

# California schoolnews

Weekly Update

May 10, 2023

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## Legislative update: May Revision preview



Budget season is kicking into high gear as education stakeholders **prepare for Gov. Gavin Newsom's May Budget Revision**, which must be released no later than May 15 and is **expected to be released the morning of Friday, May 12**. State revenues have continued to come in lower than projected in the Governor's **January Budget Proposal**, with the **latest data** from the Department of Finance showing that **revenue as**

**of March was \$4.7 billion below the January forecast.** The ongoing standoff over the federal debt limit — and potential cuts to California’s federal funding or severe economic repercussions should the U.S. default on its debts — have introduced further uncertainty into the budget process. **Further complicating matters is the state’s delayed tax filing deadline**, which was extended until Oct. 15 to provide relief for Californians affected by severe winter storms. The extension will delay an accurate count of the state’s revenues until the fall, placing this year’s May Revision deeper into uncertain territory.

The **Senate released a bold budget framework** ahead of the May Revision rejecting education and other funding cuts proposed in January and proposing new tax changes that will require a two-thirds vote to approve. The framework provides insight into what the Senate will prioritize in talks with the Assembly and Governor.

## Webinar update: CSBA analyzes the May Budget Revision — May 12 at 4:30 p.m.



**CSBA will host a briefing webinar on Friday, May 12, at 4:30 p.m.**, featuring a recap of the Governor’s revised proposal and insights from the CSBA Governmental Relations team.

**This webinar was rescheduled from 3:30 p.m. to accommodate a special briefing for CSBA’s Governmental Relations team with representatives from the California Department**

**of Finance.** CSBA will bring these details straight to members during this webinar.

[Register now »](#)

CSBA is also co-sponsoring a series of [Budget Perspectives Workshops](#) in partnership with Capitol Advisors in counties across the state from May 22–June 1. [Register here »](#)

## U.S. history and civics scores decline for eighth graders



The U.S. Department of Education **released scores for the 2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) eighth-grade Civics and U.S. History exams** on May 3. Last given in 2018, the results of the first post-pandemic administration of these tests largely **mirror the declines in scores across most student groups shown in the NAEP Math and Reading exams** released in September 2022.

Civics scores declined for the first time since the initial test was given in 1998. History scores, which have been in decline since 2014, continued that trend in 2022. For both exams, **score decreases were more pronounced for lower-performing students than for higher-performing students.** In bright spots, **English learners saw a seven-point increase in civics scores** and **American Indian/Alaska Native students saw**

increases U.S. history scores. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

## New CSBA fact sheet: California's federal COVID relief funding — winter 2022 update



In a new fact sheet, CSBA's Research and Education Policy Development Department analyzes the use of federal COVID relief aid by California school districts and county offices of education as of winter 2022. **Local educational agencies had spent 99.9 percent of their Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER I) and Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER I) funds by the end of the winter 2022 reporting period; and 99.6 percent of LEAs have spent their entire allotment of ESSER I funds.**

Changes in spending patterns over time have been observed in all funding packages, though the use of broader spending categories has remained relatively constant. One of the more **noteworthy jumps in spending came with the ESSER III fund that must be used for addressing the academic impacts of lost instructional time, with tutoring and mental health expenses** significantly increasing over the past two spending periods.

[Download the fact sheet »](#)

## Legal update: *Davis v. Fresno Unified School District* ruling



On April 27, the **California Supreme Court issued a unanimous decision in the case of *Davis v. Fresno Unified School District*. The case relates to a 2012 lease-leaseback construction agreement used by Fresno USD to construct a new \$36.7 million middle school.** The project was funded by the sale of two general obligation bonds, which passed as bond measures in the district in 2001 and 2010. The **newest opinion holds that for purposes of a validation cause of action, this specific lease-leaseback agreement was not a "contract" and validation could not be used.** The case will therefore move forward on consideration of a personal taxpayer disgorgement (i.e., return of profits received to prevent unjust enrichment) issue only.

**The Court emphasized that the split in court of appeal decisions about structuring lease-leaseback agreements without a multiyear leaseback component was not analyzed or decided by the Court here.** Instead, the Court focused on validation causes of action and found that local educational agencies cannot rely on validation actions under Government Code section 53511 to confirm the legality of lease-leaseback agreements that are independently financed by the LEA. Moving forward, the case will

return to the trial court level for the disgorgement cause of action to be considered. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

## CSBA Roadshow makes June stops in Sacramento and Humboldt counties



**CSBA leadership is visiting members around the state to hear what you have to say.** Good, bad or somewhere in the middle, **CSBA needs your input to shape its legislative, policy and research work, and to more effectively advocate on behalf of members.** Attend these roadshows to express your opinions on public schools; network with colleagues; hear about CSBA advocacy, products and services; enjoy

some free food — and bring a fellow school board member.

Join CSBA from **6-8 p.m. on June 7** at Twin Rivers USD in Sacramento County and on **June 23** at the Humboldt County Office of Education. [Learn more about the Roadshow »](#)

## School Boards in Action: 5 Questions with Linda Porras, Desert Sands USD



In CSBA's continuing effort to highlight the hard work and effective practices of boards throughout the state, the association's 5 Questions blog series shares the experiences of board members. In this post, **Desert Sands Unified School District Board President Linda Porras discusses the district's efforts to integrate school-based mental health and wellness practices, customized summer learning**


**programs, how they share good news with the community and more.** [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

## Federal grants available addressing mental health, tribal partnerships and civic engagement



The Office of Elementary and Secondary Education has opened applications for the following programs:

- **Mental Health Personnel Technical Assistance Center** – This discretionary grant program



provides funding for the center, which would provide technical assistance to grantees that have received funds from the Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration grant program and the School-Based Mental Health Services grant program. The estimated available funds for this grant program total \$2.6 million annually for 48 months, with a possibility of an extension of the timeline and an opportunity for additional funding. Applications are due by Aug. 31, 2023. [Learn more »](#)

- **State Tribal Education Partnership Grant Program** – This program serves a variety of purposes, including to: “(1) promote tribal self-determination in education; (2) improve the academic achievement of Indian children and youth; and (3) promote the coordination and collaboration of tribal educational agencies (TEAs) ... with state educational agencies (SEAs) and local educational agencies to meet the unique education and culturally related academic needs of Indian students.” The goal of this program is to help strengthen government-to-government relationships with Tribal Nations. A TEA must submit a draft written agreement with an SEA, one or more LEAs, or both the SEA and an LEA with its application for funding. The estimated available funds for this program total \$2.4 million. Applications are due by July 3, 2023. [Learn more »](#)
- **American History and Civics Education National Activities Program** – This program seeks to encourage innovative instruction, learning strategies and professional development activities and programs for school leaders, particularly focusing on those that would benefit students with low-income backgrounds and other underserved populations. These activities and programs include such topics as American history, civics and government, and geography. The estimated available funds for this program total nearly \$19 million. Applications are due by July 12. [Learn more »](#)

## Safer air for your LEA



The quality of air in school buildings can affect everything from student achievement to absenteeism to teacher retention. **LifeWings Peak Performance provides the Safer Air Initiative to provide guidance and expertise on creating safe and healthy air in local educational agencies.** Through assessment, financial support and strategic planning, LifeWings can help LEAs tap into the billions of dollars in federal and state aid to ensure your students and staff can breathe freely. [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

Sponsors





**Student Board Member Focus Groups**

May 17 | [Register](#)

**MIG Course 3: School Finance Part 1 and Part 2**

May 16-17 | [Register](#)

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

May 23-24 | [Register](#)

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

June 6-7 | [Register](#)

**MIG Course 3: School Finance Part 1 and Part 2**

June 14-15 | [Register](#)

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

June 16-17 | [Register](#)

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

June 28 | [Register](#)

## In-person events

**CSBA Roadshow**

June 7 | Sacramento County | [Register](#)

June 23 | Humboldt County | [Register](#)



**The Brown Act**

May 19 | Santa Clara | [Register](#)


**2023 May Delegate Assembly Meeting**

May 20-21 | Sacramento | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)



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WellnessTogether.org





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