

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

January 4, 2022

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CSBA's *Year in Review* highlights efforts to support pandemic recovery

2022 Year in Review

representation and more.

2022 was marked by incredible leadership from school and county boards that ensured students had access to learning recovery and mental health supports during the first full school year back after pandemic closures. **CSBA's 2022 Year in Review shares the ways in which the association supported boards through legislative victories, policy guidance, original research, trainings, communications, legal**

“Although we’re through the worst of COVID-19, the cloud from the pandemic still hovers over most aspects of public education. And **as school trustees work to facilitate**

learning recovery and student well-being, they are being tested on their own “three Rs” — resilience, resourcefulness and reinvention,” writes CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy in the introduction.

Some highlights include the [School Boards in Action campaign](#) that celebrated the efforts and accomplishments of boards as they work to support students in their learning and social-emotional recovery; a host of **legislative achievements** highlighted by a historic agreement to **increase home-to-school transportation funding and to increase Local Control Funding Formula base funding**; the publication of [two reports on COVID relief funding](#), which illustrated how local educational agencies have used state and federal COVID relief funds to invest in expanded learning opportunities, mental health interventions and other critical services. [Read the Year in Review online »](#)

CSBA leaders caution against education budget cuts in new op-ed



In a Dec. 23 op-ed in *The Sacramento Bee*, CSBA President Susan Markarian and CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy lauded the historic amount of pandemic-relief funding that has allowed schools to implement programs and supports for student learning recovery and mental health supports. However, [“COVID wreaked havoc on California schools and students. Here’s how they can recover”](#)

cautioned against cutting education funding as the state faces its first budget deficit in years, especially considering much of the pandemic relief funding is one-time dollars.

“It’s clear that the impact of the pandemic is not limited to one or two years; it’s generational in scope,” wrote the CSBA leaders. “As schools work to recover learning, support student well-being and tackle challenges that predate COVID, now is the time to redouble our support for education — not to retrench. California should augment ongoing school aid to help learning recovery, increase mental health support, address staffing shortages, implement transitional kindergarten, fund cybersecurity and internet infrastructure, offer meaningful cost-of-living adjustments to salaries and cover employer pension contributions so districts can redirect money to student services.” [Read the op-ed »](#)

CSBA aims to preserve school funding in 2023



Gov. Gavin Newsom must release his January Budget Proposal within the first 10 days of each calendar year. With a projected budget deficit, the state faces a starkly different fiscal reality than in the previous two years of record budget surpluses. While a combination of growth in the Proposition 98 guarantee and required reserve withdrawals

may blunt the impact on schools, it is clear that the 2023–24 budget cycle will be challenging.

Legislative leadership in both houses have expressed their commitment to defending historic school funding gains, and the Assembly has released a [budget blueprint](#) reiterating that preserving funding for students and providing “certainty for school districts to make the needed investments to reverse learning loss” remains a priority.

The top budget issues CSBA is watching and advocating for:

- **Mental health:** Mental health continues to be a top priority for local educational agencies across the state. CSBA urges the Legislature and Governor to build on previous investments and maintain and expand funding to help ensure that LEAs can implement and maintain ongoing and reliable student mental health services.
- **Protecting universal school meals:** The cost of providing universal meals will increase in the coming year due to adoption of Senate Bill 490, which was not funded in the 2022–23 budget. CSBA urges policymakers to provide additional and ongoing funding to cover the increased costs, which will otherwise jeopardize the implementation of universal meals.
- **Employer pension contributions:** Pension costs are increasingly burdensome and crowd out other desperately needed investments in educational programs. CSBA urges an ongoing commitment to protect schools from employer costs for CalSTRS and CalPERS exceeding the amounts in the 2021–22 fiscal year.

[Read about more CSBA budget advocacy priorities »](#)

Honoring California’s longest-serving school trustee



Delbert “Del” Cederquist, the state’s longest-serving school board member, passed away on Dec. 15, 2022, at 90 years old. **Cederquist retired from California school board service in 2018 after 65 years, making him the longest-serving school board member in the nation.** He was a member of the California School Boards Association since 1967 and served as the association’s president in 1977. In 1953, at the

age of 21, Cederquist was elected to his first school board for the University Colony School District. In 1958, University Colony became the Pacific Union School District, where he served until 1992, and from 1994 to 2018, he served as a trustee for Area 3 on the Fresno County Office of Education board.

In a [2018 interview](#) in *California Schools* magazine, Del shared his thoughts on motivation for the role of trustee and the support of CSBA. “My advice is **that there should be one thing you are thinking of when you run for school board — and that’s helping the children.** That has always been my goal. ... I still have the eagerness and **the fortitude to look ahead and see what value CSBA has and I couldn’t be a stronger supporter.** CSBA was very rewarding, and I have a very soft spot for the association for all they have done.”

School Boards in Action: Colton Joint USD uses social media to tell its story



While January marks School Board Recognition Month, CSBA celebrates the work of dedicated trustees year-round through its School Boards in Action campaign. This week, the spotlight is on Colton Joint Unified School District, which is building connections with its community through social media and other avenues.

“Social media is a way to tell your individual story as a board member,” said Colton Joint USD Board President Bertha Flores during the local educational agency’s “Tell Your District’s Story: Easy Engagement Tips and Tools” workshop at CSBA’s 2022 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show on Dec. 2. **The use of social media**, as well as other means of communication like the LEA’s podcast, [#CJUSD Chats](#), **keeps the community connected and informed**. The district, which serves roughly 20,000 students and spans four cities in San Bernardino County, highlights far more than just milestone moments like awards and anniversaries. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Let Total School Solutions help with your Facilities Master Plan



Do your facilities support your educational and programmatic goals? **A Facilities Master Plan provides a district with vital information regarding current and future needs for student housing, quality of existing facilities, and facilities renovation and expansion requirements to meet the district’s educational and programmatic goals**. The master plan also assists the district in identifying funding needs for

capital improvement and developing financing options. Total School Solutions facilities master plans include accurate projections regarding enrollment, careful determination of school site capacity, educational specifications to ensure programmatic needs are served, a detailed need assessment, and conclusions and recommendations about the availability and timing of financing and funding. [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

Student Board Member Spring Training

Sponsors



Session

Jan. 18 | [Register](#)

The Brown Act

Jan. 19 | [Register](#)

Feb. 10 | [Register](#)

Institute for New and First-Term Board Members

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

Feb. 14-15 | [Register](#)

MIG COE COURSE 1 Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

Jan. 27-28 | [Register](#)

Executive Assistants Certification Program - Kappa Cohort

Feb. 2-May 11 | [Register](#)

2023 Governance with an Equity Lens

Feb. 4-May 6 | [Register](#)

Executive Assistants Certification Program - Iota Cohort

Feb. 10-April 21 | [Register](#)

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

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

Board Presidents Workshop

Feb. 28 | [Register](#)

Orientation for New Trustees

March 1 | [Register](#)

MIG COE Course 3: Finance

April 1 | [Register](#)

MIG COE Course 4: Charter Schools

April 15 | [Register](#)

MIG COE Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration

May 5-6 | [Register](#)

In-person events



Institute for New and First-Term Board Members

Feb. 3-4 | Rancho Cucamonga | [Register](#)

Orientation for New Trustees

Feb. 21 | Sacramento | [Register](#)

March 8 | Redding | [Register](#)

County Board Governance Workshop

March 10-11 | Sacramento | [Register](#)

Board Presidents Workshop

March 18 | Rancho Cucamonga | [Register](#)

2023 Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip

April 24-26 | Washington, D.C. | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

