

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

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Legislative update: CSBA-sponsored legislation moves forward as Legislature breaks for summer



The State Assembly and Senate raced to finish their work ahead of the July 14 deadline for legislation to be approved by the policy committees in their second house (Assembly bills to be approved by the Senate committees and vice versa). Bills that made it past will move on to be considered in the Appropriations committee in each house or to floor votes of the full Senate and Assembly.

As legislators head back to their home districts for the month-long recess, which ends Aug. 14, **here's where the chips have fallen for some of the year's most significant TK-12 education proposals.**

Six CSBA-sponsored bills will continue to move forward when the Legislature reconvenes:

- **Assembly Bill 1023 (Papan, D-San Mateo):** Would increase cybersecurity support for school districts by requiring the California Cybersecurity Integration Center (Cal-CSIC) to include representatives from the California Department of Education and explicitly lists school districts, county offices of education and charter schools among the specified entities with which Cal-CSIC is to coordinate information sharing.
- **Senate Bill 765 (Portantino, D-Glendale):** Would streamline the 180-day mandatory waiting period and the salary earning cap local educational agencies must observe before hiring a recently retired teacher.
- **SB 551 (Portantino):** Would enhance the collaboration between county mental health agencies and school districts by requiring county mental health boards with five to eight members to include one LEA employee who has experience providing mental health services to students and one person aged 25 years or younger, with scaled requirements for larger boards.
- **AB 483 (Muratsuchi, D-Torrance):** Would increase funding for and expand access to school-based health and mental health services by improving and streamlining the Local Education Agency Medi-Cal Billing Option Program (LEA BOP).
- **AB 417 (Bennett, D-Ventura):** Would increase county boards of education's authority to appoint a student school board member by addressing a loophole in current law — allowing students in high schools maintained by the county board an equal opportunity to serve on their governing board in cases where a county board does not receive a student petition to create a student board member.
- **AB 557 (Hart, D-Santa Barbara):** Would extend the opportunity for school boards to offer virtual meeting options during states of emergency.

Also under consideration were key TK-12 education bills concerning transportation, school funding, curriculum and more. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Legal update: Supreme Court sets new standard for employers to provide religious accommodations



On June 29, the **U.S. Supreme Court issued a unanimous decision in *Groff v. DeJoy*, which relates to religious accommodations under Title VII.** In *Groff*, the Court “clarif[ied] what Title VII requires” by reviewing what is necessary to satisfy the undue hardship to the employer when showing why an employee did not receive an accommodation. To do this, the Court focused on the precedential case of *Trans World Airlines, Inc.*

v. Hardison, which courts around the country have relied on when interpreting undue hardship to mean anything that requires the employer “to bear more than a de minimis cost.” In *Groff*, the Court held that this “de minimis cost” standard should no longer be applied by courts. Instead, “Title VII requires an employer that denies a religious accommodation to show that the burden of granting the accommodation would result in substantial increased costs in relation to the conduct of its particular business.”

This new standard applies to all employers including school districts and county offices of education when they consider religious accommodations requests from their employees. However, it is important to note that the *Groff* standard announced by the Court is similar to the standard employers are already subject to under California’s Fair Employment and Housing Act. [Learn more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Federal update: House releases FY 2024 funding bill with cuts to education



Congress returned from its two-week holiday break on July 10 and will be going full speed to get work done before they take their summer recess in August. On July 13, the **House Appropriations Committee introduced the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill (Labor H)** that would fund those departments for fiscal year 2024. As proposed, the legislation would implement a 15 percent cut in funding compared to FY 2023 funding levels for the Department of Education. This cut equates to about \$22.1 billion. It also eliminates a number of K-12 and higher education programs.

The Labor H bill proposes to cut \$14.7 billion — an 80 percent cut — from Title I, Part A grants to local educational agencies under the **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)** and would eliminate other programs, including professional development programs under ESEA Title II; English language learner programs under ESEA Title III; Promise Neighborhoods; Social Emotional Learning Grants; Magnet Schools; and Full-Service Community Schools. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

State Board Report: Math framework is adopted

After nearly four years of rewrites, debates and thousands of public comments, the **State Board of Education adopted a revised K-12 Mathematics Framework during its July 12–13 meeting**. The framework is meant to support implementation of the California Common Core State Standards for Mathematics by offering guidance for enacting the standards through



curriculum and instructional approaches grounded in research and reflecting best practices in learning and equity. **While district use of the recommendations and guidance for math instruction is voluntary, the framework is likely to heavily influence local educational agencies' decisions and serve as guidelines for textbook publishers.**

Moving forward, intensive training will be critical for teachers, as will resources to help districts communicate to students and families about the framework. “There remains a mismatch between the approach to instruction outlined within the framework and the current conditions in schools. For successful implementation, the instructional practices outlined within this framework would require significant new and ongoing investments with resources not currently available,” **CSBA Legislative Advocate Carlos Machado** said in a [prepared statement](#). **“We urge the state board and CDE to develop resources and tools to help districts communicate potential changes in pathways. Rather than have 1,000 school districts individually attempt to design communication tools for family engagement and to build a shared understanding of the vision outlined within this framework, the state can play a vital role in supporting districts from the start.”** [Read a full meeting recap on the CSBA blog »](#)

State update: Funding for zero-emission buses; Safe Spaces training



On July 7, the California Air Resources Board **announced** that **applications are open for \$150 million in funding to aid public school districts, county offices of education and other entities in making the switch to zero-emission bus technology and related infrastructure needs. Applications will be accepted through Sept. 29.** LEAs may receive up to \$395,000 to replace older, fossil fuel-powered buses with zero-emission options, and as much as \$100,000 per bus to purchase and install associated charging equipment. Eligible applicants must be in a small- or medium-sized air district, as explained on page five of [this document](#). **Applicants from low-income and disadvantaged communities in small- and medium-sized air districts that have historically had limited access to funding for investments in zero-emission transportation will be prioritized.** Award winners must scrap an old school bus for every new one purchased. An [application guidance](#) document is available. [Learn more »](#)

In other state news:

- Gov. Gavin Newsom **announced** on July 13 that **CAL FIRE will provide \$47 million in grants** in the first round of California’s \$117 million Green Schoolyard Grant program. The grants are designed to **aid schools in changing asphalt to green spaces and planting trees and other vegetation that create the cooler spaces necessary to protect students from the effects of extreme heat.** [View](#)

[awardees »](#)

- The Office of the California Surgeon General has **launched the Safe Spaces trauma-informed training**, which is designed to aid early care providers, TK-12 educators and other school personnel in recognizing and responding to trauma and stress in the young people they serve. The online training opportunity is free, self-paced and available in English and Spanish. It includes three modules, each of which take roughly two hours to complete, focused on different age groups from birth to 18. A facilitation guide is available for group learning. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Eligible candidates determined for CSBA office



Pursuant to CSBA Bylaws, Article V, Section 2, and Standing Rule 222 (C)(9), the Declaration of Candidacy Packets submitted on July 10, 2023, were deemed complete and the following candidates are eligible for candidacy. **Office of President-elect:** Bettye Lusk, Monterey Peninsula USD. **Office of Vice President:** James Aguilar, San Leandro USD; Renee Nash, Eureka Union SD; and Debra Schade, Solana Beach SD.

Convert property ownership into an active asset



Property Planning Solutions by DCG Strategies aims to **help school leaders explore the ways in which their real estate assets can be leveraged to secure additional funding for district initiatives, equip students with the education and experiences they need to be successful, invest in deferred facilities maintenance and capital improvements, reduce cost and liability from holding closed or grossly underutilized**

sites, bolster general fund reserves and even attract new staff. School leaders and board members can gain access to real estate experts that work to align a local educational agency's priorities with the realities of the real estate market. Services include real estate consulting, property planning, strategic asset management, educator housing development and real property brokerage services. [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

Sponsors



The Brown Act

Aug. 25 | [Register](#)

Sept. 27 | [Register](#)

Equity Network Training (4 sessions)

Sept. 16-Jan.13, 2024 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

Oct. 2-30 | [Register](#)

In-person events

CSBA Roadshow

Aug. 10 | Riverside/San Bernardino counties | [Register](#)

Aug. 12 | West Los Angeles County | [Register](#)

Aug. 16 | South San Diego County | [Register](#)

Aug. 30 | San Luis Obispo County | [Register](#)

Sept. 27 | North Bay | [Register](#)

Oct. 2 | East Bay | [Register](#)

Oct. 4 | Lake County | [Register](#)

Oct. 11 | Santa Cruz County | [Register](#)

Oct. 17 | Fresno County | [Register](#)

Oct. 23 | Kern County/Bakersfield | [Register](#)

Oct. 23 | San Mateo County | [Register](#)

Oct. 25 | Shasta/Siskiyou counties | [Register](#)

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

Aug. 12 | San Marcos | [Register](#)

CCBE Annual Conference

Sept. 8-10 | Monterey | [Register](#)

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

Sept. 9 | San Marcos | [Register](#)

MIG Course 3: School Finance Part 1 and Part 2

Sept. 23 | San Marcos | [Register](#)

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

Sept. 23 | Sunnyvale | [Register](#)



[View complete calendar](#)



California School Boards Association | 3251 Beacon Blvd., West Sacramento, CA 95691
Phone: (800) 266-3382 | Fax: (916) 371-3407