

CSBA 2016

# Year-in-Review



- Relentless **Advocacy**
- Consistent **Leadership**
- Indispensable **Research**



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2016 was an important year for CSBA's future as we laid the groundwork for an organization that increasingly sets the agenda for California's public schools.

This work started in earnest in January, when CSBA's Board of Directors established four Association goals centered on some of the organization's top priorities: advocacy, funding adequacy and improved governance and professional development for school board members. These four strategic goals will guide the work of the association for the next two to three years, and will advance our efforts to support the membership and fulfill our mission.

One of the principal ways we serve our members and fulfill our mission is through our legislative and policy efforts. This year, CSBA actively engaged the State Board of Education (SBE) in their design of the new statewide accountability system, successfully keeping local governance a priority in the implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). The SBE also implemented a number of recommendations that were contained in CSBA's report entitled "Strengthening the LCAP." These recommendations call for changes to the LCAP that promote greater clarity, ease-of-use and transparency. Specifically, the recommendations focused on two areas: improving the LCAP template and process, and providing additional state-level support.

At the Capitol, we took steps to strengthen our ties with members of the Legislature (and with former school board members) by establishing the informal "school board caucus," comprised of sixteen former school board members now serving in the legislature. We also continued our efforts to advocate and support the state's ongoing investment in LCFF implementation, including another year of one-time Proposition 98 funds (\$1.28 billion allocated) to support a broad array of local needs, such as implementation of the new CA state standards. While CSBA opined on hundreds of individual bills, we aggressively fought back charter school-sponsored legislation such as SB 1434 (Glazer), which had far reaching governance implications and negatively impacted the charter school approval and oversight process. CSBA also led the successful charge to recover the costs of state-mandated tests, a victory expected to return nearly \$80 million to school districts. All told, CSBA's advocacy helped shield school districts and county offices of education from tens of millions of dollars in unfunded mandate costs that would have diverted funds from programs serving students.



Vernon M. Billy  
*CEO & Executive Director*

Complementing our advocacy efforts was the tireless work of our Education Legal Alliance (ELA). This past year, the ELA challenged the State's unconstitutional manipulation of Proposition 98, fought for greater school district discretion in where charter school facilities can be located and successfully challenged the Commission on State Mandates over the cost of implementing new equipment and testing protocols, allowing districts to recoup approximately \$250 million. All told, the efforts of the ELA helped member districts save more than \$430 million while protecting the state's education funding guarantee and defending the right of all students to a quality education.

Our commitment to you — our members — goes beyond saving money and preserving local control. CSBA's ongoing re-investment in professional development and training opportunities continues to be an important benefit sought by CSBA members. In 2016, CSBA launched its first-ever Leadership Institute, bringing together approximately 400 school board members and education leaders in Sacramento for two days of hands-on learning, leadership skill-building and inspiring, thought-provoking presentations on topics such as school facilities, accountability and the board's role in the LCAP era. And CSBA was able to award scholarships to 25 members from small, rural school districts in order to cover their travel costs and materials. The scholarships were funded by a generous grant from the S.D. Bechtel Jr. Foundation. We are grateful to the Bechtel Foundation for helping us to support our small school district members and for helping to ensure CSBA's inaugural launch of the Leadership Institute was an overwhelming success.

As we forge ahead in 2017, we recognize the significant opportunities before us that will shape public education well into the future. While many challenges remain, CSBA will continue to build on this foundation of success and focus on the hard, meaningful work that will have a lasting, positive impact on our State's students and our Association for years to come.

## 2016 Executive Committee



**Chris Ungar**  
*President*



**Susan Henry**  
*President-elect*



**Mike Walsh**  
*Vice President*



**Jesús Holguín**  
*Immediate Past President*

## 2016 Board of Directors

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Jennifer Owen, Region 1           | Victor Torres, Region 22                               |
| Sherry Crawford, Region 2         | Xilonin Cruz-Gonzalez, Region 23                       |
| A.C. "Tony" Ubalde, Jr., Region 3 | Donald E. LaPlante, Region 24                          |
| Paige Stauss, Region 4            | Bettye Lusk, Director-at-Large African American        |
| Jill Wynns, Region 5              | D. Shelly Yarbrough, Director-at-Large American Indian |
| Darrel Woo, Region 6              | Robert Gin, Director-at-Large Asian/Pacific Islander   |
| Anne White, Region 7              | Heidi Weiland, Director-at-Large County                |
| Matthew Balzarini, Region 8       | Kathryn Ramirez, Director-at-Large Hispanic            |
| Tami Gunther, Region 9            | Joaquin Rivera, CCBE President                         |
| Susan Markarian, Region 10        | Frank Pugh, NSBA Secretary-Treasurer                   |
| Suzanne Kitchens, Region 11       | Lillian Tafoya, NSBA Director                          |
| William Farris, Region 12         | Emma Turner, NSBA Director                             |
| Meg Cutuli, Region 15             |  |
| Karen Gray, Region 16             |  |
| Carol Skiljan, Region 17          |  |
| Jerry Bowman, Region 18           |  |
| Albert Gonzalez, Region 20        |  |
| George McKenna III, Region 21     |  |

- **Published our first ever Policy and Programs Annual Review.** This compendium contains the year's top CSBA research — 23 briefs in all — on a range of topics, including student performance, initiatives to support various demographic groups, data analysis, strategies to expand opportunities for students and a variety of critical issues such as Next Generation Science Standards, charter schools, vaccines, concussions in student athletes and the teacher shortage.



➤ Download the Policy and Programs Annual review at [www.csba.org/2016CSBAbriefs](http://www.csba.org/2016CSBAbriefs)

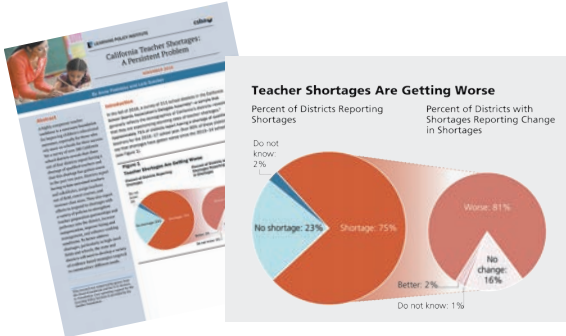
- **Produced 8 policy update packets**, revising 120 sample policies, bylaws, regulations and exhibits to reflect current events and the changing needs of districts.
- **County boards of education received the first-ever set of sample policies and bylaws** written specifically for this kind of governing body as CSBA released 45 comprehensive county policies, bylaws and exhibits.
- **Facilitated 47 Policy Development Workshops**, including several consortiums designed to help small school districts come together to maximize resources.
- **Processed a record 2,300 Manual Maintenance requests** and produced comprehensive policy manual updates for more than 60 school districts and county offices of education.
- **CSBA's charter school taskforce called on the state** to address the impact of charters on students in traditional schools, to provide more support for governing boards in charter oversight and to improve the procedures for dealing with charter expulsions, charter petition appeals and charter oversight costs.



"The good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge"

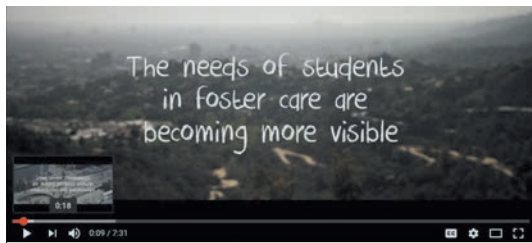
—Bertrand Russell

- **Surveyed members on the teacher shortage crisis and collaborated with the highly respected Learning Policy Institute** on a report that offered a comprehensive review of the problem and recommended solutions.



➤ Download the brief: <http://bit.ly/2kn0peT>

- **Raised awareness about foster youth through a multimedia campaign of research briefs, videos, magazine and newsletter articles and social media outreach.** The initiative highlighted the challenges faced by many foster youth and strategies that boards of education, school districts and communities can use to strengthen the level of safety, stability and support provided to this often overlooked group of students.



➤ Watch the videos and learn more at: [www.csba.org/fosteryouth](http://www.csba.org/fosteryouth)



- **Published 23 policy briefs to help inform governing board members and assist them in decision-making on critical issues** impacting academic achievement, equity and the well-being of students. Specific topics included:

- » Latino Students in California's K-12 Public Schools
- » Research-Supported Strategies to Improve the Accuracy and Fairness of Grades
- » English Learners in Focus, Issue 3 Ensuring High-Quality Staff for English Learners
- » What Boards of Education Can Do About Kindergarten Readiness
- » Closing Opportunity and Achievement Gaps for African-American Students
- » Demographics and Achievement of California's African-American Students

- **Saved school districts and county offices of education upwards of \$150 million** by fending off legislative attempts to reduce school district and county board of education authority over charter schools (SB 1434), teacher evaluation (AB 575 and SB 499), new employee orientation (AB 2835) and unemployment compensation (AB 2197).
- **Sponsored SB 1211** (Huff, R-Diamond Bar), the third CSBA-sponsored bill in three years that repealed Education Code Sections made obsolete with the enactment of the LCFF, thereby saving districts time and money on compliance issues.
- **Used input from more than 260 local governing board members to produce a report on the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)** template calling for changes that promote greater clarity, ease-of-use and transparency, as well as additional state-level support. The report also included recommendations for local districts to help them strengthen community engagement strategies and sharpen their focus on student needs.
- **CSBA's officers met privately with U.S. Secretary of Education John King** to discuss the state's accountability systems and the work we're doing to better support foster youth in our public schools.
- **Represented the interests of governing boards at the State Board of Education** and informed development of Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) evaluation rubrics that balance the need for accountability and local control.
- **Hosted a Legislative Action Day at the State Capitol.** School trustees met with their legislators to push for laws that increase funding for public schools and allow districts to provide the curriculum, instruction, staffing, services and facilities that will prepare all students for college, career and civic life in the 21st Century.



"The great aim of education is not knowledge but action."

— Herbert Spencer

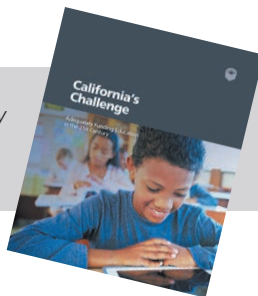


- **2016 CSBA President Chris Ungar testified before the State Senate Education Committee** on the importance of better protocols for the oversight of charter schools, more equitable practices at charter schools related to student enrollment, discipline and expulsion and the need for traditional public schools to receive some of the same flexibility charter schools are afforded.
- **Lobbied members of Congress and federal agencies on issues relating to the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**, special education funding, rural schools funding, internet access and other essential federal programs and held a briefing in Washington, D.C. for the staff of the California Congressional Delegation on these and other issues.
- **Continued the media and legislative campaign to fix the reserve cap.** CSBA's efforts led to ongoing statewide media coverage with near unanimous support from editorial boards, calls for changes to the cap by a number of Democratic and Republican legislators, and introduction of SB 799 (Hill). Those efforts will be redoubled in 2017 as we create an even higher level of awareness about this onerous law that threatens staffing levels and programs during recessionary times.



- **CSBA's Education Legal Alliance prevailed** in the fight to recover the costs of state-mandated tests and positioned school districts to recoup approximately \$139.6 million as of December 2016. As part of this, ongoing process, districts will file claims each year to receive funds that would otherwise have been lost to the state.
- **The ELA also took an initial victory in the legal effort to hold the state accountable** for shortchanging the Prop 98 minimum guarantee (*CSBA v. Cohen*). The courts ruled that the State improperly excluded most childcare costs from Proposition 98 by deleting childcare costs from the calculations that would count toward the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee. The ELA will continue to pursue the case if the state, as expected, appeals.
- **Published *California's Challenge: Adequately Funding Education in the 21st Century***, a comprehensive report documenting the systematic underfunding of the state's public schools and a reference in ongoing efforts for funding reform.
- **CSBA's signature on the ballot argument aided** in the passage of the \$9 billion school bond, one of four measures (51, 55, 56 and 58) that CSBA supported and voters approved.
- **Fought for local discretion in \$1.28 billion in one-time allocations** as well to maintain promised investments in Adult Education and Career Technical Education in the 2016-17 budget.

➤ Download the *California's Challenge: Adequately Funding Education in the 21st Century* at [www.csba.org/adequacyreport](http://www.csba.org/adequacyreport)



"If we are to close the achievement gap, we need to be focused more intentionally on questions of equity and questions of adequacy."

— 2016 CSBA President  
Chris Ungar



# member development and training ■■■■□

CSBA's inaugural Leadership Institute gathered 400 school board members and education leaders for two days of hands-on learning, leadership skill-building and inspiring, thought-provoking presentations and conversations. Participants had the opportunity to take a deeper dive into critical K-12 issues such as equity, accountability, school facilities, academic standards and the board's crucial role in the new LCFF-LCAP era.



- **In addition to Leadership Institute, Association Education conducted 35 training sessions at various locations throughout the state.** The sessions included: Orientation for New Trustees, Legal Symposium, Board Presidents Workshop, Brown Act, Institute for New and First-Term Board Members and Training for Executive Assistants as well as the seasonal informational webcasts, Forecast and Back-to-School. The Masters in Governance program was offered at four locations statewide in addition to regional offerings in both Alameda and Tulare counties.
- **CSBA's 2016 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show (AEC) continued to be the largest and most comprehensive education conference offered in California.** Attendance surpassed 2015 turnout by seven percent, resulting in 5,680 attendees. All conference attendees had access to a new AEC app that was introduced to streamline and improve the guest experience. Programming highlights at the conference included more than 120 breakout sessions, two three-part workshop series on governance and advocacy, and a conference strand dedicated to students' social and emotional well-being.
- **In 2016, 906 school districts and county offices of education subscribed to GAMUT Online and 517 subscribed to Manual Maintenance.** We received more than 2,800 policy update requests from Manual Maintenance users and facilitated Policy Development Workshops for 43 local education agencies throughout the state.
- **CSBA maintained its strong membership rate encompassing more than 96 percent of all eligible school districts and county offices of education in California.** Significantly, our membership represents 99.8 percent of student enrollment in our state's public schools.