

# California schoolnews

Weekly Update

February 25, 2026

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## Legislative update: Proposed changes to elected official voter information confidentiality provisions



**Assembly Bill 1392** (Sharp-Collins, D-San Diego) was signed into law in 2025 to strengthen the privacy and safety of local, state and federal elected officials and candidates, including those serving on or running for local educational agency governing boards. **The law requires that the residence address, telephone number and email address appearing on a registered voter's affidavit**

**remain confidential if that individual is an elected official.** This legislation was prompted by concerns that public access to personal contact information leaves officials vulnerable to targeted, politically motivated violence.

**AB 1392 operates on an "opt-out" basis.** County elections officials are required to identify local officials and candidates and make their information confidential within five business days. However, the **law allows these individuals to opt-out of confidentiality by submitting a written request or declaring so during the filing process.** Consequently, some school district and county office of education board members have recently received notices from their county clerks providing them with an opportunity to opt-out of these privacy provisions.

**Assemblymember Sharp-Collins introduced AB 2573 last week to refine the program.** This **clean-up bill proposes shifting the program from an opt-out to an opt-in system** in which an official or candidate's contact information would only be made confidential if they submit an affirmative written request to their county elections official. Additionally, AB 2573 proposes to expand protections to immediate family members of an official who live at the same residence.

## New CSBA fact sheet: Newcomers in California schools



Newcomers are **immigrant students who are in their first three years of U.S. schooling.** According to the most recent data from the California Department of Education (fall 2023), there were 189,634 newcomer students in California schools — more than the combined enrollment of 26 California counties. They are a **diverse group of students, varying by home language, prior education and immigration**

**status.** More than 90 percent are English learners, with roughly half speaking Spanish as their first language and two-thirds qualifying for free or reduced-price school meals.

This **new fact sheet from CSBA's Research and Education Policy Development Department reviews newcomer demographics, educational requirements and approaches, state law requirements** regarding immigration enforcement activities and guiding questions for board members to ask to best serve this student population.

[Read the fact sheet »](#)

## Get an introduction to workforce housing in Napa on March 6



**CSBA is offering its only Education Workforce Housing (EWH) Bootcamp of the spring at the Napa Valley Unified School District on March 6 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** This **one-day, immersive training is for**

**governance teams and senior staff who are just beginning to explore EWH as a strategy to address recruitment and retention challenges.** Attendees will leave with a clear

understanding of the complete pathway to develop educator workforce housing and a list of actionable next steps for their local educational agency. Day-of registration is available. [Learn more and register »](#)

## State update: 2026 Classified School Employees of the Year nominations open



The California Department of Education **invites all county offices of education to participate in the 2026 Classified School Employees of the Year Program.** The program **identifies and honors exemplary classified school employees throughout California in the following nine occupational specialties:** paraprofessional, clerical and administrative services, transportation services, food and

nutrition services, custodial and maintenance services, security services, health and student services, technical services and skilled trades. Applications are due by March 24. [Learn more »](#)

### In other state news:

- Students in **grades 9-12 are invited to participate in the 2026 California Ninth Circuit Civics contest by submitting an essay or video centered on the theme “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.”** The deadline for entries is March 6. Finalists will be announced in May and winners in June. [Learn more »](#)

## Federal update: Education Department partners with HHS on family engagement and student support



The U.S. Departments of Education (ED) and Health and Human Services (HHS) are partnering to improve “the safety and physical security of educational institutions” by connecting “ED educational institution safety initiatives with HHS programs to provide a coordinated federal approach to equip communities that are best-positioned to support students.” **HHS will take a growing role in**

**administering the School Emergency Response to Violence (Project SERV), School Safety National Activities, Ready to Learn Programming, Full-Service**

**Community Schools, Promise Neighborhoods and Statewide Family Engagement Centers.** The partnership aims to “consolidate resources and initiatives to provide a unified federal strategy focused on school support and related issues.” [Learn more »](#)

## Showcase innovative rural programs



The [Rural Innovation & Impact Showcase](#) is a new national competition debuting at the **2026 National Forum to Advance Rural Education**, designed to elevate what’s working in rural schools and communities — and share it on a national stage. The inaugural showcase highlights proven, rural-centered innovations with measurable impact on student success and the potential to scale across communities. It offers a platform for national visibility, shared learning and elevating practices that strengthen outcomes from preK–12 through postsecondary education and career pathways. Submissions are due by March 27. [Learn more »](#)

## Stabilize today, protect tomorrow with the OPEB Solutions Program



Amid declining enrollment, rising health care costs and funding uncertainties, the **OPEB Solutions Program helps districts take control of growing Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) liabilities.** By strategically prefunding OPEB obligations through a Section 115, IRS-approved, Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB)-compliant trust, districts can manage their long-term liabilities, improve balance sheets, strengthen credit positioning and safeguard operating dollars — building fiscal resilience for a more stable tomorrow. [Learn more »](#)

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

## Virtual events

**Ethics Assembly Bill 2158**  
March 23 | [Register](#)  
April 8 | [Register](#)

## Sponsors



**Masters in Governance (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

**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 2: Student Learning &  
Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review**  
March 14 | Chico | [Register](#)  
March 14 | San Jose | [Register](#)

**MIG Course 3: School Finance Part 1 and  
Part 2**  
March 28 | Chico | [Register](#)  
March 28 | San Jose | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)