

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

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CSBA webinar covers CAASPP results, advocates for comprehensive state-level plan to increase support for LEAs in their work to close achievement gap



An Oct. 9 [webinar](#) hosted by CSBA featured initial analysis of results from the 2025 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) and CSBA issuing a challenge to the state to create a state-level plan focused on what state agencies and policymakers will do differently to better

support local educational agencies in closing the achievement gap.

“For decades, the State of California has held local governing boards accountable through various mechanisms, including, for example, audits and state mandates, but has never held its agencies or policymaking bodies accountable for the quality and accessibility of the support provided to local educational agencies laboring to improve student achievement,” CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy said. **“The state has not created a comprehensive, coherent plan to hold itself accountable for its own role in closing the achievement gap,”** instead relying on unfunded or underfunded mandates and, at times, disparate funding programs thrust on local school districts and county offices of education.

“This initiative is about changing that dynamic, so the state takes greater responsibility for its role in supporting LEAs in their ongoing work to address the achievement gap.” CSBA believes it's time for the state to turn toward a 'customer service or concierge' approach to help — not direct — LEAs,” Billy continued. “This service-oriented mindset must be self-reflective and focus on examining and establishing benchmarks, goals, standards and specific measures the state itself will take to change its operations in order to help LEAs close the achievement gap.” [Read a recap of the webinar on the CSBA blog »](#)

Legislative update: Governor’s legislative signing period comes to a close



Gov. Gavin Newsom issued the final outcomes on Oct. 13 for all legislation that reached his desk at the end of the first year of the two-year 2025–26 legislative session. The Governor looked at more than 800 bills, including a number of high-profile education bills.

Notably, **four CSBA-sponsored measures reached the Governor’s desk, with three**

signed into law and one vetoed:

Assembly Bill 1021 (Wicks, D-Oakland and Muratsuchi, D-Torrance): Education workforce housing

- This measure will further enhance the provisions provided in AB 2295, which CSBA co-sponsored to help streamline the process LEAs can follow to plan, fund and develop education workforce housing (EWH). AB 1021 will ensure that small and rural local educational agencies can pursue its benefits as well as exempting EWH projects from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- Status: Signed on Oct. 10.

AB 1390 (Solache, D-Lynwood): School board member compensation

- This bill modernizes the 40-year-old compensation stipends afforded to school district and county office of education board members based upon LEA size by bringing existing stipend rates into alignment with the impacts of inflation and providing that district and county boards of education retain the authority to determine the amount of the stipend within the cap.

- Status: Signed on Oct. 11.

Senate Bill 374 (Archuleta, D-Pico Rivera): SB 1315 implementation

- This bill eliminates the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part-B Addendum for the Local Control and Accountability Plan and extends by one year the deadline for the California Department of Education (CDE) 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.
- Status: Signed on Oct. 10.

AB 1224 (Valencia, D-Anaheim): 60-day substitutes

- This co-sponsored bill with the Association of California School Administrators, the California County Superintendents and the California Association of School Business Officials would have expanded the amount of time an authorized substitute teacher could serve in a classroom from 30 days to 60 days.
- Status: Vetoed on Oct. 6. Read the Governor's veto message [here](#).

Read about the outcome of other major education bills [on the CSBA blog »](#)

Federal update: Education Department layoffs likely to impact special education



According to multiple news reports, **the U.S. Department of Education began laying off a significant number of employees on Oct. 10**, with outlets indicating 466 staff were affected. Early reports suggest the impact is substantial and touches both personnel and key programs — including those related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), migrant students and students experiencing homelessness.

The cuts appear to primarily affect the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, a division responsible for overseeing and enforcing compliance with federal special education laws. Each year, states submit plans and apply to the office for billions of dollars in federal special education funding. The office also reviews state compliance and investigates complaints related to IDEA. There has been no official statement from the Education Department.

Register for the 2026 Coast2Coast trip to advocate for California students in Washington, D.C.

Registration for the CSBA and Association of California School Administrators' fifth annual Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip is now open! This impactful three-day event, **taking place April 13-15 in Washington, D.C.,**



empowers California education leaders to advance the issues affecting nearly 6 million preK-12 students on a national stage.

The esteemed gathering unites school district and county office of education board members, superintendents and other key officials from across California, offering a unique opportunity to engage with policymakers and influencers on Capitol Hill. Over the first two days, participants

will attend sessions on federal education policy, network with prominent D.C. figures and engage in briefings with decision-makers and influencers. **The event culminates in face-to-face meetings with California's congressional representatives.** [Learn more and register »](#)

Legal update: Decision clarifies Brown Act requirements when responding to disruption



On Sept. 30, the Court of Appeal for the First Appellate District issued a decision in the case of *Berkley People's Alliance v. City of Berkeley* overturning the lower court's order dismissing the case. **The appellate court held that recessing a public meeting and reconvening in another room does not comply with the Brown Act's authorization to order the original meeting room cleared when attempting to address a**

disruption of the meeting. The case arose from actions by the Berkeley City Council in response to disruptions caused by members of the public at three different meetings. On each occasion, after determining that the disruption made it so that the council could not conduct city business during the meeting, the Mayor recessed the meeting and the council reconvened in a new location. Members of the media were permitted to attend the reconvened meetings in person, while members of the public could not be present in person but could attend via video. The Berkeley People's Alliance then sued the city, arguing that the response to the disruption violated the Brown Act.

Through statutory analysis, the court found the city's arguments supporting the recessing and reconvening of a disrupted meeting in another location unpersuasive in light of the statute's plain language and reversed the lower court's order. As a result, the case will return to the lower court for further proceedings. Practically speaking, it would be far easier to recess and reconvene than to remove members of the public. However, **based on this opinion, local educational agency boards should ensure that, in the event that they need to clear the room in the case of a disruption, the board remains in the room in which the meeting began rather than reconvening in a separate room.** [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

State update: CalHOPE scholarship for student athletes



Applications for the **CalHOPE Courage Award Scholarship** are being accepted through **May 1, 2026**. More than \$60,000 in college scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are student athletes and have overcome personal adversity and found success in athletics, academics and their community. **Recipients will be selected monthly through June 2026** and receive scholarships of \$2,500.

Their stories will be shared to inspire others facing injury, illness, family hardship, academic pressures or other stresses. Awardees' high school athletic departments will also receive a \$500 donation. [Learn more »](#)

Maximize your budget, lower administrative costs and streamline the procurement process



Since 1998, BuyBoard has been providing local educational agencies with increased purchasing power, lower administrative costs and compliance with legal requirements. **BuyBoard vendors have been awarded contracts for products and services through a competitive procurement process, thereby giving members the opportunity for bulk discounts, combined with the ease of online shopping.** Find everything

from classroom teaching aid supplies and equipment and furniture to custodial supplies and equipment or field lighting products. [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

Nov. 3 | [Register](#)

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

Nov. 5-6 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/ Governance Integration

Nov. 19-20 | [Register](#)

Executive Assistant (EA) Sigma cohort: Governance Integration 4

Sponsors



Nov. 21 | [Register](#)

In-person events

Education Workforce Housing Bootcamp

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

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

Legal Services UCP University

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

[View complete calendar](#)

