

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

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In this issue

- Legislative update: Legislative Action Week 2026
- Policy considerations related to César Chávez holiday and related matters
- CSBA Counties Governance Workshop focused on serving at-promise youth
- CSBA partners with RAND to elevate district leader voices
- Federal update: Proposed national AI policy frameworks
- CSBA publications receive statewide honor
- Total School Solutions can help with Facilities Master Plans

Legislative update: Legislative Action Week 2026



CSBA's 2026 Legislative Action Week was one for the books! **During a March 17 press conference at the State Capitol**, Assemblymembers Darshana Patel (D-San Diego), Rhodesia Ransom (D-Tracy) and Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) alongside CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy and President Dr. Debra Schade **announced the SOS for Student Achievement legislative**

package. The four-bill package encourages the state to create the conditions for local success by strengthening and aligning its own systems, policies, budgets, reports and support structures to help local educational agencies close

achievement gaps.

The week continued as **governance team members from around the state met virtually with state legislators and their staff** to advocate for CSBA's SOS for Student Achievement campaign and related legislation; CSBA co-sponsored bills including AB 2008 (limitations on reporting requirements) and AB 2490 (60-day substitute teachers), as well as the **rejection of Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposal to withhold \$5.6 billion of Prop 98 funding** and other budget priority issues.

It's not too late to take your advocacy to federal representatives — **register for the 2026 CSBA-ACSA Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip** to Washington, D.C., April 13-15! [Learn more and register »](#)

Policy considerations related to César Chávez holiday and related matters



In light of [recent allegations](#) against César Chávez, **local educational agencies have received numerous questions regarding whether to celebrate the upcoming César Chávez state holiday on March 31, and how to rename schools and other facilities named after Chávez.**

LEAs are not mandated to observe the César Chávez holiday and CSBA sample Board Policy/Administrative Regulation (BP/AR) 6115 – Ceremonies and Observances does not list it as a mandatory holiday. Nevertheless, many LEAs observe the César Chávez holiday because Education Code Section 37220.5 permits them to do so through a memorandum of understanding with applicable employee bargaining units. As a result, **LEAs must reach a written agreement with its bargaining units to rename or stop observance of this holiday. Another option may be to observe another holiday in lieu of César Chávez Day.** As outlined in CSBA sample BP 6115, LEAs may create new holidays via a board resolution. Given the short timeline, **it may be prudent for LEAs to allow observance of the holiday this year and make preparations to change it or remove it for the following year**, including any necessary negotiations with the appropriate bargaining units. [Read more, including information about renaming facilities, on the CSBA blog »](#)

Any specific questions about holiday observances or facility naming can be directed to CSBA's District and County Office of Education Legal Services at legalservices@csba.org or other legal counsel.

CSBA Counties Governance Workshop focused on serving at-promise youth



County office of education trustees and superintendents gathered in San Diego March 11-12 for the CSBA Counties Governance



Workshop, where the focus of sessions and micro-trainings was a core responsibility of county boards — serving at-promise students such as foster youth. Participants learned about **Los Angeles COE's Foster Youth Services**

Coordinating Program and Riverside COE's Foster Youth Success Initiative and its FosterFerret app; received an **early look at new foster youth resources developed by CSBA's Research and Education Policy Development Department and Demontea "Tae" Thompson**, executive director of Together We Inspire, who also shared his journey as a foster youth; and heard from **Alameda COE trustee Ken Berrick**, founder and CEO of Just Advocates and founder and director of the consulting firm Rising Social Strategies, and **Andre Chapman, president and CEO of Fostering Promise**, about **how education systems, child welfare and community partners can align to improve outcomes for foster youth**.

The workshop also included **micro-sessions hosted by education law firm Dannis Woliver Kelley and CSBA staff and COE trustees** on a range of topics. [Read a full recap of the workshop on the CSBA blog »](#)

CSBA partners with RAND to elevate district leader voices



RAND is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization that provides leaders with the information they need to make evidence-based decisions. In collaboration with the Center on Reinventing Public Education, the Council of Great City Schools and MGT, **RAND administers the American School District Panel (ASDP) survey** across a nationally representative sample.

Topics include curriculum and instruction, artificial intelligence and other technology, school finance, professional development, staffing and more.

CSBA serves as a trusted partner for assisting in participant outreach for the ASDP. The spring survey was sent to a selection of CSBA members who received an email invitation from either a CSBA address or from ASDP@rand.org directly. CSBA believes that the **district leadership perspective in the ASDP survey is critical for shaping policy and practice decisions, especially given the geographic and cultural diversity of California.** Findings from the survey provide insight into how districts are structuring their policies and practices to support students, and how these structures change over time in response to local educational agency needs.

Federal update: Proposed national AI policy framework



On March 20, The Trump administration released a **proposed legislative framework** outlining



its priorities for federal artificial intelligence (AI) policy centering on six key objectives including strengthening parental control and child safety online. To that end, the framework calls on Congress to take the following actions:

- Build on actions to date to protect children, including passage of the Take It Down Act, which aims to protect children and adult victims from deepfake abuse
- Empower parents and guardians with robust tools to manage their children’s privacy settings, screen time, content exposure and account controls
- Establish commercially reasonable, privacy protective, age-assurance requirements (such as parental attestation) for AI platforms and services likely to be accessed by minors
- Require AI platforms and services likely to be accessed by minors to implement features that reduce the risks of sexual exploitation and self-harm to minors
- Affirm that existing child privacy protections apply to AI systems, including limits on data collection for model training and targeted advertising
- Avoid setting ambiguous standards about permissible content, or open-ended liability, that could give rise to excessive litigation
- Ensure guidance does not pre-empt states from enforcing their own generally applicable laws protecting children, such as prohibitions on child sexual abuse material, even where such material is generated by AI

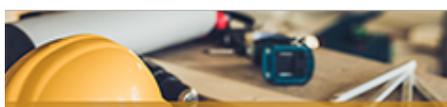
CSBA publications receive statewide honor



CSBA’s **monthly newsletter** and two features from the association’s quarterly magazine, *California Schools* — “**Full STEAM ahead: Districts across California are helping all students forge a path toward the future**” and “**Bridging the gap: Using data and evidence-based practices to close achievement gaps**” — received Awards of Excellence March 13 from the California School Public Relations

Association (CalSPRA). The statewide organization’s Excellence in Communication Awards program recognizes superior achievement in meeting strategic goals through high-quality communications and public relations programs.

Total School Solutions can help with Facilities Master Plans



Up-to-date facilities can support the educational and programmatic goals of local educational



agencies. **A Facilities Master Plan provides a district with vital information regarding current and future needs for student housing, quality of existing facilities, and facilities renovation and expansion requirements to meet its educational and programmatic goals.** The

master plan also assists in identifying funding needs for capital improvement and developing financing options. **Total School Solutions Facilities Master Plans include accurate projections regarding enrollment, careful determination of school site capacity, educational specifications to ensure programmatic needs are served, a detailed needs assessment, and conclusions and recommendations about the availability and timing of financing and funding.** [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

April 8 | [Register](#)

May 5 | [Register](#)

Executive Assistant (EA) Tau:

Governance Integration 4

April 10 | [Register](#)

Fiscal Responsibility: Key Financial Concepts for New Board Members

April 20 | [Register](#)

The Brown Act

April 24 | [Register](#)

In-person events

Coast2Coast

April 13-15 | Washington, D.C. | [Register](#)

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/ Collective Bargaining

April 18 | Santa Clara | [Register](#)

April 18 | Chico | [Register](#)

MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/ Governance Integration

May 2 | Chico | [Register](#)

May 2 | San Jose | [Register](#)

Sponsors



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