

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

September 2, 2026

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Legislative update: Four CSBA-sponsored bills head to the Governor at the conclusion of the 2025–26 legislative session



Four of CSBA's sponsored bills are headed to Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk for his consideration after the conclusion of the 2025–26 legislative session. The end of the legislative session typically runs for two weeks and consists of daily convenings of the Assembly and Senate, referred to as “floor sessions,” and are where the respective houses consider and vote on measures that have made it this far in the legislative process.

During the last two weeks of August, the Legislature debated and voted on approximately 900 active measures. A large majority of these bills passed the

Legislature and are on their way to the Governor for his consideration.

CSBA's sponsored legislation awaiting a decision from the Governor includes:

- **Assembly Bill 2225** (Patel, D-San Diego): Part of the SOS for Student Achievement: Close the State Accountability Gap package, the amended bill now **requires the newly established education commissioner to report on the state's progress in bringing its public education governance system into alignment** with the overall goal of helping to improve student outcomes and close achievement gaps.
- **AB 2008** (Patel): Part of CSBA's reporting package, this bill would **require state-mandated local educational agency reporting requirements be repealed four years after their establishment and requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to create a standardized template for LEAs when completing programmatic or expenditure reports for state grants**. The bill takes effect on Jan. 1, 2027, and requires the CDE to develop and make the template available by Oct. 1, 2027. The bill does not mandate that LEAs use the template, just that the CDE makes it available for uniformity and ease of use. Co-sponsored with the California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO), the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) and the Small School Districts Association.
- **AB 2496** (Solache, Jr., D-Lynwood): Part of CSBA's reporting package, this bill would **require the CDE to submit a report to the Legislature identifying duplication between the School Accountability Report Card and the California School Dashboard** and makes the mid-year Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) update flexible. Co-sponsored with CASBO and ACSA.
- **AB 2490** (Valencia, D-Anaheim): A re-introduction of AB 1224 from last year, which was vetoed by the Governor, **would expand the amount of time an authorized substitute teacher could serve in a single general, special or career technical education classroom from 30 days to 70 days**. Co-sponsored with ACSA, the California County Superintendents and CASBO.

[Read about the other education bills awaiting a decision from Gov. Newsom on the CSBA blog »](#)

Gear up for back-to-school season with CSBA trainings



School is back in session and **CSBA has plenty of professional development opportunities happening this fall** to enable board members and support staff to make informed decisions that support student achievement and strong school governance.

From **Masters in Governance®**, CSBA's **flagship program** that provides the foundational knowledge needed to perform governance duties, to more **advanced courses** like the **Board Presidents Workshop**, to **specialized sessions** for **student board members**

and [executive assistants](#), to need-to-know courses on [ethics](#) and the [Brown Act](#), trustees can find something that suits their needs, interests and commitment to lifelong learning. Additionally, those local educational agencies interested in exploring [education workforce housing](#) should keep an eye out for upcoming bootcamps. Browse the [Trainings and Events Calendar](#) or the [listed courses](#) to learn more.

State update: Free albuterol inhalers for schools



On Aug. 20, Gov. Gavin Newsom [announced](#) that **California will provide free albuterol inhalers to schools through CalRx**. The School Albuterol Access Initiative creates a statewide system to supply California schools with emergency albuterol inhalers and spacers at no cost for three years. The Governor's press release states that "about 1 million kids in California have asthma, and one in three with active symptoms miss at

least a week of school every year."

An albuterol "standing order" is currently available for school use and is signed by Dr. Erica Pan, California Department of Public Health (CDPH) director and state public health officer, eliminating the need for schools to obtain an individual physician's prescription. **California's TK-12 schools, school districts, county offices of education, charter schools and private schools can utilize the standing order by completing an online application** on the [CDPH website](#) or contact SafeSchoolsTeam@cdph.ca.gov for more information.

In other state news:

- In partnership with the California State Library, **K-12 students can access free, unlimited homework help, drop-off review services, test prep and other resources through [HomeworkCA](#)**. Tutoring is provided in English, Spanish and Vietnamese with a live, qualified tutor.

Federal update: U.S. Department of Education proposes changes to grant rules



On Aug. 24, the U.S. Department of Education published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) **proposing significant updates to the Education Department General Administrative Regulations, which govern the administration of federal education grants. The proposal would make a range of technical and substantive changes**, including eliminating Federal Register publication requirements for

grant competitions in favor of Grants.gov; allowing the department to give competitive

preference to applicants that propose to charge lower indirect costs; revising discretionary grant selection criteria and evidence standards; and providing the education secretary with greater flexibility in making continuation awards.

The NPRM would also impose new “merit and high standards” requirements on grantees related to hiring, admissions, promotions and compensation, and would expressly provide the department authority to terminate discretionary grants “for convenience” consistent with law. The proposal is published in the Federal Register, with comments due by Sept. 23. [Read the proposed rule changes and submit a comment »](#)

Commission on Teacher Credentialing considers new exam options



At the [Aug. 26-27 meeting](#) of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), commissioners acted to approve some actions related to exploring new foundational exams and were provided updates on ongoing projects related to teacher apprenticeships and dual credentialing in general and special education.

Two items addressed how current candidates are qualifying to enter teacher preparation programs through fulfilling a basic skills requirement and how they are fulfilling subject matter requirements, both of which have seen great changes in the last few years. **With options such as coursework and a bachelor's degree fulfilling the basic skills requirement, staff were directed to continue to evaluate possible usage of nationally approved exam to replace the California Basic Educational Skills Test, and if replacement is the best option.** Exam options were approved for meeting the Early Completer Option for the PK-3 and Education Specialist credentials. [Read the meeting recap »](#)

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

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](#)

2026 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show

Dec. 3-5 | San Diego | [Register](#)

Virtual events

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

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

Executive Assistant (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](#)

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