

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

May 21, 2025

In this Issue

- [Legislative update: May Revise largely spares education cuts](#)
- [Action Alert: Urge Congress to reject cuts to Medicaid and SNAP](#)
- [Showcase talented students at AEC](#)
- [Legal update: Ninth Circuit Court once again finds trustee violated constituents First Amendment right](#)
- [Read the May issue of *California School News*](#)
- [Federal update: Small, Rural School Achievement Program grants](#)
- [Have you completed your GASB report?](#)

Legislative update: May Revise largely spares education cuts



2025–26 fiscal year. As in past years, public education funding under Proposition 98 is

On May 14, Gov. Gavin Newsom released his proposed **May Revise to the 2025–26 State Budget**. Despite higher than estimated state revenues over the past several months, the **Governor said the impact of President Donald Trump's on-again, off-again tariffs and the ensuing economic uncertainty has resulted in a \$16 billion drop in state revenues, leading to an estimated \$12 billion deficit in the coming**

largely being preserved but comes with a caveat — a troubling withholding of \$1.3 billion in public education funding.

Overall funding for Proposition 98 is revised to be \$98.5 billion in the prior 2023–24 fiscal year, \$118.9 billion for the current 2024–25 fiscal year (a decrease of \$300 million) and \$114.6 billion for the 2025–26 budget year (a decrease of \$4.3 billion).

Over this three-year period, Prop 98 is now projected to increase by only \$2.9 billion over the level assumed when the previous budget was passed in June 2024, as opposed to the \$7.5 billion announced as a part of the January Budget Proposal. The TK–12 share of Prop 98 in the proposed 2025–26 budget is \$98.38 billion. Compared to the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in the proposed January Budget, the estimated COLA is lowered from 2.43 percent to 2.3 percent. [Read the details on the CSBA blog »](#)

Action Alert: Urge Congress to reject cuts to Medicaid and SNAP



The congressional reconciliation process now underway poses a threat to the well-being of California's students and families. The reconciliation process allows Congress to take expedited mid-year funding actions, which can result in immediate cuts to vital programs. If adopted, **the proposed changes to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) would dramatically**

undermine school-based services and household food security — critical supports that many students rely on to thrive both academically and personally. CSBA urges its members to contact their congressional representatives today and demand they reject provisions that would erode access to health care and nutrition for children. [Send an email to your representatives »](#)

Showcase talented students at AEC



The CSBA Annual Education Conference (AEC) Planning Committee **invites student performers of all grade levels representing school districts and county offices of education of all sizes to showcase their talents at the [Annual Education Conference and Trade Show](#)**. The performances will take place during the General Sessions on either Wednesday, Dec. 3, or Thursday, Dec. 4, at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center in

Sacramento. **Proposals from bands, choral groups, soloists, thespians, dance troupes and other student performers are welcome. Each performance will be approximately 8-10 minutes** for an audience of California's education leaders. *Please note: Travel and related expenses are the responsibility of the local educational agency.* **The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, June 25. [Learn more and apply »](#)**

Legal update: Ninth Circuit Court once again finds trustee violated constituents First Amendment right



On May 14, the Ninth Circuit issued a decision in *Garnier v. O'Connor-Ratcliff*, a case that relates to public officials' use of social media, and which the Supreme Court remanded for reconsideration under a newly created standard. CSBA's Education Legal Alliance (ELA) filed an amicus brief at the U.S. Supreme Court level. **After an application of the new Supreme Court test, the Ninth Circuit came to the same conclusion it**

had previously — trustee Michelle O'Connor-Ratcliff was a state actor when she blocked members of the public from her social media pages and so, violated their First Amendment right. Specifically, the Ninth Circuit determined that O'Connor-Ratcliff did possess the authority to speak on behalf of the state because of state law and school district policy and that she did purport to use her state-given authority to speak for the district.

The court concluded its analysis by describing that public officials “assuredly do have the right to speak on public affairs, including issues related to their official duties, in their personal capacity.” **To avoid liability as a state actor, the court explained that officials should take precautions such as keeping personal posts in a designated personal account, including a disclaimer on such accounts to avoid posts being characterized as those of a state actor, and refraining from labeling such personal pages as official means of communication.** Based on the broad analysis of the Ninth Circuit, board members should consult legal counsel or reach out to [CSBA Legal Services](#) before blocking members of the public from any page they use to discuss district or board matters. [Read more about the case on the CSBA blog »](#)

Read the May issue of *California School News*



The May edition of *California School News* features **recaps from two exciting CSBA events — the County Board Governance Workshop and the CSBA-Association of California School Administrators Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip.** The issue also includes an article outlining **CSBA's sponsored bills** currently making their way through the State Legislature, an **Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

spotlight, a wrap-up of the important work of **CSBA's AI Taskforce** and an update on the Education Legal Alliance's win in a **Napa Valley charter school authorization case.**

[Read the May issue »](#)

Federal update: Small, Rural School Achievement Program grants



The **Small, Rural School Achievement Program** awards grants to local educational agencies focused on addressing the unique needs of rural school districts. Eligible LEAs include those that meet both of these criteria: (1) The total number of students in average daily attendance at all of the schools served by the LEA is fewer than 600, or each county in which a school served by the LEA is located has a total population density of

fewer than 10 persons per square mile; and (2) all of the schools served by the LEA are designated with a school locale code of 41, 42 or 43 by the National Center for Education Statistics or the education secretary has determined, based on a demonstration by the LEA and concurrence of the state educational agency, that the LEA is located in an area defined as rural by a governmental agency of the state. **Applications are due by June 13.** [Learn more »](#)

Have you completed your GASB report?



The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) establishes accounting reporting standards. **GASB 68 reports are required for pensions that are provided to the employees of state and local governmental employers** through pension plans that are administered through trusts. **GASB 75 reports are required for other post-employment benefits** that are provided to the employees of state and local

governmental employers. CSBA offers actuarial services through our partner **Foster & Foster**. Foster & Foster provides **GASB compliant reports to state and local governmental employers with no limit to the number of participants**. [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

June 4 | [Register](#)

Executive Assistant (EA) Rho: Job Mechanics 3A/3B

June 5-6 | [Register](#)

The Brown Act

June 13 | [Register](#)

Executive Assistant (EA) Rho: Governance Integration

June 27 | [Register](#)

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

Aug. 4 | [Register](#)

The Brown Act

Aug. 15 | [Register](#)

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

Sept. 3 | [Register](#)

The Brown Act

Sept. 3 | [Register](#)

In-person events

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

June 7 | Alameda | [Register](#)

June 7 | Riverside | [Register](#)

County Board Conference

Sept. 5-7 | Monterey | [Register](#)

Sponsors



[View complete calendar](#)