



April 9, 2025

In this Issue

- [Legislative update: New research on established education workforce housing projects signals need for proposed CSBA legislation](#)
- [Register for upcoming webinars on education workforce housing and AI legal considerations](#)
- [Nominations open for 2026 CSBA Officers](#)
- [Federal update: U.S. Department of Education requires K-12 school districts to certify compliance with orders](#)
- [What's Your Why? with Robla ESD's Ken Barnes](#)
- [State update: 2025 Civic Learning Award application period is open](#)
- [Assistance with closing and budget development](#)

Legislative update: New research on established education workforce housing projects signals need for proposed CSBA legislation



CSBA and education workforce housing (EWH) research partners from the University of California, Los Angeles' cityLAB and UC Berkeley's Center for Cities + Schools released a follow-up to the landmark [2022 report](#) that revealed the untapped potential of education workforce housing, propelling interest in the subject and a surge in

staff housing projects. Released March 17, [Education Workforce Housing: Insights from Nine California Developments](#), builds upon the earlier how-to report, revealing the intricacies of building successful developments in different contexts throughout the state.

CSBA has partnered with Assemblymembers Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland) and Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) to introduce an education workforce housing package for the 2025–26 legislative session that addresses several of the concerning findings raised in the report. **Assembly Bill 1021** (Wicks/Muratsuchi) seeks to ease the bureaucratic hurdles associated with developing EWH, creating incentives and efficiencies to build staff housing, particularly for small and rural school districts and COEs that may have less administrative capacity. The bill would also provide TK-12 schools with the same California Environmental Quality Act exemptions already granted to affordable housing projects, and incentivize the development of workforce housing close to transit.

AB 1381 (Muratsuchi) would establish and fund a revolving loan account in the Office of the California State Treasurer to provide no-interest loans to LEAs to prepare predevelopment feasibility studies for educational workforce housing projects. Loan amounts would be up to \$150,000 per LEA, with the exact size of each loan dependent upon the size of the LEA and project scope. [Learn more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Register for upcoming webinars on education workforce housing and AI legal considerations



CSBA has two informative webinars coming up later this month:

Education Workforce Housing: Understanding new research and legislation, April 16, 11 a.m. Join CSBA and research partners UCLA's cityLAB and UC Berkley's Center for Cities + Schools to **discuss findings from the recently released education workforce housing (EWH) report,**

Insights from nine California developments. Following their presentation, CSBA's Governmental Relations team will provide an **overview of the association's co-sponsored bills supporting EWH** currently circulating in the Legislature: Assembly Bill 1381 (Muratsuchi) and AB 1021 (Wicks/Muratsuchi). [Register »](#)

Legal Considerations: Using AI tools in educational settings, April 30 at 10 a.m. CSBA and a panel of education legal experts will explore **how school boards can best prepare and protect their students and staff in the ever-evolving world of artificial intelligence (AI).** Topics will address the most prominent legal considerations of AI use in schools, such as protecting privacy and maintaining Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act compliance, preventing plagiarism and copyright infringement, and student accessibility. [Register »](#)

Nominations open for 2026 CSBA Officers



The CSBA Candidate Review Committee invites CSBA members to **participate in this year's election process for the offices of Vice President and President-elect**. Nominations may be made by either a school district or county office of education board that is a member of CSBA, or by an individual member of a CSBA member board. Please consider running yourself or encourage others to run for CSBA office.

Officer Nomination Forms are due no later than Thursday, June 5, 2025. [Learn more](#)
»

Federal update: U.S. Department of Education requires K-12 school districts to certify compliance with orders



In a [letter](#) sent April 3 to state educational agencies (SEAs), **the U.S. Department of Education announced it is requiring a certification of compliance with “antidiscrimination obligations in order to continue receiving federal financial assistance.** Specifically, the department requests certification of compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and the responsibilities outlined in *Students for*

Fair Admissions v. Harvard,” states a [press release](#) on the directive. **SEAs will be responsible for reporting on their state overall and for collecting certification responses from the local educational agencies**, according to the release. Certifications are due to the Department of Education on April 13. The California Department of Education sent a [letter](#) to all county and district superintendents indicating the SEA plans to respond to the federal Education Department on behalf of the state and will share a copy of the letter once submitted.

In another [letter](#) sent on March 31, the U.S. Department of Education outlined **information regarding how states can use federal formula funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to support elementary and secondary school educational choice initiatives** for a range of options including advanced courses, dual enrollment, academic tutoring, career and technical education, personalized learning and out-of-school activities.

What's Your Why? with Robla ESD's Ken Barnes



Ken Barnes of Robla Elementary School District began his journey as a board member as a



concerned parent. Once Barnes was officially on the board, he realized that **his unique perspectives could serve the needs of his children, and countless others.** "Even though I started off as just trying to find some way to participate in my children's education, I quickly

found out that my perspective was needed," he 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 this and other videos from the "What's Your Why" series »](#)

State update: 2025 Civic Learning Award application period is open



Lead by the Power of Democracy Civic Learning Initiative with support from the California Department of Education, **the Civic Learning Award recognizes school-driven, district-supported civic learning efforts that engage students in civic learning.** Now in its 13th year, the award has been presented 541 times to K–12 schools in 32 counties. This year, **applications are due April 18** and honorees will be announced

on May 1. [Learn more »](#)

Assistance 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](#).

Sponsors



Virtual events

**Masters in Governance (MIG) Course 5:
Community Relations & Advocacy/
Governance Integration**

April 23-24 | [Register](#)

The Brown Act

April 25 | [Register](#)

**SBM Legacy and Transition Planning for
Policy Initiatives**

April 28 | [Register](#)

**MIG Course 3: School Finance 1 & 2 May
5 | [Register](#)**

In-person events

**2025 CSBA County Board Governance
Workshop**

April 11-12 | Sacramento | [Register](#)

MIG Course 3: School Finance Part 1 & 2

April 19 | Riverside | [Register](#)

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

April 26 | Visalia | [Register](#)

**Universal Complaint Procedures (UCP)
University**

April 29 | West Sacramento | [Register](#)

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

May 3 | Hayward | [Register](#)

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

May 3 | Riverside | [Register](#)

**What Board Presidents and Executive
Assistants Need to Know About the
Brown Act**

