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## Legislative update: Ongoing budget deficit impacts CSBA-sponsored bills



**On Aug. 15, the Legislature's respective Appropriations committees dispensed with their suspense files.** The suspense file compiles bills with a price tag of over \$150,000 to be considered in bulk in order to consider their fiscal impact upon the state as a whole. **Suspense hearings provide a singular opportunity to address bills with significant financial price tags and even some politically difficult measures.** Ultimately, less fortunate legislation may be "held in suspense," meaning the

bill dies in the appropriations committee. **CSBA advocacy played a critical role in the defeat of significant labor bills that would have usurped the authority of local educational agencies (LEAs) and influenced the outcomes of other measures that would have further exacerbated the adoption of ethnic studies courses and delayed the ability of school boards to undergo governance trainings.**

**Of CSBA's remaining three sponsored bills, two were among those that passed out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee.** The two CSBA-sponsored bills moving on are:

- **Senate Bill 1244** (Newman, D-Fullerton): Would create a process for school districts to initiate dual enrollment programs with a neighboring community college district when an agreement cannot be reached with a home community college district, thereby fostering greater flexibility in meeting the educational needs of students statewide.
- **SB 1315** (Archuleta, D-Pico Rivera): Would require the CDE to biannually report the total number of state and federal reports required to be submitted by LEAs, the scope of reports and the costs associated with submitting each report to the Governor and Legislature.

**Left behind was Assembly Bill 2831 (Hoover, R-Folsom), which would have helped small school districts meet the needs of their students, staff and school boards by establishing an Office of Small School District Facilities and Construction within the California Department of Education (CDE).** The office would have been required to provide direct notification and assistance to small school districts in being made aware of and how to apply for state school bond funds, should the statewide school facilities bond, Proposition 2 on this November's General Election ballot be passed by voters. [Check the status of other notable bills on the CSBA blog »](#)

## SB 1315 sample resolution available



Now is the time to **show your local educational agency's support of Senate Bill 1315 — legislation that seeks to improve and streamline the reporting process** for California's school districts and county offices of education. **Co-sponsored by CSBA, SB 1315 (Archuleta, D-Pico Rivera) would require the California Department of Education to document and report to the Legislature the number of state and federal mandated reports districts and COEs must submit. The goal is to identify where efforts could potentially be condensed and whether some reports could be eliminated.**

CSBA released a brief, "[Drowning in Documentation](#)," which highlighted the ever-growing list of state and federal reports, data submissions and planning documents LEAs are required to complete. While education leaders recognize the importance of data, planning and accountability, they also noted that **efforts related to completing reporting requirements often distract from their daily work to improve school climate and educational outcomes. SB 1315 would help** to free up more time and

resources for teaching and learning, providing programs and services to students and enhancing operational efficiency. [Download the sample resolution »](#)

## State update: CSBA leads panel on education workforce housing at CDE housing summit



On Aug. 14, **CSBA led a breakout session at the California Department of Education's (CDE) Housing Summit: Policy Solutions to Address the Affordability Crisis**, where leaders in the building trades and commerce sectors joined with education leaders **to discuss opportunities and barriers to creating education workforce housing (EWH)**. Housing affordability is one of the main barriers to attracting and retaining great

teachers and staff across California. To address this, many local educational agencies in the state are looking into building EWH — homes for their employees on underdeveloped land they already own.

**CSBA Senior Director Andrew Keller, alongside partners from UCLA's cityLAB and UC Berkeley's Center for Cities + Schools, discussed the association's longstanding involvement in EWH, as well as CSBA's suite of materials on EWH including projects and case studies, interactive maps showing where surplus school property is located and where projects are underway, training materials, templates, research and business partners at [csba.org/workforcehousing](https://csba.org/workforcehousing). [Read a full recap of the event »](#)**

### In other state news:

- California is partnering with tech company NVIDIA on an **initiative to bring new artificial intelligence (AI) resources into community colleges** — including curriculum and certifications, hardware and software, AI labs and workshops — **to open new pathways for students, educators and workers** to learn new skills and advance their careers.
- The **California Department of Education has created an online data collection evaluation tool to meet the requirements of Education Code Section 18122, which directs local governing boards to report to the CDE on the condition of school libraries, and to develop an accurate picture of the condition of school libraries across the state.** The survey is open through Aug. 31. [Learn more »](#)

## ELA and F3 receive California Lawyers Association 2024 Outstanding Achievement in Public Law Award



**CSBA's Education Legal Alliance (ELA) and law firm F3 have received the California Lawyers Association's (CLA) Outstanding**



**Achievement in Public Law Award for the amicus brief filed in *O'Connor-Ratcliff v. Garnier*, a case that went before the United States Supreme Court.** On March 15, 2024, the Court issued its decision in *O'Connor-Ratcliff* (and

a similar case *Lindke v. Freed*) that vacated a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision that held board members Michelle O'Connor-Ratcliff and TJ Zane violated the First Amendment rights of two members of the public, the Garniers, when they blocked them from their private social media accounts. The Court's rare unanimous decision in the *Freed* case, which applied to *O'Connor-Ratcliff*, created a new test that significantly narrowed the circumstances under which a public official acts on behalf of the government when using a private social media account.

The **ELA worked with F3 who prepared the amicus brief that sought to provide the specific perspective of school board members to the Court. This was a significant victory for the ELA and school district and county boards in California**, and CLA's award recognizes the value the ELA provides to members.

[Learn more about the case »](#)

## August edition of *California School News* online



The **August newsletter explores the opportunity Proposition 2 — the statewide school facilities bond — presents for local educational agencies and how CSBA advocacy was instrumental in securing support for small districts.** This issue also includes **resources related to school safety and new instructional continuity requirements; an analysis of the State**

**Supreme Court's recent decision protecting LEAs' ability to collect taxes and fees; a recap of the most recent State Board of Education meeting; and spotlights on how LEAs serving high-need students utilized federal Emergency Connectivity Funds, how one district got creative to ensure recess was for all students, the need to secure permanent federal funds for rural schools and more.** [Read the full issue »](#)

## CSBA's Cash Reserve Program can help your LEA manage state deferrals



The **California School Cash Reserve Program helps guard against temporary cash flow shortages in a safe, cost-effective way by creating an additional cash reserve to the general fund.** Now in partnership with California Association of School Business Officials, CSBA's Cash Reserve Program has

provided local educational agencies a **reliable and cost-effective short-term cash flow funding option** for over 30 years. Participants issue Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANS) through a streamlined, pooled process. Learn more about how the Cash Reserve Program can offer you low borrowing costs and flexible repayment terms, with easy and efficient administration. [Learn more »](#)

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

## Virtual events

**Executive Assistant Omicron: Job Mechanics 3A/23B**  
Sept. 12-13 | [Register](#)

**Masters in Governance Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction**  
Sept. 18-19 | [Register](#)

**CCSA Virtual Fall Workshop**  
Sept. 20 | [Register](#)

**Masters in Governance Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review**  
Oct. 2 | [Register](#)

**Ethics Assembly Bill 2158**  
Oct. 10 | [Register](#)

**Student Board Member Training: Mastering Meeting Protocol and Stakeholder Engagement**  
Oct. 14 | [Register](#)

## In-person events

**Masters in Governance Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review**  
Sept. 7 | Ventura | [Register](#)

**Student Board Member Training: Navigating Roles, Governance, and Legal Compliance**  
Sept. 9 | [Register](#)

## Sponsors



*Keenan*<sup>®</sup>



**California School Board Ethics Pre-Conference Training**

Sept. 12 | Monterey | [Register](#)

**Key Elements of the Brown Act Pre-Conference Training**

Sept. 12 | Monterey | [Register](#)

**CSBA County Board Member Services Conference**

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

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

Sept. 21 | Tulare | [Register](#)

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

Sept. 28 | Ventura | [Register](#)

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

Oct. 5 | Tulare | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)