

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

April 29, 2026

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Legislative update: CSBA's three-bill package to address the reporting burden passes Assembly Education Committee



Last week, both **Assembly Bill 2008** (Patel, D-San Diego) and **AB 2496** (Solache Jr., D-Lynwood) passed the Assembly Education Committee with unanimous support from attending members. **AB 2008** would ensure that new reporting and planning requirements for local educational agencies do not persist indefinitely and unnecessarily

by requiring all new planning and reporting requirements to expire after four years. The bill would also **simplify the reporting burden by requiring the California Department of Education to develop a standardized reporting template** for future grant expenditure reports. CSBA is co-sponsoring AB 2008 along with the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO) and the Small School Districts' Association.

AB 2496 would **begin the process of repealing the School Accountability Report Card and elevate the California School Dashboard**, consolidating school accountability behind a modern, statewide repository of school performance. The bill also **makes optional the requirement for a mid-year report on the annual update to the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)**, providing flexibility for when and how LEAs provide updates on LCAP progress. CSBA is co-sponsoring AB 2496 with ACSA and CASBO.

These two bills join the previously adopted House Resolution 87 (Muratsuchi, D-Torrance) — **which encourages the governor, Legislature and other entities responsible for education to take a firmer look when considering, developing or implementing new reporting or planning requirements** — taking into consideration their purpose, value and potential duplication. CSBA co-sponsored HR 87 along with ACSA and CASBO.

CSBA Golden Awards nominations open



CSBA believes in recognizing the extraordinary work of school districts and county offices of education across California and is **now accepting nominations for the 2026 Golden Bell Awards**. The **CSBA Golden Awards** honor the **hard work and dedication of governing boards and district staff** who create innovative programs that improve student achievement and well-being in the state's preK-12 public schools.

The **Golden Bell Awards** recognize outstanding programs and governance practices of school boards, the **Golden Gavel Awards** recognize individual school board members and governance teams who exemplify best practices in effective governance and boardsmanship, and the **Golden Quill Awards** celebrate the important role education journalists play in creating awareness in the community. **The deadline to submit nominations is June 26.** [Learn more »](#)

Legal update: Case helps clarify statute of limitations regarding special education cases



In a decision issued on April 22 in *J.R. v. Ventura Unified School District*, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals **clarified the applicable standard for determining when the two-year statute of**



limitations in Individuals with Disabilities Education Act cases is triggered. The Ninth Circuit also outlined the standard for when parents may claim an exemption to the statute of limitations. The Education Legal Alliance filed an amicus brief in support of the district in the Ninth Circuit.

J.R.'s parents argued that the statute of limitations on their claims started running in 2021, when a private evaluator diagnosed J.R. with autism. However, the Ninth Circuit reversed the lower court's decision in favor of the parents and found that the parents' pre-2019 claims were untimely. The Ninth Circuit determined that the parents knew or should have reasonably known by 2018 at the latest that they had potential claims against the district. The Ninth Circuit refined the standard to be applied in these cases, as well as circumstances under which an exception to the statute of limitations applies. [Read the details on the CSBA blog »](#)

Register for part four of the CSBA County Board Handbook webinar series



Part four of the CSBA County Board Handbook webinar series covers **one of the most complex and critical responsibilities of county boards — understanding the link between budgets, oversight and their role in financial accountability.** In this installment, CSBA Director of County Board Member Services Mike Walsh will be joined by education leaders from the Butte and Colusa county offices of education. This five-part **webinar series brings the CSBA County Board Governance Handbook to life, offering county board members practical tools and real-world strategies** to bridge policy and practice. [Register for "The CSBA County Board Handbook: Fiscal leadership and governance" webinar »](#)

State update: Updated guidance on tribal regalia at graduation ceremonies



California Attorney General Rob Bonta and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond on April 23 [sent a letter](#) to superintendents, charter school administrators and high school principals reminding them of students' rights to wear Tribal regalia and adornments at graduation ceremonies. As amended, [California Education Code Section 35183.1](#) **allows students to wear traditional tribal regalia or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance as an adornment at school graduation ceremonies or related school events. It also**

mandates that a local educational agency shall not require a preapproval process nor require a student to wear a cap if that cap is incompatible with the adornment. The letter reminds school administrators of these rights while also encouraging schools to implement policies that embrace culturally inclusive ceremonies and preserve the rights of Native students. [Learn more »](#)

In other state news:

- A recirculating February [letter](#) from Thurmond and Secretary of State Shirley Weber **encourages LEAs to help address the critical need for voting locations and poll workers for the June 2 Primary Election by offering campuses as voting locations** and encouraging high school students to serve as poll workers.

Federal update: Supporting Effective Educator Development Program competition



The Supporting Effective Educator Development Program **seeks to increase the number of highly effective educators by “supporting the implementation of evidence-based practices that prepare, develop, or enhance the skills of educators.”** This [notice](#) issued by the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor includes **four priorities:** (1) supporting effective teachers, (2) supporting effective principals and other school leaders, (3) promoting evidence-based literacy and (4) meaningful learning opportunities for students. The **three competitive preference priorities** are: (1) returning education to the states, (2) advancing artificial intelligence in education and (3) career pathways and workforce readiness. Estimated available funds total \$90 million, contingent on the availability of funds and quality of applications. **Applications are due by June 1.** [Learn more »](#)

Salary compensation studies provide practical solutions



Long-term retention of experienced employees is more cost-effective than recruiting new ones. At the same time, attracting the best candidates is vital for maintaining the highest quality staff in a local educational agency. **School administrators understand the pivotal role a competitive compensation package plays in employee satisfaction and long-term retention, as well as attracting new talent.** Bargaining units often have an inaccurate perception of compensation packages, which can impact employee morale and complicate negotiations. **Total School Solutions (TSS) Compensation Studies have been instrumental in improving employee morale, job satisfaction and**

retention as well as providing accurate information for negotiations. With a deep understanding of the educational landscape, collaborative work with employee bargaining units and knowledge of available resources, TSS Compensation Studies can provide comprehensive, logical and practical solutions for LEAs. [Learn more »](#)

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

In-person events

Education Workforce Housing 101

Workshop Series: Part 1

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

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

Virtual events

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

May 5 | [Register](#)

June 22 | [Register](#)

California Council of School Attorneys (CCSA) 2026 Spring Workshop

May 15 | [Register](#)

The Brown Act

June 26 | [Register](#)

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

June 15 and 29 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/ Governance Integration

July 13 and 27 | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

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