

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

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Federal update: Congressional leaders push back on federal government's decision to withhold education funds

On July 1, the **U.S. Department of Education (ED)** and the **Office of Management and Budget (OMB)** moved to withhold funding to local educational agencies from several federal grant programs that had been appropriated by **Congress**. In its notice to LEAs, ED stated that it was holding these funds because the grants were under review. In total, the five grants equal about



\$6.9 billion for migrant education programs, educator development, English learners, student support programs, before- and after-school programs, and adult education funding. **California's share is estimated to be over \$900 million.**

CSBA activated its Action Alert system and worked with statewide education partners to urge the California Congressional Delegation to call upon ED and OMB to immediately release this funding. CSBA's Action Alert generated over 1,200 emails to Congress. In response, all of the Democrats of California's Congressional Delegation **sent a letter** to ED and OMB demanding the release of this funding. Additionally, 10 Senate Republicans also **sent a letter** to OMB Director Russell Vought calling for the release of the funding. CSBA will provide more information as it becomes available.

Legal update: California joins other states in suing the Trump administration over federal funding freeze



On July 14, California, along with 23 other states and the District of Columbia, filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration regarding the withholding of more than \$6.8 billion in federal education grants already appropriated by Congress for six U.S. Department of Education programs, pending a review to ensure the funds are used in accordance with the President's priorities. **In California, an estimated \$939 million in grant funds are frozen**, affecting programs that support migrant and adult students, access to arts and STEM programs, classroom technology and teacher training. On July 18, the administration announced that **approximately \$1.4 billion for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant program — which supports after-school, summer and other out-of-school programs — will soon be sent to states. Funds for the other impacted programs will remain frozen.**

The complaint alleges that the funding freeze violates federal funding statutes and regulations authorizing the impacted programs, as well as statutes governing the federal budgeting process. The federal budgeting statutes implicated include the Antideficiency Act, which prohibits federal agencies from obligating or spending funds in a way that would result in a budget deficit (such as an agency spending funds too quickly and therefore leading to a need for more), and the Impoundment Control Act, which limits the circumstances under which the Executive Branch may decline to spend congressionally appropriated funds. **The states argue that the Constitution does not give the Executive Branch power "to unilaterally refuse to spend appropriations that were passed by both houses of Congress and were signed into law."**

The complaint requests several forms of relief from the court, including a judicial declaration that the funding freeze and the agency actions implementing it are unlawful; a

preliminary and permanent injunction prohibiting the administration from implementing the funding freeze; and an order compelling the administration to make the withheld funds available to the states. **The lawsuit is in the preliminary stages and CSBA will provide updates as needed.**

Legislative update: CSBA-sponsored legislation continues to see success



July 18 marked the second house policy committee deadline where, predominantly, the Assembly policy committees heard Senate bills, and the Senate policy committees heard Assembly bills. The Legislature has begun its four-week summer recess when legislators return to their home districts. **Upon their return to the State Capitol on Aug. 18, the Legislature will be focused on the fiscal impact of pending**

legislation, which will be considered by the respective Assembly and Senate Appropriations Committees.

Most of CSBA's sponsored bills saw success. CSBA-sponsored legislation focused on education workforce housing, electric school buses, substitute teachers, school board member compensation and Senate Bill 1315 implementation will all move forward this year, while Assembly Bill 1381 has been turned into a two-year bill. AB 1381 would establish a state revolving loan fund to provide zero-interest loans to local educational agencies to help with feasibility studies and predevelopment work for housing projects. [Learn more about these and other education bills on the CSBA blog »](#)

Read the July newsletter



The July issue of *California School News* is here and includes **can't-miss articles on the policy implications of the Supreme Court's decision in *Mahmoud v. Taylor*, new state laws related to special education and a column from CSBA President Dr. Bettye Lusk in support of Assembly Bill 1224**, pending state legislation that would allow substitutes to stay in classrooms longer and increase instructional continuity for

students in the wake of the ongoing teacher shortage. A recap of CSBA's recent webinar on navigating artificial intelligence policy, privacy and procurement featuring experts from California IT in Education is also featured, as well as updates on CalPERS and CalSTRS pension requirements, the state's latest enrollment data and the status of preschool, arts education and the well-being of students in California among other topics. [Read the newsletter »](#)

Ready, set, lead: Register for upcoming CSBA trainings



Registration is now open for CSBA's fiscal year 2025–26 trainings. Explore **dynamic sessions designed to equip district and county office of education board members, superintendents and executive assistants** with the knowledge and skills to help their local educational agency thrive. Secure a spot today and plan ahead for a successful year of learning, networking and growth. [Find detailed schedules](#)

[and registration information »](#)

What's Your Why? with Anthony Monreal, Raisin City ESD



Raisin City Elementary School District **trustee Anthony Monreal** understands that being a **board member can be challenging, but knows that inspiring the next generation is well worth the effort.** "I'm a retired educator so this is just a natural extension of giving back for the students in our little local community," he said in an interview for CSBA's What's Your Why series.

"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. [Watch Monreal's and other What's Your Why? videos »](#)

Convert property ownership into an active asset

**Property
Planning**
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Property Planning Solutions by DCG Strategies aims to **help school leaders explore the ways in which their real estate assets can be leveraged** to secure additional funding for district initiatives, equip students with the education and experiences they need to be successful, invest in deferred facilities maintenance and capital improvements, reduce cost and liability from holding closed or grossly underutilized sites,

bolster general fund reserves and even attract new staff. School leaders and board members can gain access to real estate experts that work to align a local educational agency's priorities with the realities of the real estate market. Services include **real estate consulting, property planning, strategic asset management, educator housing**

development and real property brokerage services. [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

Aug. 4 | [Register](#)

Sept. 3 | [Register](#)

The Brown Act

Aug. 15 | [Register](#)

Sept. 3 | [Register](#)

Executive Assistant Sigma: Understanding Culture 1A/1B

Aug. 28-29 | [Register](#)

In-person events

Masters in Governance (MIG) Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining

Aug. 16 | Visalia | [Register](#)

MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration

Aug. 23 | Visalia | [Register](#)

County Board Conference

Sept. 5-7 | Monterey | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

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