

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

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Legislative update: Changes to education leadership in the Legislature



Multiple changes on both sides of the Legislature have been made in recent weeks, shaking up the leadership of the [Assembly Education Committee](#) and the [Senate Budget Subcommittee #1 on Education Finance](#). Last month, Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas (D-Hollister) announced numerous changes to policy and budget committees.

First, he **removed Assemblymember Dawn Addis (D-Morro Bay) from the Assembly Education Committee and replaced her with Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur**

(D-Los Angeles). Most notably, Rivas also announced he was **removing Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi** (D-Torrance) — who is termed out of the Assembly this year and is a candidate for state superintendent of public instruction — **from the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3 on Education Finance**. He also announced that, **beginning March 2, Assemblymember Darshana Patel** (D-Poway) will **succeed Muratsuchi as chair of the Assembly Education Committee, at which time Muratsuchi will no longer be a member of the committee, leaving a vacancy. Assemblymember Mike Fong** (D-Alhambra) **replaced Muratsuchi on the budget subcommittee.**

In the Senate, **Sen. Sasha Renée Pérez** (D-Pasadena) **was elevated to chair of the Senate Budget Subcommittee** last week, **succeeding Sen. Lena Gonzalez** (D-Long Beach). This means **Pérez will now chair both the Senate Education Committee and the budget subcommittee. Sen. Bob Archuleta** (D-Pico Rivera) was also appointed to the budget subcommittee.

CSBA 2025 Year in Review



While 2025 marked a challenging year in education with fiscal uncertainty and myriad policy changes impacting California schools and students, **CSBA helped secure meaningful policy and budgetary wins that protected local decision-making and directed critical funding and resources to schools.** The association's successes highlighted in the **2025 Year in Review** demonstrate what can be

accomplished when there is strong alignment across governance, advocacy, research, policy, training and member services.

"The California School Boards Association exists for a clear and vital purpose: to be the essential voice for public education and to inspire our members to be knowledgeable leaders, extraordinary governance practitioners and ardent advocates for all students," said CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy. **"At every level, CSBA's work in 2025 was guided by the conviction that strong local boards are crucial to ensuring a high-quality education for every student in every community."** [Read the Year in Review »](#)

State update: Summer Food Service Program applications



Applications for the Summer Food Service Program and the Seamless Summer Option are open. These federally funded, state-administered programs serve free meals to children 18 and younger when school is out of session, providing access to essential nutrition to children who may



otherwise go without. **Summer meal sites can be established in communities in which at least 50 percent of the children qualify for free or reduced-price school meals.** No paperwork or personal information is required for children to participate. **Applications are due by May 15.**

Local educational agencies in rural areas where congregate meal service is not available may apply to operate a non-congregate service, which allows organizations operating in rural communities **to deliver meals directly to homes or along bus routes, provide multiple days' worth of meals at a time, and allow parents or guardians to pick up meals on their children's behalf.** [Learn more »](#)

In other state news:

- On Jan. 30, the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence released its [Ecosystem of Care Toolkit](#), an interactive set of **resources designed to help LEAs coordinate and integrate services for youth, with a strong emphasis on preventing involvement in the justice or welfare systems in the first place and sustaining cross-agency collaboration to support student well-being and achievement.**

Federal update: New guidance on religious expression



The U.S. Department of Education issued **new guidance** on Feb. 5 regarding protected prayer and religious expression in public schools that **overturns a 2023 memo** issued by the Biden administration that asserted public school teachers and staff not encourage or discourage prayer in schools. The Trump administration's **new guidance declares that “visible, personal prayer, even if there is voluntary student participation in such prayer, does not itself constitute coercion,”** but that teachers and other school **officials should not deliver prayers “on behalf of the school or in contexts that students cannot opt out of.”** [Learn more »](#)

In other federal news:

- The **Government Accountability Office (GAO)** released a **report** on Jan. 29 showing that the U.S. Department of Education spent nearly \$1 million per week on salaries for Office for Civil Rights staff it had put on administrative leave from March through December 2025, paying up to \$38 million in total. Additionally, the GAO determined that between March and September, **the office received more than 9,000 complaints and resolved a total of 7,072 complaints by simply dismissing them.** [Read the report »](#)

Upcoming CSBA webinars: County Board Handbook and Policy Packet updates



Register now for two February webinars: The **latest installment in a five-part webinar series bringing the updated CSBA County Board Governance Handbook to life** takes place **Feb. 18 at 11 a.m.** **Current board members** from Butte, Santa Clara, San Bernardino and Ventura counties **will share what they found most meaningful and practical in the new Governance Handbook**, highlighting

how it can influence board culture, decision-making and effective governance in the service of students. [Learn more and register »](#)

The Policy and Governance Technology Services Department will host its quarterly update webinar on **Feb. 25 at 11 a.m.** **Legal and policy experts will detail and answer questions related to** the January Special Policy Packet on **response to immigration enforcement**, as well as **policies related to graduation requirements, adult-student interactions, and remote meetings and attendance.** [Learn more and register »](#)

New resources from the National Center on School Infrastructure



The **National Center on School Infrastructure (NCSI)** recently released a new batch of tools to support local educational agencies in the **critical work of maintaining public school buildings**. Research shows that modernized, well-cared for school facilities can have **short- and long-term benefits for students**, but many LEAs do not have a structured way to collect information on their buildings on their own, and

hiring consultants to conduct needs assessments can be costly. **To help overcome hurdles and build LEA capacity, NCSI launched three tools: a Facility Condition Assessment Manual and Workbook**, and a **Facility Condition Assessment Scope Definition Worksheet**.

The **manual outlines standards, policies and procedures for conducting facility condition assessments and details the necessary steps, required documentation and expectations for staff** involved in the Facility Condition Assessment process. The **companion Excel workbook** is a data collection tool for a single building assessment. The **worksheet will guide staff through defining the level of detail, scope boundaries and deliverables needed** to ensure comparable proposals are received that match the LEA's specific requirements.

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 »](#)

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

Virtual events

Masters in Governance (MIG) Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining
Feb. 25-26 | [Register](#)

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158
Feb. 27 | [Register](#)
March 23 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration
March 11-12 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review
March 16 and April 13 | [Register](#)

Legislative Action Week
March 17-19 | [Register](#)

Executive Assistant (EA) Tau: Job Mechanics 3A/3B
March 19-20 | [Register](#)

In-person events

MIG COE Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction
March 10 | San Diego | [Register](#)

2026 CSBA Counties Governance

Sponsors



PIPER | SANDLER

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PARTNERS

Workshop

March 11-12 | San Diego | [Register](#)

Education Workforce Housing 101

Workshop Series: Part 1

March 13 | Palo Alto | [Register](#)

March 20 | Los Angeles | [Register](#)

MIG Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review

March 14 | Chico | [Register](#)

March 14 | San Jose | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)



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