

# California schoolnews

Weekly Update

July 3, 2024

## *In this Issue*

- [Legislative update: School facilities bond clears first hurdle with legislative agreement](#)
- [AEC keynote speakers cover mental health, artificial intelligence](#)
- [Countywide Region 14 Director appointed](#)
- [State update: Interim guidance on English proficiency testing for TK students](#)
- [Federal update: Call for award applications for improving school meals](#)
- [LexisNexis can help LEAs navigate legal issues board members face](#)

### Legislative update: School facilities bond clears first hurdle with legislative agreement



After months of negotiations, it was announced on June 30 that the **State Assembly and Senate reached an agreement on a statewide school facilities bond**. Assembly Bill 247, titled the Kindergarten through Grade 12 Schools and Local Community College Public Education Facilities Modernization, Repair, and Safety Bond Act of 2024, **proposes to place a \$10 billion statewide school facilities bond on the upcoming November 2024 general election ballot**. **If approved by Gov. Gavin Newsom and adopted by voters, K-12 public schools will receive \$8.5 billion and community colleges will receive \$1.5 billion**. Among its provisions, **the bond includes**

important wins for CSBA advocacy, especially accommodations made for small and rural school districts that often do not have the resources to apply for and access competitive facilities funding. [Learn more on the CSBA blog »](#)

## AEC keynote speakers cover mental health, artificial intelligence



**Uplifting the mental and behavioral health of students and staff and the shifting landscape of artificial intelligence (AI)** are top of mind for district and county office of education trustees. **In response, the 2024 CSBA Annual Education Conference and Trade Show will feature keynote deliveries from experts in each area.**

The **First General Session on Dec. 5** will feature **Dr. Laurie Santos**, the Chandrika and Ranjan Tandon Professor of Psychology and the former Head of Silliman College at Yale University. An expert on human cognition, its origins and the evolutionary biases that influence our life choices, Santos uses scientific research to help people rethink happiness and how behavioral change through positive psychology can lead to a happier and more fulfilling life. She is also the host of the podcast “The Happiness Lab.” At the **Third General Session on Dec. 7**, **AEC attendees will hear from redbutton.ai Founder Sam Stanton and Chief of Staff and Partnerships Robbie Sawyer** about the tools needed to leverage AI effectively, driving innovation and improving educational outcomes for California students. [Learn more »](#)

## Countywide Region 14 Director appointed



At the May meeting of the CSBA Delegate Assembly, the new countywide Region 14 was approved. **Nominations for the Region 14 Director were accepted through June 19.** **CSBA President Albert Gonzalez, pursuant to the process in the Bylaws for filling director vacancies, appointed John McPherson as the Region 14 Director and the CSBA Board of Directors convened a special meeting on June**

**20, 2024, and ratified the appointment. The Region 14 Director will serve on the Board of Directors until the position is up for election in December 2024.** Thereafter, the Region 14 Director will be up for re-election in even-numbered years. The Director-at-Large, County, position will continue to serve on the Board of Directors and be elected in odd-numbered years. **Raquel Maden, CSBA senior director of External Affairs, will serve as the Region 14 Public Affairs and Community Engagement Representative (PACER).**

## State update: Interim guidance on English proficiency testing for TK students



Gov. Gavin Newsom signed **Assembly Bill 2268**, a CSBA-supported bill that exempts transitional kindergarten students from being assessed for English language development using the English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC). In response, the California Department of Education has released interim guidance for local educational agencies that serve TK students.

[Learn more »](#)

## Federal update: Call for award applications for improving school meals



On June 24, Action for Healthy Kids and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service **announced** that 50 school districts received 64 Healthy Meals Incentives (HMI) Recognition Awards for making nutritional improvements to their school meals. Quarterly awardees include four California districts — Laguna Beach Unified School District, Newman-Crows Landing USD, Palo Alto USD

and Centralia Elementary School District. The HMI initiative celebrates districts that make operational and/or planning and preparation changes to improve the nutritional quality of their school meals, as well as those that engage students and families in nutrition education. [Apply for Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards »](#)

### In other federal news:

- The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) released **three new resources** in June **with information for students, parents, families and schools addressing the civil rights of students with [sickle cell disease](#), [epilepsy](#) and [cancer](#)**. These new resources explain when these medical conditions trigger protections under Section 504, which prohibits discrimination against students with disabilities by institutions that accept federal financial assistance; what kind of modifications an educational institution may need to take to avoid unlawful discrimination; and what an institution may need to do to remedy past discrimination.

LexisNexis can help LEAs navigate legal issues board members face



CSBA's District and County Office of Education Legal Services team has partnered with LexisNexis® to publish the updated *California Education Laws and Regulations* — a go-to legal reference for CSBA members, school administrators, education attorneys and K-12 educational professionals throughout California. From a legal perspective,

the world of education is complicated and governing boards deal with everything from curriculum, special education, facilities and finance to torts, discrimination and the Family Medical Leave Act. **LexisNexis can help LEAs navigate the entire range of legal issues that board members face.** [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](#)

### Executive Assistant Omicron: Governance 2A/2B

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

### Student Board Member Training: Navigating Roles, Governance, and Legal Compliance

Aug. 19 | [Register](#)

### MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

Aug. 26-Oct. 7 | [Register](#)

## In-person events

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

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

## Sponsors

Atkinson, Andelson  
Loya, Ruud & Romo  
A Professional Law Corporation

Lozano  
Smith  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

**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](#)