

# California schoolnews

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## Weekly Update

September 17, 2025

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### Legislative update: Closing out the first year of the 2025–26 legislative session



Originally scheduled to end at midnight on Friday, Sept. 12, the Legislature waived the rules to allow it to continue deliberations into Sept. 13, not adjourning until midafternoon. **This year featured a number of contentious education-related measures** ranging from nonclassroom-based

charter school reform to efforts to address incidences of antisemitism in public schools.

**CSBA-sponsored legislation also featured significantly during the end of session. Of the four CSBA-sponsored measures that successfully [passed out of the respective appropriations committees](#), all passed the Legislature with wide bipartisan support and are currently with Gov. Gavin Newsom. They include:**

**[Assembly Bill 1021](#)** (Wicks, D-Oakland and Muratsuchi, D-Torrance) – Education Workforce Housing

- This measure is a follow-up to CSBA co-sponsored AB 2295 to **help streamline the process local educational agencies can follow to plan, fund and develop education workforce housing (EWH)** by enhancing and expanding upon the provisions provided in AB 2295. These **changes include ensuring that small and rural LEAs can pursue its benefits as well as exempting EWH projects from the California Environmental Quality Act**, as proposed.

**[AB 1224](#)** (Valencia, D-Anaheim) – 60-Day Substitute

- Co-sponsored with the Association of California School Administrators, the California County Superintendents, and the California Association of School Business Officials, this bill **would expand the amount of time an authorized substitute teacher could serve in a single general, special or career technical education classroom from 30 days to 60 days.**

**[AB 1390](#)** (Solache, D-Lynwood) – School Board Member Compensation

- This bill would **bring existing stipend rates into alignment with the impacts of inflation** and provide that school district and county boards of education retain the authority to determine the amount of the stipend within the cap.

**[Senate Bill 374](#)** (Archuleta, D-Pico Rivera) – SB 1315 Implementation

- This bill **extends by one year the deadline for the California Department of Education to submit a report to the Legislature assessing the number and types of reports that LEAs are required to annually submit and which ones can be consolidated or eliminated.** It also eliminates the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part-B Addendum for the Local Control and Accountability Plan.

**[Read a full breakdown on how these and other notable legislative measures fared during the end of this year's session on CSBA's blog »](#)**

**Legal update: Head Start among programs open to all regardless of immigration status after recent court ruling**



On Sept. 10, a U.S. District Court of Rhode Island judge issued a preliminary injunction pausing the federal government's attempt to restrict access to 13 previously exempted public programs based on immigration status, including Head Start and several adult education services. The injunction arises out of a legal challenge by 20 states, including California,

and the District of Columbia, to four notices issued in July by the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Education, Labor and Justice regarding which programs were considered "federal public benefits" that could not be accessed by certain immigrants under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA).

**In ruling in favor of the plaintiff states, the court determined that the notices were "legislative rules" that necessitated notice-and-comment rulemaking in order to be effectuated, and thereby found those three notices to be arbitrary and capricious and contrary to law.** The court also concluded that all four notices violated the Spending Clause of the U.S. Constitution by imposing retroactive and coercive conditions on federal funds without affording the states a genuine choice to accept or reject the new conditions. The court found irreparable harm to the states and individuals in need of the affected services should the agencies be allowed to enforce their new interpretation. Thus, the court issued an **injunction preventing the agencies from taking any action on the notices while the lawsuit is pending** and denied the federal government's request to stay the decision for seven days. The government may decide to appeal the decision. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

## New CSBA white paper highlights the role of COEs in advancing education workforce housing



California's high housing costs continue to challenge local educational agencies in their efforts to recruit and retain teachers and staff. CSBA's new white paper, [How California's County Offices of Education Can Advance Workforce Housing for Educators](#), outlines how COEs can assist districts in developing affordable housing for their employees.

Released in partnership with UC Berkeley's

Center for Cities + Schools and UCLA's cityLAB, the paper draws on research and examples from across the state, describing the three roles COEs can play to expand housing opportunities for school employees: providing technical assistance, building regional partnerships and exploring options for direct development. **With their regional reach and expertise, COEs can play a crucial role in making workforce housing a reality for more districts.** [Read the white paper »](#)

## State Board of Education advances assessment work



Assessment was top of mind during the California State Board of Education's (SBE) **Sept. 10–11 meeting**. The board's big ticket agenda items centered largely on assessments. Among the actions taken on the first day of the meeting, the board **approved** proposed changes to **California Spanish assessment threshold scores and the California Spanish assessment threshold level to earn a State Seal of**

**Biliteracy**, as well as **revisions to the Student Score Reports for the California Science Test (CAST), Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics, and the California Spanish Assessment.**

The board also **continued discussing the concept and purpose of CAST mini-performance tasks**. "I think this package of action just shows how far California has come in making assessments more meaningful," said board member Gabriela Orozco-Gonzalez, one of the SBE's two liaisons focused on assessment work. [Read a full recap of the SBE meeting »](#)

## Register for the GAMUT Policy updates webinar



Join CSBA's Policy and Governance Technology Services Department for a **webinar on Oct. 1 highlighting** both the September policy updates on **school safety, attendance and work-based learning**, and the special August update related to the **Supreme Court's decision in *Mahmoud v. Taylor***. The webinar will provide attendees with essential insight into the process and rationale behind the updates to

ensure district and county office of education leaders have a better understanding of the policy changes as well as how they may impact local educational agencies. **A Q&A session will follow the presentation.** [Register »](#)

## Hispanic Heritage Month spotlight: Supporting students and families experiencing homelessness



**National Hispanic Heritage Month, which takes place annually from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, is a catalyst for school districts and county offices of education to reflect on local trends and practices and employ strategies to best support students and their families.** The percentage of students who experienced

homelessness in California rose from 4 percent in 2022–23 to roughly 5 percent in 2023–24. **For Hispanic or Latino students, a group that makes up a majority of the public school population, the rate increased from 5.3 percent in 2022–23 to 6.2 percent in 2023–24.** Census Day, when schools determine the total number of students they have enrolled — including the number of students experiencing homelessness — takes place on Oct. 1 this year. The state's [Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center \(HETAC\)](#) website provides resources for local educational agencies on how to [identify](#) students experiencing homelessness.

Amid federal actions around immigration enforcement, there is overarching concern that counts may be inaccurate. **Alma Castro, CSBA Director-at-Large, Hispanic and Lynwood Unified School District trustee, shared those concerns.** “Many families are understandably hesitant to disclose any information, including their housing status, because they fear being targeted by immigration enforcement,” said Castro. **“That fear creates barriers to accessing the very support systems meant to protect their children.”** Because schools typically serve as a trusted space for families and community members, Castro noted that LEAs can capitalize on that good faith by communicating with families — through various mediums and languages — and explaining why counts occur and what the data is used for, such as securing funding to assist unhoused students. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

## Register now for pre-conference programs at AEC



CSBA is offering a number of **vital opportunities for deeper learning prior to the 2025 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show (AEC)**, taking place Wednesday, Dec. 3, through Friday, Dec. 5, in Sacramento. These **tailored sessions offer strategic insights and practical skills for success as a governance team** while networking with colleagues from across the state. Space is limited and onsite registration will not be available.

Pre-conference sessions, **all of which take place on Tuesday, Dec. 2**, include:

- **Board Presidents Workshop** — Participants will study the unique role and specific challenges of board presidents, reflect on their personal leadership and communication styles, and craft a leadership plan. [Learn more »](#)
- **California School Board Ethics Training Course** — Gain insights into the ethical responsibilities required by California law, such as financial conflicts of interest, gift regulations and Form 700 reporting. [Learn more »](#)
- **Orientation for New Trustees** — Explore the critical elements of board member roles and responsibilities, being part of a governance team and the connection between effective governance teams and student achievement. [Learn more »](#)
- **Student Board Member One-Day Program** — Participants will learn about their role by building a foundational understanding of school governance and leadership, board roles and responsibilities, the basics of good governance, budgeting, how to advocate for student concerns and more. [Learn more »](#)

Pre-conference programs can be added when you register for AEC. To add a pre-conference activity or program if you have already registered, call 864-641-6838, or email [csba@maritz.com](mailto:csba@maritz.com)

[Learn more about all pre-conference offerings and register »](#)

## Total Schools Solutions can help with closing and budget development



Even districts that are fully staffed with qualified employees find themselves **struggling with added seasonal work such as budget development while meeting the day-to-day vigorous demands** of district financial management. Total Schools Solutions staff possess extensive expertise in budget development and specialize in making the budgeting process transparent to staff and the

community, developing trust in the process and the providing data that best serves the district. [Learn more »](#)

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

## Virtual events

**Masters in Governance (MIG) Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review**  
Oct. 1-2 | [Register](#)

**Executive Assistants (EA) Certification Program Sigma: Job Mechanics 3A/3B**  
Oct. 16-17 | [Register](#)

**MIG Course 3: School Finance Part 1 and Part 2**  
Oct. 22-23 | [Register](#)

## In-person events

**MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining**  
Oct. 4 | Torrance | [Register](#)  
Oct. 4 | Stockton | [Register](#)

## Sponsors



## **Education Workforce Housing Bootcamp**

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

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

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

Oct. 18 | Torrance | [Register](#)

Oct. 18 | Stockton | [Register](#)

## **Legal Services UCP University**

Oct. 29 | Redondo Beach | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)



California School Boards Association | 3251 Beacon Blvd., West Sacramento, CA 95691  
Phone: (800) 266-3382 | Fax: (916) 371-3407