative** (CA FACE Initiative) has resources to assist local educational agencies in building connections with students and their loved ones year-round. **Leaders of the initiative see Family**

Engagement Month as a perfect time to share local stories and successes related to strong school-home partnerships and illustrate the positive impact that these relationships can have on student outcomes — a correlation backed by decades of research — and the community as a whole. [Read tips from the CA FACE Initiative on the CSBA blog »](#)

Total School Solutions can help with Facilities Master Plans



Up-to-date facilities can support the educational and programmatic goals of local educational agencies. **A Facilities Master Plan provides a district with vital information regarding current and future needs for student housing, quality of existing facilities, and facilities renovation and expansion requirements to meet its educational and programmatic goals.** The

master plan also assists in identifying funding

needs for capital improvement and developing financing options. **Total School Solutions Facilities Master Plans include** accurate projections regarding enrollment, careful determination of school site capacity, educational specifications to ensure programmatic needs are served, a detailed needs assessment, and conclusions and recommendations about the availability and timing of financing and funding. [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

Masters in Governance (MIG) Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/ Setting Direction

Jan. 14-15 | [Register](#)

Orientation for New Trustees

Jan. 21 | [Register](#)

Executive Assistant (EA) Training Program Tau cohort: Understanding Culture 1A/1B

Jan. 22-23 | [Register](#)

In-person events

Annual Education Conference and Trade Show

Dec. 3-5 | Sacramento | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

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