

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

July 15, 2026

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Legislative update: CSBA's approach to reciprocal accountability complements the state's education governance reform



In 2024, CSBA began laying the groundwork for what eventually became the SOS for Student Achievement: Close the State Accountability Gap campaign. **Backed by research, the approach calls for greater focus, alignment, efficiency and support in state operations, creating conditions conducive to success for local educational agencies across California.**

Two years later, **terms like coherence and alignment have become part of the lexicon**

in state education circles, testament to the concepts at the heart of CSBA's **SOS for Student Achievement legislation**. The four-bill package complements Gov. Gavin Newsom's effort to reimagine the duties of the state superintendent of public instruction and the operational management of the California Department of Education. In fact, the bill package takes the next logical step beyond the foundation laid in Assembly Bill 181, which resets the organizational chart for California's education leaders. **While the Governor's reform streamlines the state's education governance architecture at a single state agency, CSBA's proposals build a system to address the operational, accountability and transparency gaps that determine whether that architecture actually benefits LEAs.**

CSBA's legislation calls for the creation of a state operations plan to guide how and what state agencies can do to better support schools, requires regular reporting on state progress to meet the metrics of its operations and support plan, and evaluates the success of state programs and technical assistance for LEAs. [Learn more »](#)

State Board of Education finalizes new assistance criteria and discusses alignment efforts for state support



Following months of discussion, stakeholder meetings and study sessions, **the California State Board of Education (SBE) adopted new performance criteria for determining differentiated assistance eligibility** during its July 8 meeting.

The changes will allow the state to more effectively identify and prioritize local educational agencies with the greatest

demonstrated need while improving coherence, reducing year-to-year instability in eligibility and ensuring support is better aligned with the time needed to actually make meaningful, sustained improvement, according to SBE President Linda Darling-Hammond. [Read a full recap of the meeting and learn more about the new criteria and next steps »](#)

Federal update: New guidance targets practice of “passing the trash”



On July 10, **the U.S. Department of launched a new initiative to crack down on sexual predators in K-12 schools**. Following years of high-profile stories of credible reports of sexual abuse and harassment by adults in positions of authority going uninvestigated or of suspected offenders being transferred to new schools or roles in a district — commonly referred to as “passing the trash” — the department **issued**

guidance reminding federally funded educational institutions of their legal

obligations to safeguard children and appropriately respond to incidents of sexual misconduct under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

According to the guidance, “schools must respond promptly and appropriately to allegations of sexual harassment, maintain policies that prevent employees who have been credibly accused of sexual assault from being transferred to new schools or into different roles to avoid accountability, and ensure students have equal access to educational opportunities free from sex discrimination.” [View the guidance »](#)

State update: Summer resources toolkit



The **California Department of Public Health Office of School Health** on June 29 **released its 2026 Summer Toolkit, a curated collection of trusted statewide resources to help children, youth, families, educators and community partners stay healthy, safe and connected throughout the summer.** The toolkit includes information on food assistance, oral health, mental health, heat and wildfire preparedness, summer

learning and family wellness, with links to free programs and multilingual resources available across California. [Learn more »](#)

Register for upcoming CSBA policy webinar



Join CSBA experts from the association’s Policy and Governance Technology Services and Research and Education Policy Development departments on **Aug. 4 for a deep dive on one of the most important — and often misunderstood — roles of a school board member: serving as a local policymaker.**

Attendees will get a first look at a suite of policy resources designed to strengthen board governance by building policy literacy, support community engagement and advancing equitable, student-centered policies for local educational agencies. The webinar **will feature CSBA’s new Board Policy Development Toolkit, which includes a framework for policy review and adoption, as well as guiding principles for effective governance.** [Register now »](#)

Convert property ownership into an active asset

Property



Property Planning Solutions by DCG Strategies aims to **help school leaders explore the ways in which their real estate assets can be leveraged**



to secure additional funding for district initiatives, equip students with the education and experiences they need to be successful, invest in deferred facilities maintenance and capital improvements, reduce cost and liability from

holding closed or grossly underutilized sites, bolster general fund reserves and even attract new staff. School leaders and board members can gain access to real estate experts that work to align a local educational agency's priorities with the realities of the real estate market. Services include **real estate consulting, property planning, strategic asset management, educator housing development and real property brokerage services.** [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](#)

Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) University

Aug. 18 | West Sacramento | [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](#)

Virtual events

Executive Assistant (EA) Upsilon: Understanding Culture 1A/1B

Aug. 20-21 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective

Sponsors



Governance/Setting Direction

Sept. 8-16 | [Register](#)

EA Upsilon: Governance 2A/2B

Sept. 10-11 | [Register](#)

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

Sept. 22-30 | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)



California School Boards Association | 3251 Beacon Blvd., West Sacramento, CA 95691
Phone: (800) 266-3382 | Fax: (916) 371-3407