



May 7, 2025

In this Issue

- [Information, insight and influence: Coast2Coast delivers for governance teams](#)
- [Legislative update: Agreement reached on literacy instruction reforms](#)
- [State update: CDE sends letter on school discipline policies; Civic Learning Awards](#)
- [Legal update: Attorneys general challenge proposed elimination of DEI initiatives](#)
- [Nomination forms for 2026 CSBA Officers are due June 5](#)
- [Upcoming webinar: Understanding the May Revise's impact on schools](#)
- [AAPI Heritage Month spotlight: The importance of strong advocacy](#)
- [Maximize your budget, lower administrative costs and streamline the procurement process](#)

Information, insight and influence: Coast2Coast delivers for governance teams



Assertive advocacy, practical policy and bipartisan spirit were on display as more than 300 California school trustees and superintendents converged on the nation's capital for the fourth annual CSBA-ACSA Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip. As part of the largest delegation in Coast2Coast history, participants sharpened their advocacy skills, absorbed timely policy insight and delivered an unequivocal message to Congress: strong public schools are America's best

investment, and California's 5.8 million students can't wait for political gridlock to clear before their needs are met. [Read a full recap on the CSBA blog »](#)

California's Rep. Kevin Kiley (R-03), Rep. Ted Lieu (D-36) and Sen. Adam Schiff (D) addressed Coast2Coast attendees on April 28 and April 29, delivering rousing speeches emphasizing the importance of education to the well-being of the population and prosperity of the United States and praising school board members for their vital public service. Then, on April 30, attendees fanned across the House office buildings on Capitol Hill to meet with congressional members and staff and deliver crucial messages gleaned from their own experiences and the key issue briefings offered by CSBA and ACSA. In their meetings, **Coast2Coast attendees asked Congress to take action on five key bipartisan priorities: protect core federal programs; fulfil the 40 percent IDEA promise; reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools Act; expand connectivity and cybersecurity; and tackle the educator workforce crisis.**

Legislative update: Agreement reached on literacy instruction reforms



Last week, a compromise emerged in the two-year saga to reform literacy instruction in California. [Assembly Bill 1454](#) was approved by the Assembly Education Committee with support from the backers of two competing bills. While the negotiations continue on some outstanding issues, **the current provisions in the bill provide more implementation flexibility for local educational agencies** as compared to

similar legislation proposed last session and again this year.

Key amendments include requiring an LEA to adopt instructional materials in English language arts/English language development approved by the State Board of Education at its next adoption for grades K-8; requiring the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to update program standards for professional preparation of candidates for a preliminary services credential with a specialization in administrative services; and requiring the state to make funding available to LEAs to provide professional development to certificated and classified staff who provide reading instruction to students in grades TK-5. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

State update: CDE sends letter on school discipline policies; Civic Learning Awards

On May 1, the California Department of Education (CDE) sent a [letter](#) to leaders of local educational agencies about updates to school discipline policies in response to the April 23 [executive order](#) "Reinstating Common Sense School Discipline Policies."

The communication outlines the department's concerns with the Trump Administration's action, asserting that "disproportionate discipline of students based on race is a real concern in our education system," and highlights the CDE's



work to address threats to the physical and emotional safety of students. The letter states that the CDE does agree, however, that “discipline must be applied in a non-discriminatory fashion in accordance with state and federal laws” and offered related resources.

In other state news:

- California's Chief Justice on May 1 announced the recipients of this year's 2025 Civic Learning Awards — a program that recognizes public schools' promotion of civic education. [View winners for the Civic Learning Award of Excellence and Awards of Emeritus »](#)

Legal update: Attorneys general challenge proposed elimination of DEI initiatives



On April 25, a coalition of attorneys general, including the California Attorney General Rob Bonta, [filed a lawsuit](#) in federal district court challenging the April 3 U.S. Department of Education's (ED) request that state and local educational agencies certify compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 — which prohibits discrimination on the basis race, color and national origin in programs receiving federal

financial assistance — based on the requirements related to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) outlined in the ED's Feb. 14 Dear Colleague Letter. Among the arguments advanced, **the lawsuit maintains that the certification requirement violates the Administrative Procedure Act and the U.S. Constitution on multiple grounds.**

In a related case brought by the NAACP in federal circuit court for the District of Columbia, the judge, on April 24, granted a preliminary injunction barring the implementation of ED's April 3 Title VI certification requirement. The case by the attorneys general includes a greater scope of arguments that are distinct from those made in the NAACP's case.

Nomination forms for 2026 CSBA Officers are due June 5



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.** [Learn more »](#)

Upcoming webinar: Understanding the May Revise's impact on schools



California local educational agencies face an uncertain and complex financial landscape as they continue to plan their 2025–26 budgets. **By May 14, Gov. Gavin Newsom will release his May Budget Revision.**

Join CSBA staff and guest experts at 11 a.m. on May 19 for a closer look at the budget from an education perspective. Panelists will break

down the Governor's May Revise and its implications for public schools with special attention to protecting Proposition 98, obtaining a fully funded cost-of-living adjustment, ensuring the proposed Student Support and Professional Development Discretionary Block Grant is fully discretionary, aiding staff recruitment and retention, funding implementation of transitional kindergarten, avoiding unfunded mandates, providing flexibility for small school districts and other key priorities. [Register »](#)

In case you missed it, **read a recap of CSBA's April 30 webinar, "Legal Considerations: Using AI tools in educational settings,"** which provided members insights on how to prepare for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) on campuses and protect students and staff from its potential pitfalls [on the blog »](#)

AAPI Heritage Month spotlight: The importance of strong advocacy



In honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, **CSBA spoke with Garvey School District trustee Andrew Yam about the value of advocacy and what local educational agencies can do to promote leadership opportunities among California's students — particularly its AAPI youth.**

Yam may only be 25 years old, but his experience in policy and advocacy is extensive. He **currently serves on the board for the Asian Pacific Islander School Board Members Association among other positions.** "When there's teachers, or when there's other school board members who are serving these positions who are folks who look like me, that makes me feel like I can also do that too," Yam said of the importance of mentorship for young people looking to become leaders. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

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

Executive Assistant (EA) Rho: Governance 2A/2B
May 15-16 | [Register](#)

2025 CCSA Spring Virtual Workshop
May 16 | [Register](#)

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158
June 4 | [Register](#)

EA Rho: Job Mechanics 3A/3B
June 5-6 | [Register](#)

The Brown Act
June 13 | [Register](#)

EA Rho: Governance Integration
June 27 | [Register](#)

In-person events

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158
May 12 | Camarillo | 12 p.m. | [Register](#)
May 12 | Camarillo | 5 p.m. | [Register](#)

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

Sponsors



Governance Integration

June 7 | Alameda | [Register](#)

June 7 | Riverside | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)