

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

September 23, 2026

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Legislative update: Governor signs two CSBA-sponsored bills



On Sept. 18, **Gov. Gavin Newsom** signed two of four CSBA-sponsored bills into law, **Assembly Bill 2225** and **AB 2008**, both authored by **Assemblymember Dr. Darshana Patel** (D-San Diego).

AB 2225, CSBA's main sponsored bill, will further the goals of **AB 181**, which was adopted earlier this year. AB 181 is the state's public education

governance reform measure that transfers the administrative and oversight responsibilities of the California Department of Education (CDE) from the state superintendent of public instruction to a gubernatorially appointed education commissioner. AB 181 requires the education commissioner to submit a “second phase” of recommendations on the steps the state can take to further consolidate and streamline education governance. **AB 2225 supports this effort toward greater state alignment of public education governance by requiring the education commissioner to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature by Oct. 1, 2028, on further steps the state should take in response to the second-phase report.**

AB 2008 will also build on this effort to consolidate and streamline state governance by requiring all future state-mandated local educational agency reporting requirements to be eliminated four years after their establishment. It also requires the State Board of Education to develop a standardized template for LEAs to use when completing programmatic or competitive state grant reports. The Governor has until Sept. 30 to sign all remaining bills on his desk.

Advocacy is still needed to urge the Governor to sign CSBA's co-sponsored AB 2490 (Valencia, D-Anaheim), which would increase the time a holder of an emergency career substitute teaching permit can serve in a single classroom from 30 to 70 days. [Contact Gov. Newsom now to urge him to sign AB 2490 »](#)

CSBA files lawsuit challenging state's withholding of \$3.9B in Proposition 98 school funding



CSBA extended its historical leadership position in education funding advocacy by **filing a lawsuit against the State of California challenging the withholding of \$3.9 billion in Proposition 98 education funding under the 2026–27 State Budget.** CSBA contends **the withholding violates the State Constitution's minimum funding requirement** for public schools and community colleges. The action follows CSBA's

announcement last week that it would bring a new, independent challenge alongside its existing Proposition 98 litigation for separate but related abuses of the education funding guarantee.

The **dispute concerns the disparity between the minimum education funding guarantee calculated by the state under Proposition 98, and the amount the state is currently allocating in the budget — a difference of \$3.9 billion.** CSBA maintains that recognizing an obligation for future payment is not the same as meeting that obligation and does not resolve the constitutional question raised by withholding mandated, voter-approved funding that is required to first be applied to support for public schools. As a result, the association filed suit on Sept. 22 against the State of California, California Director of Finance Joe Stephenshaw and Controller of the State of California Malia Cohen.

“Our lawsuit asks the court to resolve a fundamental question: whether the state can

calculate the guaranteed funding required under Proposition 98 and then withhold a portion of that guarantee from schools for its own convenience,” said **CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy**. “**Proposition 98 is not a credit card or piggy bank that can be raided gratuitously by the state. Our objective is to secure the funding required by the constitution and provide school districts and county offices of education with greater certainty about the resources available to serve students.**” [Read the full press release »](#)

Get ready for the CSBA Counties Conference



The **2026 CSBA Counties Conference** will take place from Sept. 25-27 at the Marina del Rey Marriott. This year's lineup of **keynote speakers brings together voices from foster care advocacy, documentary filmmaking and criminal justice reform** — perspectives that speak directly to the students and communities county offices of education serve every day.

Attendees **can browse the [event program](#)** now to view micro-trainings and peer-led breakout sessions and **plan their conference experience.** [View all the conference details »](#)

Read the September newsletter



The September issue of *California School News* provides **an update on the final weeks of the legislative session and CSBA bills that reached the Governor's desk** as well as upcoming civic engagement opportunities and **resources for High School Voter Education Weeks** — happening now. Among other topics covered are **a new brief from CSBA's Research and Education Policy Development**

Department intended to help trustees understand **special education** in the state, and **changes to CSBA sample board policies concerning nondiscrimination, parent/guardian rights and student privacy** following the U.S. Supreme Court's March 2026 emergency order in *Mirabelli v. Bonta*. [Read the newsletter »](#)

State update: Student Teacher Stipend Program applications open



For decades, the requirement to complete 600 hours of unpaid student teaching has been a barrier for many teaching candidates. California's **[Student Teacher Stipend Program \(STSP\)](#)**



directly addresses this challenge with \$10,000 to support eligible candidates as they are entering the profession. The 2026–27 State Budget allocates \$408 million for STSP, which was

created last year with a \$300 million investment. Beginning in the 2027–28 school year, **an additional \$5,000 stipend will be available for student teachers pursuing a credential in high-need fields**, such as science, math and special education.

Applications are available now and funding is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Both local educational agencies and partnering institutions of higher education have a role in providing the information necessary for eligible candidates to receive the \$10,000 stipends. [Access the application »](#)

In other state news:

- With the **Oct. 1 launch of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and California Dream Act Application (CADAA) for 2027–28 fast approaching**, the [California Student Aid Commission](#) has events, resources and communications materials, including a [digital marketing toolkit](#), that local educational agencies can use to ensure high school seniors have the information needed to successfully complete relevant documents and pursue higher education or a career training program post-graduation.

CSBA webinar spotlights superintendent-principals



A Sept. 17 webinar, “[Support Strategies for the Superintendent-Principal](#),” provided real-world examples that brought to life CSBA’s May report [Two Jobs, One Person: Supporting the Superintendent-Principal](#), which **spotlights the dual-role administrator and is proving to be a vital resource for those in the field.**

The report, **informed by CSBA’s Small School District Advisory Workgroup**, is based on a survey of dozens of dual-role administrators **regarding the challenges and opportunities of the position.** It delves into the intricacies of balancing the responsibilities of multiple, distinct jobs with time constraints and limited resources, **and highlights how support from the school board, community and external relationships are vital for success.**

During the webinar’s panel discussion, Catherine Reimer, who serves as a superintendent-principal in both San Lucas Union Elementary School District and San Ardo Union ESD, detailed how on a daily basis **the role “requires flexibility, resourcefulness and a willingness to move quickly between long-term leadership and immediate needs.”** [Read a full recap on the CSBA blog »](#)

Suicide Prevention Month: Safe and supportive peer relationships can help struggling students to open up



As Suicide Prevention Month is observed in September, **programs like Laguna Beach High School's Student Support Collective (SSC), a peer-led network aimed at promoting overall student well-being, highlight the importance that safe and supportive relationships can make for young people year-round.**

More than three dozen students who participate in the SSC are trained in mental health awareness, active listening and skills that help foster on-campus connections. The initiative was launched in 2020 to address hardships students faced during pandemic-related disruptions — such as mental health struggles, loneliness and isolation — and has continued to evolve to meet student and community needs. [Learn more »](#)

CSBA's Cash Reserve Program can help LEAs manage state deferrals



With challenging financial times ahead due to expiring or paused funding sources, the **California School Cash Reserve Program helps guard against temporary cash flow shortages in a safe, cost-effective way by creating an additional cash reserve to the general fund.**

Now in partnership with the California Association of School Business Officials,

CSBA's Cash Reserve Program has provided local educational agencies with **a reliable and cost-effective short-term cash flow funding option** for over 30 years. Participants issue Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANs) through a streamlined, pooled process. LEAs may request and adopt a TRAN resolution starting February 2026. [Learn more »](#)

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

In-person events

2026 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show

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

Virtual events

Education Workforce Housing (EWH): Deep Dive Workshop A

Sept. 30-Oct. 1 | [Register](#)

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