

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

December 17, 2025

The California School News Weekly Update will be on hiatus until Jan. 7.

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Register now: CSBA's 2026 budget advocacy strategy and the January Budget Proposal webinar

Upcoming CSBA Webinar

Gov. Gavin Newsom's January Budget Proposal, released on or before Jan. 10 as required by law, is the first formal blueprint that sets priorities and shapes the negotiations that follow through the May Revision and the Legislature's adoption of the budget in June. **CSBA members are encouraged to attend [CSBA's budget webinar at 11 a.m. on Jan. 12, 2026](#), when CSBA staff will respond to the Governor's January Budget Proposal.**

This webinar will help attendees understand key TK–12 fiscal and policy signals in the Governor’s proposal; track what to watch as the process moves toward the May Revision and June negotiations; and prepare for coordinated advocacy during the most influential windows of the budget cycle. [Register for the webinar](#) | [Learn more about CSBA’s 2026 budget advocacy strategy](#)

Federal update: Department of Education awards new mental health grants



On Dec. 11, the U.S. Department of Education **announced** more than \$208 million in new grant awards for the Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration and School-Based Mental Health programs. The awards will go to 65 recipients and will enhance the capacity of local educational agencies in rural and high-need areas to deliver evidence-based

interventions; lower student-to-school psychologist ratios; support provider recruitment and retainment through bonuses, stipends and community support; and strengthen and sustain the school-based mental health workforce.

The new grants amount to significantly less than the nearly \$1 billion in funds revoked from over 200 recipients for school-based programs and providers earlier this year. The latest recipients were selected under a new application process and are subject to new requirements, including that they must **limit funding to hiring school psychologists rather than supplementing with school counselors and social workers** who often also provide student mental health supports at a time when [nearly every state is facing a shortage of school psychologists](#).

In other federal news:

- On Nov. 25, the Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service issued [Notice 2025-70 PDF](#), requesting comments on the implementation of a new tax credit for individuals established under the One Big Beautiful Bill. The credit applies to contributions to Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) that serve elementary and secondary school students from low- and middle-income families. Beginning Jan. 1, 2027, individual taxpayers may claim a nonrefundable federal tax credit for cash contributions to SGOs providing scholarships for private school tuition at secular and religious schools, homeschooling materials and expenses at public or private schools. [Comments are due by Dec. 26.](#) [Learn more »](#)

Commission on Teacher Credentialing examines teacher vacancies and misassignments





Key items on the **California Commission on Teacher Credentialing's Dec. 11-12 agenda** focused on how to address persistent certificated teacher misassignments, a lengthy discussion on how and when to use substitutes to uphold instructional continuity, and advanced amendments to the Child

Development Permit. Top of mind for commissioners was a proposed plan to address recommendations from the **California State Auditor's report** on educator misassignments at Highlands Community Charter and Technical Schools. While labeled as "recommendations," staff said the report **mandates the commission to act or formally report lack of progress to both the auditor and the Legislature, and impose sanctions on local educational agencies that misassign educators.**

The commission also began to address direction from Gov. Gavin Newsom delivered in his veto of CSBA's 2025 co-sponsored Assembly Bill 1224, which proposed to extend pandemic-era flexibilities that allowed substitute teachers to stay in both general education and special education classrooms from 30 days to 60 days. After engaging with groups from the field and weighing public comment and commissioner feedback, the commission directed staff to continue exploring the issue and return in February with a more refined proposal that incorporates concerns that the proposals are currently too restrictive to address real teacher vacancy needs. [Read a full recap of the meeting »](#)

What's Your Why with Renee Longshore, Apple Valley USD



Children are the country's future, which is why **Apple Valley Unified School District trustee Renee Longshore believes it's important to embrace different styles of learning to enhance the education of underserved students.** "My focus is on neurodiversity, the kids that don't quite fit in the box, and just trying to **find ways to support them and help them become their best selves,**" Longshore said.

"What's Your Why?" is a series of video vignettes featuring school district and county office of education board members describing why they became trustees and why they continue to serve California public schools. [View Longshore's What's Your Why? along with the whole collection »](#)

Save with the GO Bond Refunding Pool



For more than 30 years, California school districts and community college districts have **saved time and money by issuing tax and revenue**



anticipation notes (TRANS) through the California School Cash Reserve Program Authority sponsored by CSBA and the California Association of School Business Officials, the largest pooled TRAN financing in

the nation. The GO Bond Refunding Pool continues this tradition by allowing districts to **unlock taxpayer savings by driving down costs** through an easy-to-use shared financing platform. [Learn more »](#)

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Virtual events

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

Jan. 14-15 | [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

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

Feb. 21 | Chico | [Register](#)

Feb. 21 | San Jose | [Register](#)

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