California school news
Weekly Update

July 2, 2025

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CSBA calls on Trump Administration to release billions in funding for public schools

"The July 1 announcement by the federal government that it would freeze billions of education dollars previously approved by Congress and due to go out to schools that same day is an outright travesty," said CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy. "It ignores the real and present needs of almost 6 million students in California and tens of millions more across the nation. America's greatness was built on a centuries-old ethos that education is the cornerstone of our democracy.

Shortchanging students, particularly in our small and rural communities, is not a path towards greatness, but a giant step toward mediocrity."

Each year on July 1, by law, states receive the bulk of the federal education money Congress allocated for the upcoming K-12 school year. On June 30, 2025, states received **an email saying the U.S. Department of Education was still reviewing 2025 funding for programs** including Title I-C for migrant education ($375 million); Title II-A for professional development ($2.2 billion); Title III-A for English-learner services ($890 million); Title IV-A for academic enrichment ($1.3 billion); and Title IV-B for before- and after-school programs ($1.4 billion). **In many California districts, that money was built into school budgets this spring and administrators expected to start spending it this month and next.**

CSBA is advocating to ensure LEAs receive their promised funding for programs that allow them to offer academic enrichment, pay for before- and after-school programs, deliver teacher training and professional development, provide English learner services and support migrant education. Even a short delay in funding has significant consequences as schools need this funding now to purchase curriculum materials, add needed technology to classrooms, and furnish other student supports that are critical to academic success. **Read more on the CSBA blog »**

CSBA President advocates for bill to extend substitute teaching time limits in *EdSource*

In a **June 30 commentary** piece published by *EdSource,* **CSBA President Dr. Bettye Lusk makes the case for the association's co-sponsored Assembly Bill 1224 (Avelino, D-Anaheim), which would increase the 30-day limit on substitute teaching to 60 days.**

An excerpt from the commentary:

"In a perfect world, every classroom would have a fully certificated teacher on the first day of class, the last day of class and every day between. As a lifelong educator, I know the value of having a full-time teacher share their learning and wisdom with students on a consistent basis. **But there simply aren't enough full-time teachers to go around. So, we must make policy and governance decisions that reflect the current reality while simultaneously working to build a better system that sets substitutes and students up for success.**

Local educational agencies rely on substitutes, but current law forbids a substitute teacher from serving in the same classroom for more than 30 consecutive days. In cases where a school district or county office of education cannot identify a full-time teacher, such as a midyear departure or one that occurs before the start of the school year, this can lead to a revolving door of substitute teachers that disrupts instruction and destabilizes the classroom environment. These impacts are felt most acutely in low-income and rural schools, and the burden falls disproportionately on English learners, minority students and students from families of modest means." **Read the full** commentary »

Legal update: US Department of Education finds California in violation of Title IX

On June 25, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) issued a press release announcing the conclusion of its Office for Civil Rights' (OCR) investigation into the California Department of Education (CDE) and California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) for violations of Title IX. The press release states that, **based on the investigation, OCR determined that CDE and CIF violated Title IX by discriminating against women and girls on the basis of sex by allowing transgender female athletes to participate in female sports.** According to the press release, OCR issued a proposed Resolution Agreement with **six required action items as a means for CDE and CIF to correct their noncompliance with Title IX,** including that CDE be required to notify all local educational agencies that receive federal funds and operate interscholastic athletic programs that they must adhere to Title IX's requirements.

The **requirements include the interpretation that Title IX and its regulations forbid schools from allowing male athletes to participate in female sports and would require the use of "biology-based" definitions of male and female.** The proposed Resolution Agreement would also require CDE and CIF to **rescind any guidance that advised LEAs and CIF members that male athletes may participate in female sports**. In order to avoid enforcement action, including a "referral to the U.S. Department of Justice for proceedings," **OCR has given CDE and CIF 10 days to comply with the proposed Resolution Agreement.** It is likely that the OCR findings and ED actions will be challenged in court due to the conflicts that exist with California law and constitutional considerations. Additionally, California and a coalition of other states already have a pending, pre-enforcement lawsuit challenging the Department of Justice's (DOJ) right to impose penalties regarding these issues. CSBA will provide updates on this matter as it develops.

Legislative update: Legislature and Governor approve state budget

After prolonged negotiation between Gov. Gavin Newsom and the Legislature**, the 2025–26 State Budget was adopted June 27 and reflected in two budget bills, Senate Bill 101 and Assembly Bill 102. Included in the state budget was the Governor's proposed withholding of $1.9 billion in Proposition 98 funding, which CSBA opposed**. It also includes troublesome language that eliminates exemptions in the Surplus Land

Act (SLA) that were beneficial to local educational agencies.

The withholding of Prop 98 funds was initially $1.6 billion in the Governor's January Budget Proposal; however, after increases in the expected Prop 98 Guarantee for the current fiscal year, the amount of the withholding also increased by $300 million. CSBA launched an Action Alert for members to send emails to their legislators and the Governor urging them to reject this manipulation of Prop 98. More than 1,000 emails were sent, but the withholding was preserved in the final budget act. This manipulation of Prop 98 sets a dangerous precedent where future legislatures and governors could use it to undermine public education funding.

Also included as part of the housing budget trailer bill, **AB 130**, was the **removal of two exemptions from the SLA.** Under the SLA, before selling or leasing land deemed "surplus," local agencies, including LEAs, must first offer it to entities that will develop affordable housing for very low-, low- and moderate-income households. However, exemptions from the SLA were afforded to LEAs when they met certain conditions. **The removal of these exemptions will significantly impact the development of school facilities, including facilities for preschools, special education services, charter schools, education workforce housing, nutritional services and onsite mental health and health care clinics.** Opposed by CSBA, the California Association of School Business Officials and the Los Angeles Unified School District, this will continue to be an area of focus for future advocacy efforts.

Legal update: Supreme Court rules that E-Rate Program can continue

In ***FCC v. Consumers' Research***, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a 6-3 decision issued on June 27, upheld the E-Rate funding mechanism. **As a result of this decision, local educational agencies may continue to apply for and receive E-Rate funding.** Enacted by Congress, E-Rate is administered and managed by the Universal Service Administrative Company, a nonprofit organization created by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). **The fund is made up of mandatory contributions from telecommunications companies and is used to subsidize E-Rate, which provides discounts to eligible schools and libraries for telecommunications, internet access and internal connections.** Consumers' Research, a nonprofit consumer protection agency, challenged these contributions in December 2021, arguing that Congress' delegation of the power to require subsidies to the FCC and Universal Service Administrative Company violated the nondelegation clause of the Constitution.

Writing for the Court and overturning the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, Justice Elena Kagan held that Supreme Court precedent allows Congress to vest discretion to act in executive agencies that may then implement and apply the laws Congress enacts. **If Congress specifies the general policy to be pursued by an agency to which it is delegating authority and the boundaries of the delegated authority, then the nondelegation clause is not violated.** The plaintiff argued that a different standard should apply because the subsidies in question are "taxes," but the Court disagreed and held that Congress properly delegated the authority to both the FCC and the Universal Service Administrative Company. Specifically, Congress "imposed ascertainable and meaningful guideposts for the FCC to follow when carrying out its delegated function of collecting and spending contributions from carriers."

Federal update: Department of Education issues guidance on funding for low performing schools

The U.S. Department of Education on June 26 issued **guidance** to state school chiefs about **using federal formula grant funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to expand school choice and help failing schools.** According to the department, the guidance focuses on schools identified for support and improvement due to low performance. "Though students in these underperforming schools are not required to be given a school choice option, states may prioritize sending out 1003(a) school improvement dollars to districts that will both turnaround underperforming schools and given students a school choice option," the **press release** on the guidance states.

Salary compensation studies provide practical solutions

Long-term retention of experienced employees is more cost-effective than seeking and recruiting new ones. At the same time, attracting the best candidates is vital for maintaining the highest quality staff in a local educational agency. **School administrators understand the pivotal role a competitive compensation package plays in employee satisfaction and long-term retention, as well as attracting new talent.** Bargaining units often have an inaccurate perception of compensation packages, which can impact employee morale and complicate negotiations. **Total School Solutions (TSS) Compensation Studies have been instrumental in improving employee morale, job satisfaction and retention as well as providing accurate information for negotiations.** With a deep understanding of the educational landscape, collaborative work with the employee bargaining units and knowledge of available resources, TSS Compensation Studies can provide comprehensive, logical and practical solutions for LEAs. **Learn more »**

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Ethics Assembly Bill 2158
Aug. 4 | **Register**
Sept. 3 | **Register**

The Brown Act
Aug. 15 | **Register**
Sept. 3 | **Register**

In-person events

Masters in Governance (MIG) Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining
Aug. 16 | Visalia | **Register**

MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration
Aug. 23 | Visalia | **Register**

County Board Conference
Sept. 5-7 | Monterey | **Register**

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