

California schoolnews

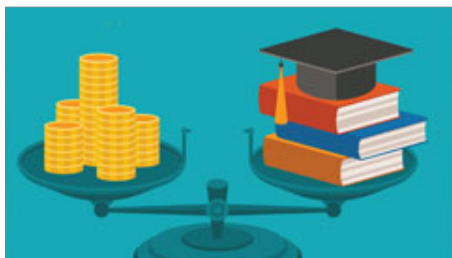
Weekly Update

August 6, 2025

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State update: California to receive previously impounded federal funds



On July 31, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond and **the California Department of Education (CDE)** announced that the agency has received confirmation that it will receive the entirety of the nearly \$1 billion in previously impounded federal education funds for the 2025–26 school year.

The announcement follows aggressive advocacy by CSBA, the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), and

other educational partners **who pushed for members of Congress to assist in urging the administration to release these funds.** On July 3, CSBA and ACSA sent a joint letter to California Sen. Alex Padilla, which can be [read here](#).

On July 25, CDE received official Grant Award Notifications for several key federal programs critical for sustaining and expanding educational opportunities, especially for English learners, migrant students, adult learners and those relying on community learning centers. **Officials announced they would move quickly to draw down and distribute funds to local educational agencies across the state.** In a [letter](#) to district and county superintendents, Thurmond said, “This delay in funds by the Trump administration created uncertainty for our school communities, and I know that our local agencies will be working rapidly to implement these funds in service of our students, educators, and school communities.”

Register for CSBA's Education Workforce Housing Bootcamp



CSBA is introducing a new professional development opportunity: the **Education Workforce Housing (EWH) Bootcamp**. This one-day, in-person training is designed for school board members, superintendents and senior administrators who are interested in workforce housing but have not yet taken formal steps to explore a project. Participants will walk through the seven phases of the

Education Workforce Housing Development Framework and complete a series of exercises to assess what an EWH development might look like in their community — leaving the bootcamp with a completed early assessment workbook and specific next steps.

There are **currently two trainings scheduled**: one in [San Jose on Oct. 15](#) and another taking place [Oct. 24 in Covina](#). Those interested can **learn more about the bootcamp at an [Aug. 19 webinar](#)**. [Learn more about EWH »](#)

High-quality instructional materials brief available now



CSBA's Research and Education Policy Development team has released a [brief](#) to help **guide local educational agency governance teams as they seek to define, adopt and implement high-quality math instructional materials that are aligned to the Mathematics Framework and meet the needs of English learners (ELs).** The document examines what constitutes high-quality instructional materials

using the definition developed by the High-Quality Instructional Materials Learning Partners Coalition and reviews each of the components through a governance team lens.

The brief offers recommended actions and questions for trustees to consider before curriculum adoption to improve math instruction and outcomes for ELs and all students in their LEAs. [Download the brief »](#)

Legal update: Question of sovereign immunity for LEAs under the *Kohn* test remains open

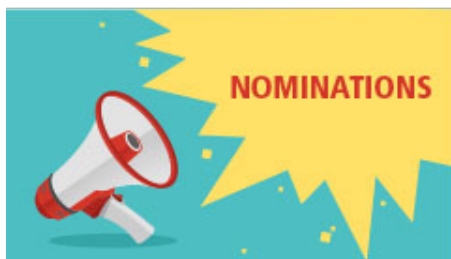


Based on the 11th Amendment, lawsuits for money damages against states and entities that are considered “arms of the state” are prohibited unless specifically authorized in statute. This is a long-standing precedent that has been extended to local educational agencies in California through Ninth Circuit case law. However, in 2023, the Ninth Circuit switched course and announced a new, three-factor test to determine whether an entity is an arm of the state for purposes of sovereign immunity in *Kohn v. State Bar of California*, a case that did not specifically apply to LEAs.

In *Health Freedom Defense Fund, Inc. v. Carvalho*, the question of LEAs’ sovereign immunity status under the new *Kohn* test was raised and briefed for consideration on appeal to the Ninth Circuit for en banc review, signaling a potential change to sovereign immunity for LEAs statewide. **CSBA’s Education Legal Alliance argued in its amicus brief that even if the *Kohn* three-factor test is applied to California LEAs, they would still be entitled to sovereign immunity under the 11th Amendment.** The case itself was an appeal of a district court’s judgment in favor of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) over its COVID-19 vaccine mandate for employees. As the LAUSD policy was rescinded shortly before the appellate court heard oral arguments, the district contended that the case was moot.

On July 31, the Ninth Circuit issued an opinion finding that the case is not moot but affirming the district court’s order granting LAUSD’s motion for judgment on the pleadings. This determination led to the **court’s conclusion in a footnote that it would not consider the question of sovereign immunity for school districts under the *Kohn* test in this case, leaving the matter open for consideration at another time.**

Nominate a CSBA Director-at-Large



Nominations for CSBA Directors-at-Large African American, American Indian and County are being **accepted through Oct. 2. Director-at-Large candidates must be nominated by a CSBA member board and nominees must be a member of a member board. Please read the [memorandum](#) from CSBA President Dr. Bettye Lusk for more information.** Questions

may be directed to CSBA's Executive Office at nominations@csba.org. [Learn more and access nomination forms »](#)

Last chance to register for upcoming Masters in Governance trainings



CSBA's Masters in Governance® (MIG) program equips school board members with the knowledge and skills to build and support an effective governance structure — and now is the last chance to register for several upcoming in-person training opportunities happening this month!

Registration is closing soon for **MIG 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining** and **MIG 5: Community Relations and Advocacy/Governance Integration** at Tulare County Office of Education and MIG 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction at **Torrance Unified School District** and **San Joaquin COE**.

MIG can help trustees at all levels of their governance journey, whether they are just beginning or already have some courses under their belt. **Act now to secure a spot in these essential workshops designed to support governance excellence and leadership growth.** [Learn more and register »](#)

Foster & Foster can help with GASB report needs



The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) establishes accounting reporting standards. **GASB 68 reports are required for pensions that are provided to the employees of state and local governmental employers** through pension plans that are administered through trusts. **GASB 75 reports are required for other post-employment benefits** that are provided to the employees of state and local

governmental employers. CSBA offers actuarial services through its partner Foster & Foster, which **provides GASB-compliant reports to state and local governmental employers with no limit to the number of participants.** [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

Sponsors



Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

Sept. 3 | [Register](#)

The Brown Act

Sept. 3 | [Register](#)

Executive Assistant (EA) Sigma: Understanding Culture 1A/1B

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

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

Sept. 10-11 | [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](#)

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

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

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

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

MIG for County Offices of Education Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

Sept. 4 | Monterey | [Register](#)

County Board Conference

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

Education Workforce Housing Bootcamp

Oct. 15 | San Jose | [Register](#)

Education Workforce Housing Bootcamp

Oct. 24 | Covina | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

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