

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

June 17, 2026

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Legislative update: Legislature sends its budget to the Governor — negotiations to continue



Late in the evening on June 15, **the Assembly and Senate passed their agreed upon budget plan for 2026–27**. This two-party agreement will satisfy the constitutional requirement that the Legislature pass a balanced budget no later than June 15 of each year. However, **it does not reflect everything that Gov. Gavin Newsom wants, setting the stage for final negotiations** between the Governor and the Legislature as they

work toward the final budget.

The Legislature's budget aligns significantly with the Assembly's and Senate's individual

proposals that they unveiled in May. It **retains the higher 4.31 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for the Local Control Funding Formula**. This is higher than the statutorily required COLA of 2.87 percent, which is available for most categoricals that receive a COLA. **However, the larger COLA is also intended to pay for the Governor's proposed 14 weeks of paid pregnancy disability leave for school employees. Necessary Small Schools would also see an increase in their base funding by 20 percent to reflect the particular cost pressures faced by very small schools — a victory for CSBA's advocacy in that area.** Other significant proposals include \$2.4 billion ongoing for special education funding as well as a \$5.2 billion discretionary block grant.

Ultimately, many of these significant increases are overshadowed by the continued manipulation of Proposition 98. The Legislature adopted the Governor's proposal to intentionally underfund schools by \$3.9 billion and approved shifting preschool programs that are not run by local educational agencies into Prop 98, setting up future conflicts between those providers and LEAs over scarce Prop 98 dollars. Including preschool within the existing Prop 98 allocation would effectively add another grade level to the guarantee without providing the new and necessary resources to support it on an ongoing basis. While there has been mention of rebenching Prop 98 to provide additional funding, that would only occur in the first year of the shift, meaning future growth in non-school-based preschool enrollment would eat into Prop 98 allocations. **The result would be simple and devastating: the same funding guarantee would be stretched across more students and programs, reducing per-pupil resources for LEAs.**

This is not the final budget deal and **advocacy is still needed to oppose the Prop 98 withholding and the inclusion of non-LEA-based preschools. Make your voice heard and send [a letter to the Governor and your legislators opposing the manipulation of Prop 98](#) »**

Federal update: US Department of Education dismantling now impacts IDEA



disabilities.

The Trump administration recently announced **the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and special education oversight would shift to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**. While the Department of Education would work in partnership with HHS through an **interagency agreement**, **advocates are seriously concerned about the interruption in services, funds and care for students with**

The nation's report card details long-term trends in math and reading



On June 11, the **National Center for Education Statistics released the 2025 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reading and mathematics scores** for the nation's 9- and 13-year-olds. These **scores come from NAEP's Long-Term Trend (LTT) Assessment, administered every four years to a nationally representative sample of 9-, 13- and 17-year-**

old students across the United States. The most recent release showed positive results for 9-year-olds, with stagnant scores in both reading and math for 13-year-olds (the assessment for 17-year-olds was not funded in 2025 by the U.S. Department of Education).

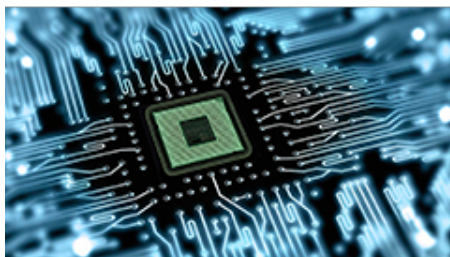
Student test scores and education governance have gained nationwide attention with the release of several reports throughout the spring calling for greater alignment and coherence to support student outcomes, including test scores. These results point to the need to critically examine how the education system, particularly at the state level in a time of federal retrenchment, is currently serving students, an aim of [CSBA's SOS for Student Achievement campaign](#). [Read a full recap of the LTT assessment »](#)

June newsletter online now



The latest edition of *California School News* features a **midpoint check-in on the current legislative session**, an update on **new teacher credential data** from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, and a **recap of the latest State Board of Education meeting**. This issue also includes **spotlights on community schools in West Kern County, Tulare County Office of Education's innovative school safety response system, Petaluma City Schools' Pride Month changes** and a legal update on *Cleare et al. v. West Contra Costa County USD*, as well as so much more. [Read the full issue »](#)

Small Schools, Big Ideas: Cinnabar Elementary School District STEAM



CSBA is recognizing the work of small districts through the [Small Schools, Big Ideas](#) blog series. The latest installment **spotlights the work of Cinnabar Elementary School District (CESD)**. Located in Petaluma and serving just 220 students, **the district is dedicated to providing science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) programming to all of its TK-8 students who engage in hands-on,**

collaborative experiments. CESD's buddy science classes allow older classmates to partner with younger students in their science, technology and engineering activities, enhancing learning for all. Students also participate in Maker, robotics and coding opportunities. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

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](#).

In-person events

Masters in Governance (MIG) for County Offices of Education (COE) Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement | Policy & Judicial Review

Aug. 14 | Woodland | [Register](#)

MIG COE Course 3: Finance & Facilities

Aug. 15 | Woodland | [Register](#)

MIG COE Course 4: Community Relations and Advocacy | Governance Integration

Sept. 24 | Marina del Rey | [Register](#)

2026 CSBA Counties Conference

Sept. 25-27 | Marina del Rey | [Register](#)

2026 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show

Dec. 3-5 | San Diego | [Register](#)

Sponsors



Virtual events

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

June 22 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/ Governance Integration

July 13 and 27 | [Register](#)

The logo for Keenan, featuring the word "Keenan" in a dark red, serif font with a registered trademark symbol (®) to the upper right of the letter "n". The logo is centered within a white rectangular box with a thin grey border.

[View complete calendar](#)



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