

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

March 4, 2026

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Legal update: Supreme Court strengthens parental notification rights for gender transitions



On March 2, the **U.S. Supreme Court issued an emergency order in *Mirabelli v. Bonta***, a case in which plaintiffs challenged California state educational policies regarding transgender students. **Both the immediate and long-term implications for local educational agencies are significant and will be explored in a deeper analysis from CSBA's Legal department on**

March 5.

While the *Mirabelli* litigation targeted now-defunct guidance tied to Assembly Bill 1266 that prohibited all LEAs from disclosing a student's transgender status to a parent without the student's consent, **the Court's order signals a broader constitutional shift emphasizing an expansion of parental rights and religious free-exercise protections.** Although the order lifts a stay rather than resolves the merits, other courts will potentially view the order as precedential, including the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which is still set to hear the appeal in this case.

Notably, **neither the district court nor the Supreme Court invalidated AB 1955, which prohibits mandatory disclosure policies,** and, for now, AB 1955 appears to remain operative law. However, LEAs should watch for developments in this area.

In practical terms, the Court's order revives a district court injunction that prohibits the state from permitting or requiring LEAs to engage in, among other things, misleading parents as to their student's transgender status or refusal to provide requested information. This likely requires LEAs to follow these obligations, all while navigating liability from multiple directions. Further clarification from state officials will be critical, as will advice from LEA legal counsel to help determine the appropriate course of action.

CSBA's Legal and Policy teams are tracking related developments closely and will provide additional analysis later this week and in the coming weeks.

Legislative update: CSBA President joins panel of experts in legislative hearing on reporting requirements



CSBA President Dr. Debra Schade spoke during a Feb. 25 meeting of the Assembly Education Committee and Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Education Finance to explain how state planning and reporting requirements affect local educational agencies. Schade explained to legislators that:

“Well-designed reports that provide genuine insight into operations and student outcomes are critical to accountability and continuous improvement. But over time, the volume, scope and complexity of mandated plans and reports have grown to the point that they often undermine their original purpose. The fiscal cost of compliance statewide likely reaches into the hundreds of millions if not billions of dollars when staff time, consultants and administrative systems are considered. The opportunity cost is even greater. Every hour spent duplicating data or navigating overlapping requirements is an hour not spent supporting teachers, improving instruction or serving students.”

Schade reminded the joint committees that CSBA co-sponsored legislation to address this issue — [Senate Bill 1315](#) (2024) and [SB 374](#) (2025) by Sen. Bob Archuleta (D-Pico Rivera), which required the California Department of Education to develop recommendations on which planning and reporting requirements can be eliminated, combined or shortened. CSBA is also co-sponsoring [House Resolution 87](#) by Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) and [Assembly Bill 2008](#) by

Assemblymember Darshana Patel (D-San Diego) to encourage scrutiny of new mandates to ensure they truly advance accountability, transparency and student achievement.

“Taken together, these recommendations and legislative efforts can create a more efficient, coherent system, one that prioritizes meaningful reporting while protecting the time and resources schools need to improve student outcomes,” she said.

CSBA’s report, *Drowning in Documentation*, offers a roadmap toward more effective and manageable reporting.

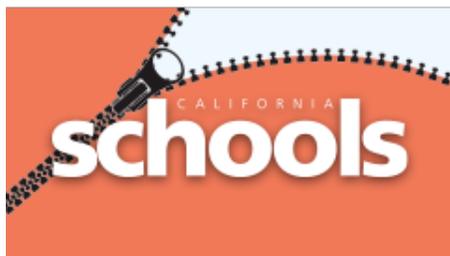
New CSBA resource for small and rural districts



CSBA **County Board Member Services** has released a **new County Office of Education Resource Directory spreadsheet** designed to help small and rural districts identify services and supports available through county offices of education (COEs) across California.

Information contributed by COEs includes brief descriptions of services, points of contact or notes about availability. Users may **search by service category to identify potential partners within their own county or in neighboring counties**. This document will be updated bi-annually, but because services and programs evolve over time, **users are encouraged to reach out directly to the listed COE for the most current information.** [Download the directory »](#)

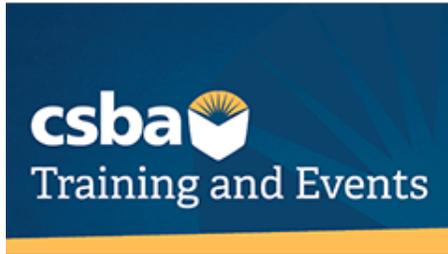
Winter edition of *California Schools* magazine now available



The latest issue of *California Schools* takes a **deep dive into topics including CSBA’s Closing the Achievement Gap initiative**, ways in which local educational agencies throughout the state are utilizing **college and career education** to pave a bright path forward for underserved youth, and steps California education leaders are taking to move the needle on **improving student literacy outcomes**.

The magazine also includes the **2025 legislative scorecard**, columns on **equitable grading practices** and **innovation in education**, a breakdown on continuing developments in **free speech rights in schools for students and employees**, a look back at the last **25 years of reforms to the state’s school accountability system**, the start of a new series **looking back on CSBA leadership ahead of the association’s 100th anniversary** and more. [Read the magazine »](#)

Register now for UCP University

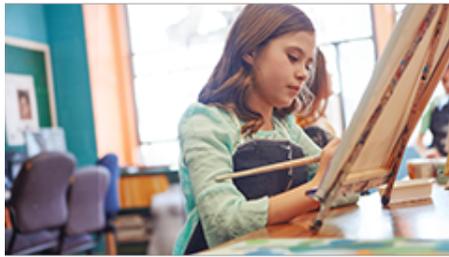


Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) can be challenging for local educational agencies to follow — and failure to comply can bring costly consequences, including expensive litigation, Federal Program Monitoring audit findings, and substantial loss of time and resources. **Join CSBA's Legal Services team March 18 at the Santa Barbara County Education Office for a new UCP University** to get an in-depth

breakdown of the complexities of UCP.

This **training is open to all and is designed for administrators, compliance officers, complaint coordinators and board members** seeking to enhance their understanding of the UCP requirements and ensure compliance with state regulations. [Register »](#)

Celebrating California Arts Education Month



California Arts Education Month, recognized each March, is a time to celebrate, promote and advocate for high-quality arts education. The **2025 Golden Bell Award-winning Huntington Beach Academy for the Performing Arts** provides pre-professional training in nine arts disciplines such as costume design, dance, various forms of music, media and theater tech to more than 700 students annually. By **combining**

academic rigor with industry-based instruction, the magnet program prepares students for futures in the arts with A-G coursework, career technical education pathways, portfolios and real-world experience while fostering personal growth and well-being.

“This academy is unique in that it provides multiple avenues for students to explore their interests or to find out they can excel at an area that they never thought possible,” said Huntington Beach Union High School District Board President Bonnie Castrey. “Being in touch with our creative self helps with self-expression. The arts also teach us discipline, as development of our skill base takes concentration and focus. This skill translates to all other subjects and teaches time management and future job skills.” [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

CCEE examines difficulties, successes in providing DTA



The **California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE) board convened Feb. 26 for its first meeting of 2026 to discuss challenges**

and successes in providing direct technical assistance (DTA) and ongoing projects.

Challenges presented by staff included having multiple partners and pathways to support districts, districts losing DTA eligibility but still

being in distress or at a moderate level of academic achievement, the varying quality of differentiated assistance across the state and more.

Among its successes, CCEE staff noted how the agency is providing coordination with support providers for more coherent assistance and sustained outcomes related to the Intensive Assistance Model, as well as DTA solely focusing on improvement in academics. Opportunities for integration, such as between DTA and the Community Engagement Initiative, were explored and encouraged by board members. The meeting **also included discussion on the state's Portrait of a Graduate, the California Secondary School Redesign Pilot, the CCEE's Data Academy** and more. [Read a recap of the meeting on the CSBA blog »](#)

CSBA's Cash Reserve Program can help LEAs manage state deferrals



With challenging financial times ahead due to expiring or paused funding sources, the **California School Cash Reserve Program** helps guard against temporary cash flow shortages in a safe, cost-effective way by creating an additional cash reserve to the general fund. **Now in partnership with the California Association of School Business Officials,**

CSBA's Cash Reserve Program has provided local educational agencies with **a reliable and cost-effective short-term cash flow funding option** for over 30 years. Participants issue Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANs) through a streamlined, pooled process. LEAs may request and adopt a TRAN resolution starting February 2026. [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

Masters in Governance (MIG) Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review

March 16 and April 13 | [Register](#)

Legislative Action Week

March 17-19 | [Register](#)

Sponsors



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

March 19-20 | [Register](#)

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

March 23 | [Register](#)

April 8 | [Register](#)

EA Tau: Governance Integration 4

April 10 | [Register](#)

In-person events

Education Workforce Housing Bootcamp

March 6 | Napa | [Register](#)

MIG COE Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

March 10 | San Diego | [Register](#)

2026 CSBA Counties Governance 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 3: School Finance Part 1 and Part 2

March 28 | Chico | [Register](#)

March 28 | San Jose | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)





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