

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

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Federal update: Education Department officials announce steps to wind down the agency



On Nov. 18, the **U.S. Department of Education (ED)** **announced** initial interagency agreements (IAAs) as part of the Trump administration's effort to dismantle the department by shifting most of its major program offices to other federal agencies. The goal, according to an ED press release, is to "streamline federal education activities on the legally required programs, reduce administrative burdens, and refocus programs and

activities to better serve students and grantees." The **six new IAAs between four agencies include the Departments of Labor (DOL), Interior (DOI), Health and Human Services, and State.**

Major shifts include **ED and DOL establishing the Elementary and Secondary Education Partnership** to “empower parents and states, promote innovation, and deliver program improvements in pursuit of better outcomes for students in elementary and secondary education.” ED Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Programs Lindsey Burke said in a briefing following the meeting that **DOL will take on a greater role in administering federal K-12 programs under the ED’s Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, which oversees education formula grants including Title I for low-income students, Title II for professional development, Title III for English learner services, Title IV for academic enrichment and before- and after-school programs and McKinney-Vento for homeless student services.**

The agencies are **also establishing the Postsecondary Education Partnership** to boost coordination of postsecondary education and workforce development programs. **DOL will take on a greater role in administering most postsecondary education grant programs authorized under the Higher Education Act.** In each case, the announcement said **the DOL, with ED oversight, will manage grant funds/competitions, “provide technical assistance, and integrate ED’s postsecondary education programs into the suite of programs DOL already administers.”**

ED and DOI are establishing the Indian Education Partnership, with the DOI taking on a greater role in administering Indian Education programs relating to elementary and secondary education, higher education, career technical education and vocational rehabilitation. Similarly, with oversight by ED, “DOI will manage competitions, provide technical assistance, and integrate ED’s Indian Education programs with the suite of programs DOI already administers.”

While there was speculation that special education services would be included in the announcement, per earlier reporting by [The Washington Post](#), **major functions of the department, including its Office for Civil Rights, special education and the federal student aid program were not included in ED’s Nov. 18 announcement.** CSBA will continue to update members on the matter as more details emerge. [Learn more »](#)

CSBA analysis of School Dashboard points to a need for state-level accountability



The **California Department of Education released the latest edition of the [California School Dashboard](#) on Nov. 13**, touting a “continued increase in academic achievement and graduation rates” and a “reduction in chronic absenteeism.” **While some growth was evident, a look at the underlying data reveals a more complicated picture of student performance — one that demands** greater scrutiny of the status

quo, increased investment in public schools, and **a commitment to reducing achievement gaps by accelerating achievement, particularly for the state’s most vulnerable students.**

CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy is [calling on state leaders to step up](#) and meaningfully support students. “The 2025 California School Dashboard offers

a familiar picture, minimal progress in some areas as wide, persistent gaps in academic achievement and other outcomes continue to separate California's students by income, race and ZIP code," Billy said. "The state celebrates underwhelming results instead of offering up a state-focused strategy to provide additional support to local schools. While incremental gains are welcome, they cannot obscure the basic facts — our academic performance is not improving fast enough to meet the needs of California or those of its 5.8 million students."

CSBA is demanding **state leaders hold their agencies and policymaking bodies more accountable for the level and quality of support they provide local educational agencies in closing the achievement gap.** [Learn more »](#)

Registration is open for the 2026 County Board Governance Workshop



Registration is open for CSBA's **2026 County Board Governance Workshop**, taking place **March 11-12 in San Diego**. The event is designed to empower and inspire county board members and superintendents, and **this year's focus — serving homeless and foster youth — is a core responsibility for all county boards**. For the first time, **Masters in Governance for County Offices of Education Course 1** will be offered

as a pre-workshop training on March 10.

Don't miss this chance to strengthen governance skills, expand support networks and become a stronger advocate for students. **Register by Dec. 12 to secure the early rate.** [Learn more and register »](#)

Register now for AEC meal functions



The **meal functions at CSBA's Annual Education Conference and Trade Show (AEC)** provide attendees the opportunity to **network with fellow governance team members, state leaders and more** — all over breakfast or lunch! For example, the Women's Leadership Luncheon taking place Thursday, Dec. 4, provides a unique opportunity to connect, share experiences and engage in meaningful discussions about

advancing women in leadership, **featuring a talk by Public Policy Institute of California President and CEO Tani Cantil-Sakauye.**

Other exciting AEC meal functions include the Association of California School Administrators Superintendent's Luncheon, the California Latino School Boards Association Luncheon, the Legislative Action Luncheon, the new Trending Topics Luncheon, the Asian Pacific Islander School Board Members Association Breakfast,

County Board Members' Breakfast, the California Association of Black School Educators Luncheon, the Small School Districts Luncheon, the California Association of Suburban School Districts and the California Council of School Attorneys Luncheon.

Ticketed meal functions are only open to paid AEC registrants, and once the meal function is sold out, no more tickets can be purchased. Tickets will not be sold at the door. [Learn more and register »](#)

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

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](#)

Sponsors



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