

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

February 4, 2026

In this issue

- [Legal update: US Department of Education finds California Department of Education policies violate FERPA](#)
- [Stand up for students at CSBA's Legislative Action Week](#)
- [Federal update: Partial shutdown ends with budget deal](#)
- [Interested in workforce housing? Register for CSBA's Education Workforce Housing 101 Series](#)
- [County trustees: Register for the CSBA Counties Governance Workshop](#)
- [State update: Immigration communications toolkit available for schools](#)
- [Reduce costs, streamline compliance and simplify procurement with Golden State Technology Solutions](#)

Legal update: US Department of Education finds California Department of Education policies violate FERPA

On Jan. 28, the **U.S. Department of Education (ED)** [announced its finding](#) that the **California Department of Education (CDE)** is “in **continued violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)** — a federal law granting parents the right to access their child’s education records — **for policies that pressure**



school officials to conceal information about students' 'gender identity.'"

The federal investigation that led to this conclusion **began in March 2025** and relates primarily to Assembly Bill 1955 (2024). AB 1955 prohibits local educational agencies from enacting or enforcing policies, regulations or rules that require the disclosure of information about a student's gender identity or sexual orientation without the student's consent. The ED determined that state policies and guidance based on AB 1955 "coerced" LEAs in the state to withhold information from parents in violation of FERPA. **The ED proposed a series of "voluntary actions" for the CDE to take in order to resolve the alleged violations.** The actions include providing notice to all superintendents stating that "gender support plans" and related documents are education records subject to FERPA requirements amongst others.

As of this publication, the CDE has not issued a response to this finding. It is important to note that this area of the law is in significant flux, and CSBA will continue to monitor developments in this matter. [Read more about the decision on the CSBA blog »](#)

Stand up for students at CSBA's Legislative Action Week



Join CSBA March 17-19 for the flagship three-day virtual legislative advocacy event connecting local school district and county office of education board members with members of the California Legislature and their staff to shine light on the critical issues facing California's schools. **One of the top priorities of this year's Legislative Action Week is to protect Proposition 98.** For the third time in

as many years, Gov. Gavin Newsom is proposing to withhold \$5.6 billion in Prop 98 funds from public schools. This amounts to nearly \$1,000 per student in current year funding.

Recognized as one of the leading statewide educational advocacy events of the year, Legislative Action Week plays a key role in influencing vital budget and legislative issues. **CSBA staff will take care of everything from scheduling virtual meetings to providing advocacy training and talking points** — all trustees have to do is log on March 17-19! [Learn more and register »](#)

Federal update: Partial shutdown ends with budget deal



President Donald Trump **on Feb. 3 signed a roughly \$1.2 trillion spending package to end the partial government shutdown.** This package funds 11 of the 12 bills to fund the government, with the exception of the Department of Homeland



Security, which will be funded for two weeks while negotiations continue.

For fiscal year 2026, federal education funding is essentially flat. While the Trump administration and the House of Representatives proposed significant cuts to education programs, the Senate version, which did not include the proposed deep reduction, was ultimately adopted. Given the current political environment in Washington, D.C., **this outcome represents a meaningful win for education. CSBA played an effective role in pushing back against the proposed cuts** and advocating for the preservation of critical federal education funding.

Interested in workforce housing? Register for CSBA's Education Workforce Housing 101 Series



For the first time, **CSBA is opening its popular Education Workforce Housing (EWH) 101 Workshop Series to all members.** Across three interactive in-person workshops, participants will tour completed workforce housing developments, learn from the leadership teams that built them, and work with leading experts to complete a comprehensive pitch deck for their development.

All CSBA members exploring EWH are welcome to register individually or as part of a local educational agency team. There are two location options for each workshop: one in Northern California and one in Southern California. **Members who attend the entire three-part series will receive a CSBA Certificate of Completion and be well-positioned to receive a zero-interest loan from CSBA's EWH Predevelopment Loan Fund.** [Learn more and register »](#)

County trustees: Register for the CSBA Counties Governance Workshop



Register for the **2026 CSBA Counties Governance Workshop** in San Diego, March 11-12, to gain valuable governance strategies for supporting homeless and foster youth and a better understanding of the critical role county leaders play in maximizing outcomes for this vulnerable population. Breakout sessions include an overview of the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP) and its

role in supporting academic success, stability and the well-being of students in foster care and "Nothing about us, without us," which explores how county offices of education can drive meaningful systems change for foster youth by centering student voice as a governance priority.

Engage in impactful discussions with peers, strengthen governance skills and lead as an advocate for students — all while enjoying San Diego's scenic coastline, renowned food and beautiful weather. [Learn more and register »](#)

State update: Immigration communications toolkit available for schools



The California Department of Education's (CDE) **"Our Schools: Resources for Including Immigrant Families"** toolkit is available to support the implementation of 2025's **Assembly Bill 49 and Senate Bill 98**, which seek to keep immigration enforcement off of school campuses and ensure appropriate family notification if immigration agents are present at a school site. **The toolkit includes family-facing**

posters and informational cards that communicate assurance of all schools' obligation to provide every child with access to education and a safe learning environment regardless of immigration status, as protected by law.

As a result of the new legislation, all local educational agencies are also **required to make local policies regarding immigration enforcement available to the CDE by March 1**. [Learn more »](#)

In other state news:

- The California Department of Public Health has updated the **Public Health Guidance for TK–12 Schools and Child Care Settings to Support Safe In-Person Services and Mitigate the Spread of Communicable Diseases** webpage. The guidance provides a general prevention strategy framework to reduce the spread of communicable disease and facilitate partnerships and coordination between local public health and education partners.

Reduce costs, streamline compliance and simplify procurement with Golden State Technology Solutions



Golden State Technology Solutions enables local educational agencies to purchase hardware, software, training, consulting and cybersecurity services — all while saving time and money and freeing resources for student support. At a time when technology plays a greater role in schools than ever before, Golden State Technology Solutions demystifies the purchasing process and help school districts, county offices of education and business officials efficiently source technology service

providers. **Districts and county offices of education of every size will benefit from group purchasing power while saving resources commonly spent through the time-consuming Request for Proposals process.** Golden State Technology Solutions is a partnership between CSBA, the California Association of School Business Officials and Carahsoft Technology Corp. to reduce costs, streamline compliance and simplify technology procurement for California public schools. [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

Executive Assistant (EA) Tau:

Governance 2A/2B

Feb. 19-20 | [Register](#)

**Masters in Governance (MIG) Course 4:
Human Resources/Collective Bargaining**

Feb. 25-26 | [Register](#)

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

Feb. 27 | [Register](#)

March 23 | [Register](#)

**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](#)

EA Tau: Job Mechanics 3A/3B

March 19-20 | [Register](#)

In-person events

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

Feb. 21 | Chico | [Register](#)

Feb. 21 | San Jose | [Register](#)

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

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

Sponsors



**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](#)

[View complete calendar](#)



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