

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

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Legislative update: CSBA-sponsored bills pass key committees



California is missing the bus on home-to-school transportation and failing its students in the process. Home-to-school transportation supports students and families through increased convenience, enhanced safety, higher attendance rates, reduced traffic and smaller carbon footprints. Yet, on a per-capita basis, California has the fewest students riding school buses of any

state in the nation. **The Assembly Education Committee took a step toward improving student outcomes when it passed [Assembly Bill 2933](#) (O'Donnell, D-Long Beach) on April 27. The 7-0 vote was unanimous and bipartisan.**

“Every moment our students spend in the classroom is critical to making up the learning lost during the last two years of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said CSBA President Dr. Susan Heredia. **“I’m excited to see the Assembly Education Committee pass AB 2933 and I hope the Assembly Appropriations Committee follows suit** because AB 2933 is the smart solution for getting California students to school every day, on time and ready to learn. This proposal would provide local educational agencies with the necessary resources and flexibility for home-to-school transportation without the risk of diverting funds from other essential student programs.”

AB 2933 was approved by the committee on a 7-0 vote and now awaits a hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. **CSBA urges members to reach out to their Assemblymembers and urge them to vote “Aye” on this critical bill:**

- [Find your legislators and their contact information](#)
- [A sample script is available here](#)

Two bills focused on elections and sponsored by CSBA also passed out of key policy committees on April 27, [Assembly Bill 2584](#) (Berman, D-Palo Alto) and [Senate Bill 1061](#) (Laird, D-Santa Cruz). AB 2584 focuses on recall reform and would help ensure information provided to voters by recall proponents and election officials meets standards for accuracy and truthfulness. It also provides districts more flexibility in combining the recall election with a statewide or local election. SB 1061 would update the voter signature requirements, petition information and the timing of a special election for a voter-driven effort to remove a provisional appointment and fill a vacancy on school district governing boards. Both bills would require petitions to show the total estimated election costs and the costs expressed on a per-student basis. **All three CSBA co-sponsored bills now head to their respective appropriations committees to review their fiscal impact. [Read more on the CSBA blog](#) »**

Hone your governance skills at CSBA's 2022 Leadership Institute



The state of public education has never been more critical — and your leadership has never been more essential. **Harness your talent, reignite your sense of purpose and hone your governance skills at CSBA’s 2022 Leadership**



Institute in Los Angeles, July 22–23.

“Leadership in a time of chaos, change and opportunity” offers an intimate setting to

engage with keynote speakers, collaborate with counterparts across the state and enhance leadership skills in sessions dedicated to community engagement, board meeting management, district governance, budgeting and crisis communications — crucial skills for the current environment. [Learn more and register today »](#)

CSBA webinar: CSBA Analyzes the May Budget Revision



Budget season is full steam ahead as education stakeholders prepare for Gov. Gavin Newsom’s May Budget Revision. **The Governor’s revised budget proposal — which must be released no later than May 15** — will kick off a fresh round of budget negotiations and advocacy in Sacramento.

CSBA’s Governmental Relations team is working with the Legislature as well as the

Newsom Administration in the lead up to the May revision, building on the advocacy of the more than 370 board members and superintendents who pushed to ensure the state budget reflects the needs of schools at the 2022 Legislative Advocacy Week in March.

CSBA will host a briefing webinar on Friday, May 13, at 3 p.m. featuring a recap of the Governor’s revised proposal and insights from CEO & Executive Director Vernon Billy and the CSBA Governmental Relations team. [Register now »](#)

Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip gives California’s education leaders unprecedented access to D.C. legislators and policymakers



A vision years in the making came to fruition when school trustees and superintendents from across California traveled to Washington, D.C. as part of **Coast2Coast, the inaugural CSBA-ACSA federal advocacy trip. The three-day event offered education leaders a chance to communicate directly with their representatives in the nation’s capital** and also learn from some of the country’s top

policymakers and political experts, including former San Diego Unified School District superintendent and current U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education Cindy Marten.

From April 25–27, **school board members and administrators made the case for**

additional resources, improved policy and new legislation to address the educator shortage, special education funding and funding for preK under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, school nutrition programs, student privacy and cybersecurity, broadband access and flexibility for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds under the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

“CSBA and ACSA are always searching for ways to increase the influence of California’s school leaders on behalf of our students and communities.” CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy said. **“The ACSA-CSBA partnership is testament to the power of what education management organizations can accomplish for California schools when we collaborate and focus on common objectives. The goal is to ensure that California’s education sector receives the respect and the resources befitting a state that educates roughly one of every eight public school students in the United States.”** [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

COVID-19 update: California adults support mask-free K-12 campuses, PPIC survey finds



The majority of adults who took part in a recent [Public Policy Institute of California survey](#) support the state in no longer requiring masks on school campuses **and think that the state’s K-12 public education system is heading in the right direction.** In addition to covering COVID-19 and K-12 education, respondents weighed in on a variety of **additional topics including K-12 policy direction, local public schools, funding**

for public schools, teachers and early childhood education. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

AAPI Heritage Month: Supporting mental health in the AAPI community requires additional steps



Tackling stigma and the **model minority myth** is the first step in addressing the mental health needs of **Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students**, according to a panel of school officials and health specialists who presented during a recent webinar hosted by the Asian Pacific Islander School Board Members Association. “Mental health is typically not a daily topic of conversation, especially in the AAPI

family,” said Nina Yuen Loc, director of behavioral health in Los Angeles’ Chinatown Service Center. **“Despite race or socio-economic class, mental health affects**

everybody and anybody, but Asian Americans are three times less likely to seek help. The biggest reason is the stigma that surrounds mental health issues, and on top of stigma is the lack of understanding and awareness of what mental illness is and where to seek resources. Another one of the challenges that Asian Americans face is pressure of the model minority.”

Though there hasn't been a silver bullet that addresses all the challenges brought on by the pandemic, Garvey School District, located in Rosemead just east of Los Angeles, would not have been as successful at addressing student and community needs during these last couple years, according to district Superintendent Anita Chu. **Having strong partnerships with multiple community agencies and institutions of higher education allowed the district to provide ongoing vaccine clinics and weekly COVID-testing, helped to ensure there was enough staffing to provide additional academic support staff for after-school programs, daily health screenings and more.** [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Partner webinar: LifeWings' "Safer Air — Defeating Invisible Enemies"



The issue of **air circulation and safety in school buildings is becoming a national priority as a means to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.** Air quality has been shown to be a factor in employee and student absenteeism, health issues and classroom performance. **At the state level, initiatives are in place** to provide grants to school districts to analyze and upgrade both HVAC and plumbing systems that may not be

operating at their optimum levels. Grants are available to school districts under the state's Assembly Bill 841 program to make these upgrades. Only about one-fourth of the \$650 million was allocated to applicants during Phase 1 of this program because many school districts failed to apply.

The Phase 2 application process is now open. Districts have until **May 31 at 5 p.m. to submit their paperwork.** CSBA's strategic partner **LifeWings Peak Performance** can assist districts in applying for these funds. At no costs to your general fund budget, LifeWings can see if you qualify, analyze your needs and file the application. [View a recording of the webinar](#) | [Contact LifeWings PP](#)

Register for the CSBA Equity Network Training



The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on student learning — especially for the most vulnerable students. **CSBA's "Equity Network Training: Governance with an equity lens" provides a platform for governance teams consisting of one superintendent and**



two trustees to collaborate and build capacity to govern through the lens of equity — helping to support opportunities and outcomes for historically marginalized students. **Facilitators will offer best practices that can be immediately adapted and implemented** at the school level while engaging all stakeholders and encouraging student voice as a valued and necessary contributor to positive change towards equity. [Learn more and register today »](#)

COVID-19 resources

Stay up to date with the latest news and resources related to COVID-19 on [CSBA's dedicated webpage](#) and with articles frequently posted on the [CSBA blog](#).

Virtual events

MIG Course 3: School Finance Part 1 and Part 2

May 12-13 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining

May 13-14 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration

May 18-19 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration

June 14 | [Register](#)

The Brown Act

June 14 | [Register](#)

Governance with an Equity Lens

Aug. 27-Oct. 22 | [Register](#)

In-person events

2022 Leadership Institute

July 22-23 | Los Angeles | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

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