



November 26, 2025

The Weekly Update will be on hiatus next week, Dec. 3, as CSBA hosts the Annual Education Conference and Trade Show.

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AEC is almost here, are you ready?



CSBA is hosting its **Annual Education Conference and Trade Show (AEC)** in **Sacramento for the first time, just blocks away from the State Capitol**. From Dec. 3-5 at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center, **attendees can choose from more than 100 breakout sessions**, including CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy's Dec. 3 session covering CSBA's

call for the state to set clear, ambitious goals, establish transparent benchmarks and provide regular progress reports on its own actions to support — not dictate to — local

schools striving to close the achievement gap. A Dec. 4 session will feature a State Superintendent of Public Instruction Candidate Forum. (*Space for this session will be limited.*)

During AEC, local educational agency leaders will have the chance to network with peers from across the state; discover practical solutions and visit with vendors on the Trade Show Floor; and experience insightful and timely General Session addresses from civic facilitator and leadership coach [Matt Lehrman](#) as well as [Rumman Chowdhury](#), U.S. Science Envoy, artificial intelligence and CEO and co-founder of Humane Intelligence. The First General Session on Dec. 3 will feature a Gubernatorial Candidate Forum. [Learn more about AEC »](#)

State update: LAO releases budget outlook



The **Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO)** released its annual [fiscal outlook report](#) on Nov. 19, showing that although the state has seen better-than-expected revenues since the most recent budget was passed — resulting in nearly \$11 billion in additional funding — that funding is coming almost entirely from personal income taxes fueled by artificial intelligence-driven optimism. Several other economic measures

indicate weak economic conditions that will heavily affect the next state budget and could drastically change it if the stock market drops.

Overall, the LAO forecast is worse than just six months ago, with an \$18 billion (up from \$13 billion) deficit in 2026–27, and ongoing deficits of almost \$35 billion every year until 2029–30 (the final year in the forecast). This means the Governor and Legislature will once again be looking for solutions to a budget problem and may find themselves eyeing the Proposition 98 side of the budget yet again.

For K-14 education, **about \$7.5 billion of the additional \$11 billion in revenues will go to education under Prop 98**. This is one-time funding that could be used for many different purposes, including creating new grants or helping build budget resiliency. In addition, **there is enough growth within Prop 98, in combination with a mandatory rainy day fund withdrawal, to fully fund the projected cost-of-living adjustment of 2.51 percent**. Beyond 2026–27, the LAO anticipates slow Prop 98 growth of about \$1-2 billion per year, with a return to more normal growth in 2029–30.

Legal update: Actions on federal education funding cases

On Nov. 13, two federal education funding cases, one related to COVID-era funds and another related to teacher training programs, moved forward. In *State of New York, et. al. v. U.S. Department of Education*, a case brought by a coalition of states including California to



challenge the rescission of COVID-era funding by the U.S. Department of Education (ED), **the parties entered into a stipulated agreement that leaves in place a preliminary injunction previously granted in the case that ordered the funds be distributed.** Specifically, the agreement allows the preliminary injunction to remain in place until all of the funds have been distributed and essentially ended the case. As stipulated, the

agreement does not indicate admission of wrongdoing by ED, but instead is “for the purpose of compromising disputed claims and avoiding the expenses and risks of further litigation.”

The case of *State of California et. al. v. U.S. Department of Education* similarly **involves a challenge by a coalition of states to the federal government’s termination of grant funding** totaling approximately \$600 million meant to support K-12 teacher preparation programs in various states. A district court judge previously issued an order restoring the funding, which was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court. **The matter of restoration of funds, the Supreme Court said, should be left to the Court of Federal Claims.** Since the Supreme Court only considered the question of restoration of funds, the case was remanded to the lower court for additional proceedings. In the most recent development, the district court judge ruled that while she cannot order restoration of the funds, she will consider the case to determine if the actions of the federal government were lawful and therefore if the case will move forward.

State update: Participate in the Portrait of a Graduate survey



The **State Board of Education** is asking the public to participate in its **Portrait of a Graduate/Learner Community Survey** to identify skills students will need to thrive in their lives and develop a **Portrait of a Graduate/Learner**. Many states and California-based local educational agencies have already established their own portraits — emphasizing skills like communication, critical thinking,

collaboration and creativity — to guide decisions related to curriculum, assessment and accountability. A portrait adopted by the State Board will only inform and guide its own decisions, not create new requirements for LEAs, a flyer for the survey notes. [Learn more »](#)

Read the latest edition of *California School News*

The **November newsletter** is available online. It includes **Dr. Bettye Lusk’s final President’s Message** on the importance of intentional and thoughtful leadership and the details of



education updates. [Read it now »](#)

CSBA's call for the state to create a comprehensive state-level plan to support — not dictate to — local schools in closing the achievement gap. The issue also provides statements from 2025 CSBA officer candidates, 2026 committee rosters, information on the call for nominations for 2026 Delegate Assembly elections and resources for Family Engagement Month and Native American Heritage Month, among other

2025 Education Legal Alliance annual report details current efforts



issues of statewide significance to all California schools.

CSBA's Education Legal Alliance (ELA) is a consortium of school districts, county offices of education and regional occupational centers and programs that joined together in 1992 to create a powerful force **to pursue and defend a broad spectrum of statewide public education interests before state and federal courts, state agencies and the Legislature.** The ELA initiates and supports legal activities in

This past year, the ELA has several key victories, including preserving local authority in charter authorizations, clarifying charter school obligations and protecting local educational agencies' resources. [Read the 2025 ELA annual report »](#)

Total Schools Solutions can help with closing and budget development



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

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

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](#)

**MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective
Governance/Setting Direction**

Jan. 26 and Feb. 23 | [Register](#)

**MIG Course 2: Student Learning &
Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review**

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

In-person events

**Annual Education Conference and Trade
Show**

Dec. 3-5 | Sacramento | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

