

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

March 18, 2026

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Legislative update: Legislators and CSBA announce SOS for Student Achievement legislative package at Capitol press event



On March 17, Assemblymembers Darshana Patel (D-San Diego), Rhodesia Ransom (D-Tracy) and Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) joined CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy, CSBA President Dr. Debra Schade and Hope Elementary School District Superintendent Melanie Matta at the Capitol to **unveil the SOS for Student Achievement: Close the State Accountability Gap**

campaign and related legislation to improve overall student performance, close

achievement gaps and establish comprehensive state-level support for local school districts and county offices of education. [Read more about the press conference »](#)

The four-bill SOS for Student Achievement legislative package, sponsored by CSBA, aims to create the conditions needed to close achievement gaps by aligning state policy, funding and oversight around a clear operations and support plan that empowers local educational agencies. The bill package consists of **Assembly Bill 2225 (Patel)**, which would convene educators, families, researchers and policymakers to **develop a comprehensive statewide plan to close achievement gaps**; **AB 2149 (Garcia, D-San Bernardino)**, which would require the Legislative Analyst's Office to annually evaluate how well the state budget and its education policies align with the statewide plan; **AB 2514 (Ransom)**, which would establish a public dashboard to track the state's progress in implementing the achievement gap plan and to provide transparent data about whether state programs are helping improve student outcomes; and **AB 2202 (Muratsuchi)**, which would establish a **Closing the Achievement Gap Commission under the State Board of Education** to monitor state programs and strengthen coordination across California's education system. [Get the legislative package fact sheet »](#)

New CSBA research on supporting foster youth available



The Research and Education Policy Development Department has **released a series of three publications on supporting foster youth**. These briefs are part of CSBA's Students in Focus series, which features publications related to the educational needs of various student groups enrolled in California's public schools. **By integrating research-based strategies with on-the-ground examples, these resources equip governance teams with practical tools to improve educational stability and academic outcomes for foster youth.** The brief "[Students in Focus: Foster youth in TK–12 education](#)" shares data and resources related to the state's foster youth and "[Students in Focus: Foster youth in California's TK–12 education system — promising practices and legislation](#)" draws on promising practice from local educational agencies and community-based partners across the state, and outlines relevant legal and policy frameworks. The third resource is a fact sheet, "[Policy recommendations for school boards and state policymakers.](#)"

Read the March issue of *California School News*



The latest edition of CSBA's monthly newsletter outlines **proposed changes to the 2026–27 State Budget tucked into the education**



trailer bill, including details on the proposed restructuring of the state education governance system, changes to charter school accountability and the welcome return of the Student Support and Professional Development

block grant. Other articles describe **legal challenges to the withholding of federal funding**, celebrate **Arts Education Month** with a spotlight on the 2025 Golden Bell Award-winning Huntington Beach Academy for the Performing Arts, and share information on how the benefits of physical education extend beyond physical wellness. [Read the issue »](#)

State update: 2026 Model Continuation High Schools announced



Fifty-nine schools throughout the state were recognized as Model Continuation High Schools (MCHS) for 2026. **MCHSs provide comprehensive services to at-risk youth through exemplary instructional strategies, flexible scheduling, and guidance and counseling services.** Continuation schools provide a high school diploma program for students who have not graduated from high

school, are required to attend school and are at risk of not completing their education. More than 428 continuation high schools serve close to 45,000 students throughout the state. [See the winners »](#)

In other state news:

- The California Department of Public Health, Office of School Health, the California Department of Education has partnered with ACES Aware Learning Center to offer **a free online 50-minute training for school staff serving grades 7-12: Recognize, Respond, Connect: Supporting the Behavioral Health of Our Students.** [Learn more »](#)

Federal update: Federal Department seeks public comment on new grant certifications



A **proposed rule** from the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) could **significantly expand the conditions organizations must certify in order to receive federal funding.** Under revisions to the System for Award Management (SAM) certifications, nearly all federal grant recipients, including state education agencies and local educational

agencies, **will be required to attest that they comply with federal laws and executive branch guidance related to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI); immigration; public safety and religious liberty.**

Organizations registering or updating their SAM status would need to certify compliance with these provisions or risk losing funding and potentially facing civil or criminal liability under statutes like the False Claims Act. The proposal would apply across all federal agencies, including the Department of Education. Public comments on the proposal **must be received on or before March 30.** [Leave a public comment »](#)

In other federal news:

- The **Government Accountability Office has plans to investigate the Department of Education's interagency agreements transferring management** of many programs to the Department of Labor. The [request](#) includes numerous requests for information and transparency regarding the department's actions.

Maximize your budget, lower administrative costs and streamline the procurement process



Since 1998, BuyBoard has been providing local educational agencies with increased purchasing power, lower administrative costs and compliance with legal requirements. **BuyBoard vendors have been awarded contracts for products and services through a competitive procurement process, thereby giving members the opportunity for bulk discounts, combined with the ease of online shopping.**

Find everything from classroom teaching aid supplies and equipment and furniture to custodial supplies and equipment or field lighting products. [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](#)

May 5 | [Register](#)

Executive Assistant (EA) Tau:

Governance Integration 4

April 10 | [Register](#)

Sponsors



Fiscal Responsibility: Key Financial Concepts for New Board Members

April 20 | [Register](#)

The Brown Act

April 24 | [Register](#)

In-person events

Coast2Coast

April 13-15 | Washington, D.C. | [Register](#)

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/ Collective Bargaining

April 18 | Santa Clara | [Register](#)

April 18 | Chico | [Register](#)

MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/ Governance Integration

May 2 | Chico | [Register](#)

Education Workforce Housing 101

Workshop Series: Part 3

May 1 | San Diego | [Register](#)

May 8 | Daly City | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)



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