

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

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Legislative update: Senate Appropriations Committee to consider CSBA's Close the State Accountability Gap legislation



CSBA's [Close the State Accountability Gap](#) four-bill package was put in the suspense file on Aug. 5 and will be taken up by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Aug. 13. To date, Assembly Bill 2225 (Patel, D-San Diego), AB 2514

(Ransom, D-Tracy), AB 2149 (Garcia, D-San Bernardino) and AB 2202 (Muratsuchi, D-Torrance) have passed the Assembly and the

Senate Education committees with broad bipartisan support. The suspense file compiles bills with a price tag of more than \$150,000 to be considered in bulk to weigh their fiscal impact upon the state as a whole.

Should they be approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee, the bills will head to the Senate and Assembly Floors, respectively, for consideration by the end of August. If they reach Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk, he will have until Sept. 30 to sign or veto the bills.

Close the State Accountability Gap legislation would connect governance reform to measurable outcomes for students, especially those affected by persistent achievement gaps. The legislative package requires California to create an operations plan for how it is supporting local schools with clear goals, benchmarks and annual performance targets for state action. **The intent is to ensure that state assistance to local schools is directed by an aligned, overarching strategy rather than pet projects or the prevailing political winds.**

This legislative package **would act as an extension of AB 181**, signed by the Governor last month, that is intended to improve support and oversight of schools by unifying the policymaking State Board of Education with the state Department of Education under an appointed education commissioner.

As Newsom enters his last several months as the state's top executive, Close the State Accountability Gap legislation provides an opportunity to expand on AB 181 and do what no other governor has done before — establish a new state education system based on reciprocal accountability.

Reminder: Urge the Senate Appropriations Committee to pass CSBA's legislative package to close the state accountability gap



CSBA's SOS for Student Achievement: Close the State Accountability Gap legislative package passed through the Senate Education Committee in late June and has now advanced to the Senate Appropriations Committee. This is a critical juncture in the legislative process where advocacy is greatly needed. It is important for lawmakers to hear from school board members and education leaders throughout the state — **act now and send**

a letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee to urge its support to pass CSBA's legislative package and advance the bills to the Senate Floor. [Contact the committee now »](#)

Legislative update: Proposed legislation would add new public health responsibilities for schools



Assembly Bill 2651 (Bonta, D-Oakland) — the Informed Parents, Healthy Schools Act — is now in the suspense file in the Senate Appropriations Committee. **The bill would require the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to establish immunization-efficacy threshold rates for schools and notify a school when its rate falls below the**

applicable threshold. Schools would then be required to notify parents and guardians within 10 business days, including information about vaccination rates, the importance of immunization and resources for obtaining vaccines.

CSBA and several other statewide education associations **oppose AB 2651 due to concerns about the bill's potential administrative and fiscal impacts, and possible issues concerning student data and privacy.** Under current law, schools report suspected communicable disease outbreaks to local health departments, which are best equipped to maintain current immunization data and communicate public health information. Requiring schools to distribute additional public health notifications creates a new workload and costs for schools as staff respond to parent questions and concerns. The bill will be heard on Aug. 14.

CSBA's August newsletter available online



The August issue of *California School News* features a reprint of CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy's commentary on the need for the association's four-bill Close the State Accountability Gap legislative package that appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle*; examines U.S. Supreme Court decisions in cases involving transgender students who challenged state laws that limited their ability to

play on female sports teams; and useful information on **legally required notifications and related CSBA sample policies.** Additional articles include a wrap up of the **five-part webinar series on the County Board Governance Handbook**, a review of student immunization requirements and details on **Assembly Bill 181, the education governance reform bill.** [Read the issue »](#)

Counties Conference attendees can plan their schedules



County-specific work is rarely a one-size-fits-all agenda. The **2026 CSBA Counties Conference, taking place Sept. 25-27 at the Marina del Rey Marriott**, is designed exclusively for county office of education trustees, superintendents and staff, **with breakout sessions built around what**



county boards actually navigate day to day — from improving foster youth graduation rates to

education workforce housing.

The 2026 **keynote speakers include** best-selling author and criminal justice advocate Damon West, M.S. Criminal Justice, as well as foster youth advocate and University of California, Santa Barbara student Alex Ballantyne and award-winning documentary filmmaker Shaun Kadlec.

This year's **session lineup is arriving earlier than ever**, giving boards more time to plan ahead. Register today and build an agenda around the sessions that matter most to your COE. [Register](#) | [View sessions](#)

Register for the August Policy Packet Update webinar



CSBA's **Policy and Governance Technology Services team** will host its quarterly policy update webinar at 11 a.m. on **Aug. 26** covering topics including special education; elections; governing board, parcel tax and general obligation bonds; discrimination prevention: **Assembly Bill 715; and the *Mirabelli v. Bonta* U.S. Supreme Court order.** Presenters will provide essential insight into the process and

rationale behind the policy updates as well as how they may impact districts or county offices of education and host a Q&A. [Register »](#)

Federal update: Proposed federal overhaul of Head Start programs



On Aug. 6, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) proposed “[Reducing Federal Burden for Head Start Programs](#),” a rule that would significantly reduce federal standards and requirements governing Head Start. Head Start has served nearly 40 million children and families since being established in 1965. It provides a nationwide network of services to promote school readiness for low-

income children through comprehensive early childhood education, nutrition, health and family supports. **More than 70,000 California children are presently enrolled in Head Start programs.**

This proposed rule would rescind more than 1,400 regulatory provisions and replace them with a new framework. **HHS states the changes would remove duplicative documentation, reduce reporting requirements and give state and local programs greater flexibility** to deliver services. For example, states would have

greater authority to determine group size and staff-to-child ratios, background checks and transportation. However, **early childhood advocates and Head Start providers are concerned that reducing federal performance standards could affect program quality and consistency.** The proposed rule **is online** and open for 60 days of public comment, with comments due by Oct. 6.

In other federal news:

- On Aug. 4, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) **issued a [Dear Colleague Letter](#) to chief state school officers clarifying that McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth funds may be used for short-term, temporary emergency housing** — including motel and hotel stays — on a case-by-case basis.

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](#).

In-person events

Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) University

Aug. 18 | West Sacramento | [Register](#)

Masters in Governance (MIG) for County Office of Education 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](#)

Sponsors



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](#)

Board Presidents Workshop

Aug. 24-25 | [Register](#)

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

Sept. 8-16 | [Register](#)

EA Upsilon: Governance 2A/2B

Sept. 10-11 | [Register](#)

CCSA 2026 Fall Workshop

Sept. 18 | [Register](#)

**Student Board Member Bundle
Subscription**

Sept. 21-May 10 | [Register](#)

**MIG Course 2: Student Learning &
Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review**

Sept. 22-30 | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

