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CSBA and the integration of county board members



In response to letters of concern sent to CSBA's Board of Directors from several county offices of education, CSBA President Albert Gonzalez on April 5 sent an **important message** to county board members regarding the decision to integrate the former California County Boards of Education (CCBE) into **CSBA County Board Member Services**.

The message includes **detailed information** on the formation and work of the **Transitional Working Group**, the reasons why the CSBA Board of Directors acted to integrate county board trustees into the association

more fully, **how county board members are represented throughout CSBA** through committee appointments, and addresses **concerns about Senate Bill 1380**.

“I think it is important to understand the Board's decision is rooted in an overarching principle — **CSBA is and will continue to be fully committed to supporting county boards**,” Gonzalez wrote. “**We are determined to work in a collaborative manner to achieve the association's shared vision of success: serving as the essential voice of public education**. Realizing that vision requires that we work through this transitional period to ensure you have the tools, services, supports and networking opportunities needed to flourish in your governance role.” [Read the full message »](#)

CSBA urges county board trustees to take a critical survey that was sent to inboxes April 10 that will gather input on the unique duties of county trustees, how to advocate effectively for county boards, how to help county trustees thrive in their governance role and how to work collaboratively to build CSBA County Board Member Services.

A detailed update on the work of the Transitional Working Group [can be found on the CSBA blog »](#)

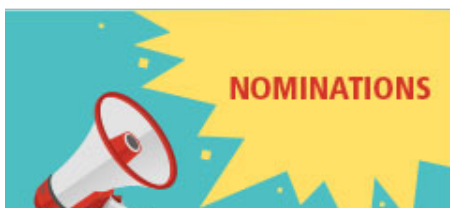
Submit your application for a CSBA Golden Award



CSBA believes in recognizing the extraordinary work of school districts and county offices of education (COEs) engage in across California through the Golden Awards program. Applications for the Golden Bell, Gavel and Quill awards are being accepted through Friday, June 28.

The **Golden Bell Awards** honor the hard work and dedication of governing boards and district/COE staff in creating innovative programs that improve student achievement and well-being in the state's preK-12 public schools. The **Golden Gavel: Board Member of the Year Award** recognizes effective governance and boardsmanship of an individual board member and the **Golden Gavel: Governance Team of the Year Award** celebrates a governance team that exemplifies best practices and boardsmanship. Finally, the **Golden Quill Award** recognizes the important role education journalists play in creating awareness in the community. [Learn more and submit your application »](#)

Nominations open for 2025 CSBA Officers



The CSBA Candidate Review Committee encourages CSBA members to participate **in this year's election process for the offices of CSBA Vice President and President-elect**. The criteria



used to evaluate potential officer candidates is as follows.

A CSBA leader:

- Communicates effectively on behalf of public education and, as the face of CSBA, advocates CSBA's vision, mission, policy platform and governance structure.
- Demonstrates advocacy for and knowledge of the diverse educational, economic, social and emotional needs of all students throughout the state through the lens of equity.
- Exemplifies strong leadership skills, ethics and integrity, including the ability to collaborate, motivate and inspire.
- Leads successfully in the face of ongoing change and challenges.
- Exhibits knowledge of education finance, budget and accountability issues on a statewide and federal basis.
- Understands, articulates and influences the Legislature's impact on public education.
- Engages and supports the power and decision-making of local governance teams, and CSBA's Delegate Assembly.
- Commits the time, attention, and energy necessary to serve as a CSBA officer.

Potential candidates must:

- Serve on a school district or county board that is a member of CSBA.
- Have completed two years as a member of the Delegate Assembly and four years as a board member on a member board.
- Submit a minimum of three (3) Nomination Forms for 2025 CSBA Officers. Nominations may be made by either a school or county board that is a member of CSBA, or by an individual member of a CSBA member board.

Nomination forms must be received by CSBA no later than Monday, June 3. Those candidates who have received three (3) separate nomination forms will have until Wednesday, July 10, to submit a formal Declaration of Candidacy packet. The first round of candidate interviews is currently scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 24, 2024. **Nomination forms and additional information about the nomination process are available at www.csba.org/OfficerElections.**

Register for CSBA webinar: What does the Supreme Court's decision in *O'Connor-Ratcliff v. Garnier* mean for trustees?



The **United States Supreme Court** has developed a new and more restrictive test for determining when public officials can be held liable for First Amendment violations related to management of their social media accounts



when it handed down its decision in *O'Connor-Ratcliff v. Garnier*. The ruling largely upholds plaintiff's arguments in an amicus brief filed by

CSBA's Education Legal Alliance (ELA) in support of Poway Unified School District Board President Michelle O'Connor-Ratcliff.

Join CSBA's webinar this Friday, April 12, at 12 p.m. as CSBA General Counsel Kristin Lindgren-Bruzzone and F3, a CSBA Gold Affiliate law firm that represented and advocated on behalf of CSBA in this case, **explain the new test and what it means for school trustees moving forward.** [Register now »](#)

Thorough data collection is key to improving attendance



Considered an early warning sign of academic risk for all grade levels, **chronic absence is plaguing schools in California and across the nation.** In the Golden State, ensuring students are in class is particularly important not only for optimal student outcomes but because local educational agencies receive funding based on average daily attendance. The new brief "**Seize the Data: Using Chronic Absence Data to Drive**

Student Engagement," a joint publication of CSBA and Attendance Works released in March, provides an overview of chronic absenteeism in California and information on the student groups it impacts most as well as questions that board members can consider when assessing the issue, ways to address it and related resources.

"Chronic absenteeism is not returning to pre-pandemic levels as quickly as we would hope. **This carries a whole range of negative consequences for students that extend beyond just academic achievement,**" said CSBA Principal Research Manager Jeremy Anderson, one of the brief's authors. "**We want board members to know they play a critical role in engaging with their LEA communities to encourage attendance** and make students feel like they want to return to the classroom." [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

BuyBoard spotlight: Custodial and facility maintenance



BuyBoard members can purchase **custodial and facility maintenance services from ABM, a leading provider of facility solutions across the United States.** ABM has been awarded BuyBoard contract 726-24 Custodial and Lawn Care Services, which includes all labor, supplies and equipment. Members can also find Facility Maintenance and Operation Services from ABM through the BuyBoard contract 645-21, which includes all labor, supplies, equipment, preventative maintenance and trade services.

These custodial and facility maintenance services available on the BuyBoard have already been competitively procured, saving districts valuable time and resources that would have otherwise been spent going out to bid themselves. As a BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative vendor that is regularly used by local educational agencies across California, ABM has passed the rigorous criteria of both CSBA and BuyBoard, ensuring it meets high expectations for quality and service. For more information about the procurement of custodial and facility maintenance services, please reach out to Doug Williams at douglas.williams@buyboard.com or call 425-260-4423.

Document management and printing services



The PPE and Scanning program is a partnership with Crisp Imaging, which **offers scanning and archiving of documents and design, print, fabrication and installation for physical protection.** Scanning physical documents creates a digital barrier that is essential in promoting a touch-less environment. **This affords quick access to documents whether physically working in the office or remotely.** The program

provides local educational agencies with affordable, customizable options to support the safety of district staff, students and visitors alike. [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

Student Board Member Trainings

Transition Planning, Legacy Building, and Next steps | April 15 | [Register](#)

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

April 19-20 | [Register](#)
May 31-June 1 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/ Collective Bargaining

May 15-16 | [Register](#)

2024 CCSA Virtual Spring Workshop

May 17 | [Register](#)

Sponsors



In-person events

Small School District Financial Workshop

April 20 | Fowler | [Register](#)

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

May 1 | Stanislaus | [Register](#)

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

May 8 | West Sacramento | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

