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**CSBA sues State of California for violating State Constitution and undermining voter-approved Proposition 98**



On Sept. 26, **CSBA announced that its Education Legal Alliance is suing the State of California for its failure to comply with Proposition 98**, the voter-approved school funding law, in an effort to defend the State Constitution, protect vital resources needed for California students and preserve the integrity of the state’s school funding system.

**“The California Constitution cannot be discarded for convenience or dismissed at the whim of the Department of Finance, the Legislature or the Governor,”** said **CSBA President Albert Gonzalez**. “California’s electorate passed Proposition 98 to provide a stable and predictable source of funding for public schools and community colleges. This lawsuit is an effort to defend the voters’ will, the State Constitution and the resources our students need.”

**CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy and Gonzalez joined CSBA’s Legal and Governmental Relations teams, along with external budget and legal experts, in a Sept. 26 webinar** to explain how a new provision of the education budget would undermine California’s school funding system, defy the State Constitution and diminish resources for students.

[View a recording of the webinar](#) | [Read the full statement, an analysis of the state’s unconstitutional actions that prompted the lawsuit and more](#)

## Legislative session recap: Governor’s actions on critical bills align with CSBA’s stances



As the clock struck midnight on Sept. 30, it signaled the traditional end of the two-year 2023–24 legislative session. With nearly 1,000 bills reaching his desk at the end of the session, which concluded Aug. 31, Gov. Gavin Newsom had 30 days to sign or veto all legislation. **Of the 990 bills that reached the Governor, he vetoed 183.**

**Demonstrating the influence of CSBA advocacy, the Governor signed both of CSBA’s co-sponsored bills and vetoed another that CSBA vehemently advocated against.** Most notably, the Governor **vetoed Assembly Bill 2088**, which would have forced schools to bypass external applicants and offer existing employees the right of first refusal for new classified vacancies without regard to fitness for the position or past job performance.

He signed **Senate Bill 1244** (Newman, D-Fullerton) and **SB 1315** (Archuleta, D-Pico Rivera), **CSBA co-sponsored bills that will help to strengthen the process for students to pursue dual enrollment opportunities with local community colleges and address the administrative burdens many local educational agencies face, respectively.** [Read a full breakdown of the Governor’s actions on the CSBA blog »](#)

## Register for CSBA webinar on creating a high-quality math program

Textbook adoption is not the first step in transforming a local educational agency’s mathematics program. The work that happens before the screening, piloting and selection process is crucial for successful implementation and growth in math. **Join CSBA on Oct. 16 for**



“Before the adoption: Creating the conditions for a high-quality mathematics program,” which will provide an overview of the 2023 California Mathematics Framework, important research and considerations to support LEA preparedness for instructional material adoptions and more.

Mike Torres, director of the California Department of Education’s Curriculum Frameworks and Instructional Materials Division; and Ellen Barger, Santa Barbara County Education Office associate superintendent and chair of the California County Superintendents’ Curriculum and Instruction Steering Committee’s mathematics subcommittee, and Mathematics Content lead for the California Mathematics, Science, and Computer Science Partnership, will join CSBA Senior Director of Research and Education Policy Development Mary Gardner Briggs to provide LEAs guidance as they navigate this vital process. [Register now »](#)

## State update: Governor announces new AI initiatives; 2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools



Gov. Gavin Newsom **announced a series of initiatives** to further protect Californians from generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) technology on Sept. 29. Newsom — who has signed 17 bills in recent weeks related to cracking down on deepfakes, algorithms targeting children and combating AI-generated misinformation — has asked the world’s **leading experts on GenAI to help California develop workable guardrails**

**for its deployment**, focusing on developing an empirical, science-based trajectory analysis of frontier models and their capabilities and attendant risks.

The Governor signed an **executive order** last year laying out how California’s measured approach will focus on shaping the future of ethical, transparent and trustworthy GenAI, while remaining the world’s GenAI leader. On Sept. 29, **Newsom also signed Senate Bill 896, which codifies aspects of the executive order and requiring California’s Office of Emergency Services to expand their work assessing the potential threats posed by the use of GenAI to California’s critical infrastructure**, including those that could lead to mass casualty events. [Learn more »](#)

### Other state news:

- The U.S. Department of Education **announced** on Sept. 23 the **2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools** — 356 schools **recognized for excellence in academic performance or are making significant strides in closing achievement gaps among different student groups. Thirty schools in California were recognized.**

## County Transitional Working Group readies final recommendations



Since January, **CSBA's County Transitional Working Group (TWG)** has been diligently working to incorporate feedback from membership as it develops recommendations for county-specific products and services to support the professional development needs of county boards in their unique governance role. In May, the TWG disseminated a survey to all county board members asking for specific input

on how the association can best meet their needs while continuing to invest in and expand CSBA's County Board Member Services.

**Feedback was collected from county members and integrated into a set of 18 unique preliminary recommendations** that address county board member education, awards and recognition, opportunities to provide ongoing input, committee/advisory group recommendations and external relationships. After the development of the preliminary recommendations, the TWG distributed the body of work via a second survey in September to the entire county membership to collect more feedback. All county members were encouraged to participate. County members who attended the County Board Member Conference in Monterey Sept. 13–15 were provided an additional opportunity to engage with TWG members and offer in-person feedback on the preliminary recommendations. **After collecting both survey and conference feedback, TWG members evaluated the feedback and made edits to the preliminary recommendations. TWG members have agreed on the final recommendations that will be presented to the CSBA Board of Directors at their Dec. 2 meeting.**

## Safe breathing-zone delivered directly to districts



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 hundreds of

millions 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](#).

Sponsors

## Virtual events

### **Ethics Assembly Bill 2158**

Oct. 10 | [Register](#)

### **Student Board Member Training: Mastering Meeting Protocol and Stakeholder Engagement**

Oct. 14 | [Register](#)

### **Executive Assistant Omicron: Governance Integration**

Oct. 18 | [Register](#)

### **Masters in Governance Course 3: School Finance**

Oct. 23-24 | [Register](#)

### **Student Board Member Networking Call**

Nov. 4 | [Register](#)

### **Masters in Governance Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining**

Nov. 6-7 | [Register](#)

### **The Role of the School Board in Achieving Equity Through Strategic Budgeting**

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

## In-person events

### **The Brown Act**

Oct. 18 | West Sacramento | [Register](#)

### **Small School District Financial Workshop**

Oct. 19 | Camino | [Register](#)

Nov. 2 | San Jose | [Register](#)

### **Masters in Governance Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining**

Oct. 19 | Ventura | [Register](#)

### **What Board Presidents and Executive Assistants Need to Know About the Brown Act**

Oct. 22 | Redding | [Register](#)

