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CSBA ranked one of the most influential advocacy organizations



On June 12, **CalMatters** published a ranking of the **100 most influential lobbying organizations** in the State Legislature based upon which organizations have been most successful in passing their agendas during the current session. Thanks to the passionate and persistent advocacy by CSBA and members on issues of the utmost importance to public education across the state, **CSBA was ranked**

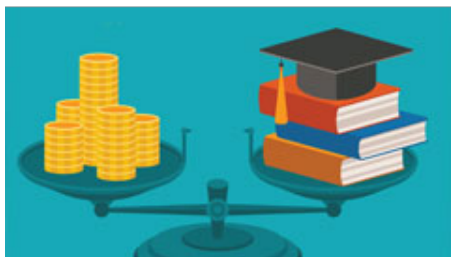
18th. Among the 32 bills CSBA took a position on, the association's desired outcome came to pass 96 percent of the time.

"Although member satisfaction is our primary concern, it's nice to receive external validation acknowledging CSBA as a powerful advocate for California's public schools and governing boards," said **CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy**. **"This is precisely why we invest in advocacy, member mobilization, public affairs campaigns and numerous other efforts to help empower members in their governance role and to secure the policies and resources necessary for student achievement."**

"It's like I always say, 'Don't agonize, organize,'" said **CSBA Chief of Governmental Relations Patrick O'Donnell**. "CSBA is proud to support district and county office of education trustees in their own advocacy efforts, as well as to advocate on their behalf."

Last year alone, **CSBA advocacy propelled five sponsored bills to the Governor's desk and secured his signature on a package of new laws** aimed at increasing support for districts facing cyberattacks, providing immediate relief during the teacher shortage, helping county boards appoint student members and extending the opportunity for boards to meet remotely during states of emergency. **CSBA advocacy also secured vetoes of two significant measures that would have eroded local control over hiring, disciplinary and other human resources decisions.** [Read the full CalMatters list](#) | [Learn more about CSBA's legislative advocacy and access advocacy tools](#)

Budget update: CSBA monitoring budget negotiations; prepared to protect Prop 98 in court



Even as Gov. Gavin Newsom considers [the budget passed by the State Legislature on June 13](#), **CSBA continues to fight to for the funding California students deserve and to see that schools receive every penny due to them under the law — especially where Proposition 98 is concerned.** The latest example of this advocacy comes in the form of **CSBA's official objection** to the Department of Finance's

proposed Proposition 98 certification that was submitted by CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy.

While CSBA remains **hopeful that upcoming budget trailer bills will alleviate all concerns about compliance with Prop 98 without litigation, challenging the certification leaves the door open for legal action — should the Association deem it necessary** — to ensure schools receive full Prop 98 funding as required by law. **CSBA's objection is rooted in the Department of Finance's plans to exclude \$2.6 billion in unallocated Prop 98 funds from the 2022–23 allocations to school districts and community colleges, reallocating it to the 2023–24 fiscal year.** This decision is not only contrary to the State Constitution, it undermines the intent of Prop 98 by artificially lowering future funding guarantees. **CSBA insists all allocated funds should be included in the certification calculations to maintain the integrity of Prop 98 and ensure consistent and adequate funding for education.** [Learn more about the objection](#) | [Read a recap of the latest on state budget](#)

CSBA trainings help members improve school governance



CSBA is excited to announce the **fiscal year 2024–25 training schedule**, featuring the association’s signature continuing education program, **Masters in Governance® (MIG)**, as well as **workshops for executive assistants and student board members**, and a **new ethics course** to fulfill Assembly Bill 2158’s legal requirement. In-person MIG events kick off in August and will be hosted at the Tulare and

Ventura county offices of education. [Find detailed schedules and registration »](#)

Time is running out to submit Golden Award applications



CSBA believes in recognizing the **extraordinary work school districts and county offices of education** engage in across California through the Golden Awards program.

Applications for the Golden Bell, Golden Gavel and Golden Quill awards are being accepted through Friday, June 28.

The **Golden Bell Awards** honor 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 an application »](#)

Resources to support vetting of AI technology

The Future of Privacy Forum released a **checklist** and accompanying **policy brief** to provide local educational agencies clarity and guidance as they vet generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools for compliance with student privacy laws. Despite the speed at which technology develops and reaches the hands of



students and teachers alike, it's crucial that LEA leaders understand how existing federal and state student privacy laws, such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), apply to the complexities of machine learning systems to protect student privacy. [Learn more about these documents on the CSBA blog »](#)

CSBA's AI Taskforce is actively working to equip district and county boards of education with the necessary knowledge and tools to navigate the complexities of integrating AI into the work of public education. **The taskforce is currently seeking summaries of promising practices related to AI. If you are interested in showcasing your district or county office of education on a dedicated webpage premiering in September, visit [this link](#) and complete the intake form.** Any questions can be directed to Dr. Naomi Eason, CSBA Chief of Research and Education Policy Development, at neason@csba.org.

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 their 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

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

July 23 | [Register](#)

Aug. 14 | [Register](#)

Oct. 10 | [Register](#)

Executive Assistant Omicron: Understanding Culture 1A/1B

July 18-19 | [Register](#)

EA Omicron: Governance 2A/2B

Sponsors



Aug. 15-16 | [Register](#)

In-person events

**Masters in Governance Course 1:
Foundations of Effective Governance/
Setting Direction**

Aug. 17 | Visalia | [Register](#)

MIG Course 1

Aug. 24 | Ventura | [Register](#)

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

Sept. 7 | Ventura | [Register](#)

**CSBA County Board Member Services
Conference**

Sept. 13-15 | Monterey | [Register](#)



[View complete calendar](#)