

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

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Legislative update: Problematic labor bills continue to advance



Two problematic pieces of legislation opposed by CSBA continue to advance through the Legislature. Both Senate Bill 947 (McNerney, D-San Joaquin) and Assembly Bill 1564 (Ahrens, D-Santa Clara) will be heard in the Assembly and Senate Appropriations committee's in early August. **CSBA has an Oppose position on both bills.**

AB 1564 would establish a new form of legally protected communication between a union representative and a public employee, similar to other forms of privileged communication such as attorney-client and marital privilege. **CSBA is opposed because**

it would render staff discussions confidential, which could be critical to an employer's ability to conduct student and personnel safety assessments. This could put students and educators at risk, add new costs and increase liability for public employers.

SB 947 is a reintroduction of SB 7 (McNerney) from 2025, which CSBA opposed and was vetoed by Gov. Gavin Newsom last year, largely due to its broad application. Like SB 7, **SB 947 would place overly broad restrictions on employers who use automated decision systems or artificial intelligence systems to help inform or make employment-related decisions**, which could increase liability risks for local educational agencies and result in unintended consequences due to its application to essential public services.

Federal update: Legislative package to dismantle the US Department of Education



The U.S. House Education and Workforce Committee approved the "Less Bureaucracy, Better Education" package, **a series of 10 bills** that would permanently shift the U.S. Department of Education's key responsibilities and K-12 programs to other federal agencies. Notably, **the package does not transfer special education oversight to the Department of Health and Human Services.** The legislation

would solidify many of the changes the Trump administration has already started through interagency agreements to reduce the federal government's role in education. Supporters say the changes would improve government efficiency, while opponents argue they would weaken education expertise and disrupt the administration of federal education programs. **The bills must still pass the full House and Senate before becoming law** and are expected to face significant hurdles in the Senate.

CSBA is submitting an opposition letter to Congress expressing serious concerns with the proposal. The initiative **would fragment the administration and expertise of critical education programs, weaken oversight and accountability, and risk essential services and funds** for student and schools.

Read CSBA's July newsletter online



Read the latest issue of *California School News*, featuring **updates on the 2026–27 State Budget, including CSBA's opposition to the \$3.9 billion Proposition 98 withholding, and the continued legislative support for CSBA's four-bill SOS for Student Achievement: Close the State Accountability Gap package.** Also featured are new **CSBA resources for board members on**

the science of reading and a new webpage for small school district trustees. Other highlights include a spotlight on San Diego Unified School District's education workforce housing project, the most ambitious in the country, and **reflections from CSBA President Dr. Debra Schade on preparing students for the future** at this pivotal moment of America's 250th anniversary. [Read the issue »](#)

Register for CSBA's Uniform Complaint Procedures training



The **Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP)** can be challenging for local educational agencies to follow — and **failure to comply can bring costly consequences**, including expensive litigation, Federal Program Monitoring audit findings, and substantial loss of time and resources. This **training in West Sacramento on Aug. 18 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.** will provide attendees with actionable tools and templates, case studies for real-world application and the opportunity to engage in Q&A with attorneys from CSBA Legal Services about UCP. UCP University is a small investment to ensure LEAs are compliant with these complex and important regulations. [Learn more and register »](#)

American School District Panel survey results



In collaboration with the Center on Reinventing Public Education, the Council of Great City Schools and MGT, **RAND administers the American School District Panel (ASDP) survey** across a nationally representative sample. **CSBA is a trusted partner for assisting in participant outreach for the ASDP**, and some CSBA members responded to the spring survey. The ASDP spring 2026 survey found that **chronic absenteeism has continued its annual decline with a 4 percentage point drop from spring 2025**, the steepest decline thus far. Still, chronic absenteeism rates remain higher than they were prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Other questions in the survey resulted in a report, [Shrinking Budgets, Fewer Students: How District Leaders are Navigating a New Landscape of Reduced Resources and Competitive Pressures](#), which found that budget shortfalls and declining enrollment have risen to the top of district leaders' concerns, even as other long-standing problems remain.

State update: Universal pre-kindergarten curriculum toolkit available



The **Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) Curriculum Evaluation Form and Implementation Toolkit** is a resource designed to deepen and strengthen teaching and learning in California's preschool and transitional kindergarten classrooms. This interactive toolkit reflects a "commitment to ensuring that every young child in our state, regardless of background, language, or zip code, has access to joyful and developmentally appropriate early learning experiences before entering kindergarten." **It is intended to support all UPK programs using the California Preschool/Transitional Kindergarten Learning Foundations (PTKLF) to inform instruction in two essential ways:** to support programs in selecting curriculum fully aligned with PTKLF and to help programs ensure that their implementation of a curriculum includes the critical, research-based components that lead to improved and equitable outcomes for all children. [Access the toolkit »](#)

Start the new school year with a smart fiscal strategy



As districts head into a new school year, issues like declining enrollment, rising healthcare costs and budget pressures are still a reality for many. The **PARS/CSBA OPEB Solutions Program** helps districts take control of growing other post-employment benefits (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](#).

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](#)

Sponsors



**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
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](#)

