

# California schoolnews

Weekly Update

March 22, 2023

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## Legislative Action Week in review



Nearly **400 board members and superintendents from across California came together last week to meet virtually with their state representatives and their staff.** As the legislative session continues, CSBA members' work during Legislative Action Week will be critical to the success of the association's work in the Capitol and ability to shape policy on members' behalf.

With a stormier budget outlook than in recent years, the local perspective is more vital than ever. **CSBA members rallied support for a state budget that fully funds the Local Control Funding Formula cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) without**

retroactively reducing the Arts, Music & Instructional Materials Discretionary Block Grant, and remains focused on ensuring successful implementation of the large programs undertaken in recent years.

Attendees also spoke in support of three pieces of CSBA-sponsored legislation:

- **Assembly Bill 1023** (Papan, D-San Mateo): **Increased Support for School Districts to Protect Against Ransomware Attacks** – would authorize local educational agencies to use existing funding for cybersecurity purposes and expand state support for school districts.
- **Senate Bill 645** (Ochoa-Bogh, R-Yucaipa): **Addressing the Small School District Administrator to Teacher Ratio Caps** – would allow small school districts to hire the appropriate number of administrators based upon school size.
- **AB 906** (Gipson, D-Carson): **Increased and stabilized funding for county office of education (COE)-operated court and community schools** – would ensure sufficient and predictable resources for these high-quality programs and the students they serve by including funding in a COE's base grant.

“Our legislators care about our students and schools as much as we do,” said Marcy Masumoto, Fresno County Office of Education trustee and CSBA Region 10 Delegate. “Through CSBA’s Legislative Action Week, we have the potential for collective impact on the state budget and legislative policies that affect every student in California.”

## Federal updates: State Digital Equity Plan developments



As part of the **Digital Equity Act** programs authorized by the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, **all states are required to develop digital equity plans in 2023**. Education officials can provide essential perspectives to state leaders writing these plans for the purpose of meeting the needs of “**covered populations**” as required by the law. Stakeholders can **learn more out about their state’s**

**broadband office on the [Internet for All Map](#) and keep up to date on state engagement efforts. [Learn more and sign up to participate in California’s planning process](#) »**

### Discretionary Grant Program updates:

The Office of Elementary and Secondary Education is inviting applications for the following programs:

- The **Innovative Approaches to Literacy Program** seeks to **improve literacy skills for children in high-need local educational agencies. Programs should focus on enhancing school library programs, providing early literacy services and providing high-quality books to children.** Estimated available funds for this program total \$9 million, contingent upon the availability of funds and

quality of applications, due by May 15. [Additional information »](#)

- The **Magnet Schools Assistance Program** provides grants to LEAs to create or revise magnet schools under required or voluntary desegregation plans. Estimated available funds total \$122 million, contingent upon the availability of funds and quality of applications, due by May 15. [Additional information »](#)
- The **Impact Aid Discretionary Construction Grant Program** focuses on addressing school facility emergency and modernization needs. Grants can assist LEAs facing difficulties in responding to emergency repairs due to their limited ability to raise local revenue for capital improvements due to the large areas of federal land in their boundaries. Estimated available funds total \$18.4 million contingent upon the availability of funds and quality of applications, due by May 15. [Additional information »](#)

## Legal update: San Mateo COE suit alleges social media platforms negatively impact student mental health



On March 13, 2023, the **San Mateo County Board of Education and superintendent** filed suit against YouTube, Snap (formerly Snapchat) and TikTok in the federal district court for the Northern District, alleging that their applications have intentionally caused children to become addicted to them and such addiction has resulted in increased rates of mental health issues for children. The suit

further alleges that the plaintiff county board and superintendent have been negatively affected by the need to increase resources for students as a result. The plaintiffs have asked the court to order that the defendant social media companies' conduct constitutes a "public nuisance" and order an injunction requiring them to "abate" the public nuisance. **The suit also asks the court to order monetary damages to address the costs that have accrued to the plaintiffs as a result of addressing the impacts to their students of the alleged conduct of the defendants.**

The complaint cited research that **children's brains are especially vulnerable to addiction to social media**, which makes them a lucrative market of social media consumers. This **addiction to social media, the complaint argues, is itself detrimental to children's mental health**, "including less curiosity, lower self-control, more distractibility, more difficulty making friends, less emotional stability, being more difficult to care for, and inability to finish tasks." **The complaint also alleges that the content of social media is damaging to children and adolescents. Content such as those that portray unrealistic ideals of beauty, wealth and popularity, promote cyberbullying, and popularize eating disorders cause lower self-esteem and other serious mental health issues.** The complaint alleges that though aware of these concerns, defendant social media companies took no action to address these concerns. Instead, they "have adjusted and optimized the underlying algorithms and features of their platforms to exploit these vulnerabilities." **The complaint seeks to require the social media companies to change the manipulative practices that specifically target**

children and adolescents and cause them to become addicted to social media.

[Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

## State partnering with Los Angeles COE to develop LGBTQ youth support training



The California Department of Education announced on March 16 a new partnership with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) to provide resources to bolster support for LGBTQ youth throughout the state. **Recent data** show more than 86 percent of LGBTQ students experienced harassment or assault at school based on personal characteristics, and nearly a fifth reported changing schools due to feeling unsafe or uncomfortable. Additionally, more than one in five LGBTQ students reported attempting suicide in the year prior, and at least 52 percent said they struggled with mental health. Noting the need, **CDE and LACOE officials are developing online training courses for educators with support from an advisory committee** composed of 20 nonprofit organizations. The resulting project, **PRISM: Providing Relevant, Inclusive Support That Matters for LGBTQ+ Students**, is expected to be completed in June 2024, and will include training on topics such as:

- Identifying LGBTQ youth who are subject to, or may be at risk of, bullying and lack of acceptance at home or in their communities
- Identifying local, community-based organizations that provide support to LGBTQ youth
- Providing information regarding school antibullying and harassment policies and complaint procedures
- Identifying local physical and mental health providers with experience in treating and supporting LGBTQ youth and forming peer support or affinity clubs and organizations

## Delegate Assembly: Save the date



The **Delegate Assembly will meet May 20-21, 2023, in Downtown Sacramento at the Hyatt Regency. Registration information will be sent to all Delegates from the Executive Office the first week of April**, including hotel information and lunch ticket purchasing. Please **visit the Delegate Assembly [web page](#) for the latest updates** and monitor your inboxes for future communications.

## Instructional Quality Commission discusses updating material guidelines



At its [March 15 meeting](#), Instructional Quality Commission members discussed updating the document, “Guidelines for Piloting Textbooks and Instructional Materials,” which was first created in 1989 to provide selection, evaluation and piloting criteria for materials adoption. Presenting staff noted that over time, many of the resources cited in the document are no longer available and some terminology is out of

date, though the core of the document is still relevant. By July 2023, the IQC will **review changes to the document** related to references to legislation and regulation, guidance that reflects current practices in evaluating and selecting standards-aligned instructional materials, inclusion of tools to facilitate decision-making processes, and hyperlinks to essential California Department of Education resources and to external, relevant resources. The IQC also heard a **presentation from WestEd on research related to Senate Bill 154, which requires the state to create strategies and resources for educators to provide students with an individualized education program (IEP) alternate means for completing a standard diploma.** In addition, the commissioners adopted [amended bylaws](#), last updated in 2009, adding new procedures, replacing gendered language and making grammatical corrections.

## Districts can diversify investments with OPEB Solutions Program



The OPEB Solutions Program is a full-service GASB-compliant, IRS-approved **trust program designed to help local educational agencies safely and securely set aside funds to address and lower your Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability.** This program gives districts local control of assets, providing LEAs with the flexibility to make contributions as deemed appropriate and the ability to access and

withdraw funds to pay for OPEB expenses at any time. [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

Sponsors



**Equity Network Alumni event: Cultural Competence in the Context of America**

March 28 | [Register](#)

**MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining**

March 28-29 | [Register](#)

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

April 11-12 | [Register](#)

**The Brown Act**

April 13 | [Register](#)

**In-person events**

**MIG 3: School Finance**

April 19 | Santa Cruz | [Register](#)

**MIG 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining**

April 20 | Santa Cruz | [Register](#)

**2023 Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip**

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

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

May 2 | Santa Cruz | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

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