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*In this Issue*

- [County Board Member Services Conference brings trustees together](#)
- [CSBA launches AI resource library](#)
- [Legislative update: Governor has until Sept. 30 to act on hundreds of bills](#)
- [Legal update: \*Bonta v. Chino Valley USD\* parental notification case](#)
- [National Hispanic Heritage Month spotlight: Diversifying STEM fields one student at a time](#)
- [What's Your Why? With San Lorenzo USD's Kyla Sinegal](#)
- [High School Voter Education Weeks underway](#)
- [Raise funds needed for real property acquisitions and capital improvements](#)

### County Board Member Services Conference brings trustees together



Attendees of the CSBA County Board Member Services Conference — which took place in Monterey from Sept. 13-15 — strengthened their advocacy skills, learned about the state's current political and fiscal landscape, took part in sessions and skills courses on a variety of timely topics, mingled with peers from near and far and provided feedback on the bright future county offices of education will have within CSBA.

The long weekend was one for the books and **CSBA looks forward to continuing to provide COE members the professional development opportunities and governance resources they need to effectively serve students.**

A full recap of the event will appear in the October edition of *California School News*, but an overview of the conference is available to [read now on the CSBA blog »](#)

## CSBA launches AI resource library



**CSBA's AI Taskforce: Education in the Age of Artificial Intelligence embodies the association's commitment to provide members with resources to make informed decisions** that support student success and harness the power of innovation. Throughout 2024, **taskforce members considered a multitude of issues related to AI and schools and oversaw the creation and compilation of a number of**

**resources** to inform local educational agency leaders.

The just-launched [resource library](#) includes two new CSBA-original pieces including the "[Students' perspectives on AI in education](#)" fact sheet and the document, "[AI scenarios for board members](#)," which provides 21 real-world scenarios that may be encountered by LEA leaders, along with the relevant policy areas for each.

Other offerings include a sampling of basic and advanced informational materials, relevant sample policies, local resolutions and promising practices from LEAs, news clips and updates on legislation and upcoming events. [View resources »](#)

## Legislative update: Governor has until Sept. 30 to act on hundreds of bills



Gov. Gavin Newsom has less than two weeks left until the Sept. 30 deadline to sign or veto legislation. Although rare, bills not acted upon by the Governor, meaning they are neither signed nor vetoed, automatically become law. **Awaiting the Governor's actions are three CSBA priority bills, including one that CSBA adamantly opposes.**

**CSBA advocacy is working hard to persuade the Governor to veto [Assembly Bill 2088](#)** (McCarty, D-Sacramento), a one-size-fits-all approach to education labor policies that would override local control. AB 2088 would force local educational agencies to hire internal classified staff based upon seniority before considering an outside candidate, no matter the qualifications or past job performance of the existing employee. **CSBA school district and county board members are urged to send their veto message to the Governor by clicking this [link](#).**

The two other priority measures are CSBA co-sponsored legislation. **Senate Bill 1315** (Archuleta, D-Pico Rivera) would require the California Department of Education to biannually report the total number of reports, scope of reports and costs associated with submitting each report to the Governor and Legislature to identify where information could be consolidated, and which reports could be eliminated — helping schools to free up more time and resources to provide for the needs of California’s students.

**SB 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.

## Legal update: *Bonta v. Chino Valley USD* parental notification case



In August 2023, California Attorney General Rob Bonta (the State) filed a complaint challenging a school board policy adopted by the governing board of Chino Valley Unified School District in July 2023. Specifically, the State challenged parent notifications required when a student: 1) Requests to be identified or treated as a gender other than the student’s biological sex, including use of a different name or pronouns; 2) Accesses

sex-segregated school programs and activities or uses school facilities that do not align with the student’s biological sex or gender; or 3) Requests to change any information in the student’s official or unofficial records.

**The court initially issued a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction against the district, as a result of which the district approved a new policy and regulation, and subsequently argued in court that the State’s case was moot. However, on Sept. 9, 2024, the court issued a permanent injunction with the following primary findings:**

- The litigation is not moot due to the public interest exception.
- Items 1 and 2 of the policy are unconstitutional because they are discriminatory and do not pass the heightened standard required for policies that impact suspect classifications, such as gender. Further, the ruling does not infringe on the rights of parents and does not allow for medical treatment of students without notice to their parents.
- Item 3 is constitutional and does not violate state anti-discrimination law. However, it does violate adult students’ rights to privacy (there is no violation for minor students).

CSBA will provide a more thorough analysis of this case in a later publication.

## National Hispanic Heritage Month spotlight: Diversifying STEM fields one student at a time



A diverse workforce in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) not only provides more potential for innovation by leveraging different backgrounds, experiences and points of view, but students who enter these fields are likely to experience higher median earnings and lower rates of unemployment compared with non-STEM workers.

However, recent research shows that Hispanic workers only represent about 15 percent of the total STEM workforce, and Hispanic students remain underrepresented in STEM degree programs, relative to all college graduates. **Hispanic Heritage Month is a chance to spotlight exceptional school initiatives that support this student population.** As local educational agencies continue to adopt and expand programming aimed at preparing all students for in-demand careers, **Pomona Unified School District — which serves a student body where 93.3 percent of young people identify as Hispanic or Latino and about 96 percent qualify for free- or reduced-price lunches — has placed an emphasis on STEM opportunities, and students are reaping the benefits.** [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

## What's Your Why? With San Lorenzo USD's Kyla Sinegal



**"Never ever stray away from making decisions ... centered around our students,"** said San Lorenzo Unified School District trustee Kyla Sinegal. Learn what motivates her work as a school board member in CSBA's latest What's Your Why? video.

"What's Your Why?" is a series of video vignettes featuring school district and county office of education board members describing why they became trustees and why they continue to serve California public schools. [View Sinegal's and other videos from the "What's Your Why" series »](#)

## High School Voter Education Weeks underway



Presidential election years may get the most press, but California local educational agencies lay the groundwork every day for the next generation of leaders to become civically engaged.

**High School Voter Education Weeks happen annually during the last two weeks of April and September** and aim to bring civic awareness to

future voters and inspire 16- and 17-year-olds who are eligible to pre-register to vote to do so and so they are automatically registered once they turn 18. To support schools' efforts, **the Secretary of State's website has resources available on best practices, pre-registration, opportunities for students to serve as poll workers, redistricting and more.** [View resources »](#)

## Raise funds needed for real property acquisitions and capital improvements

### **CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION** Program

CSBA's Certificates of Participation program assists California school districts, county offices of education and community college districts in their efforts to raise funds for capital equipment or real property acquisitions and improvements and allows capital project finance or loan refinancing without voter approval. Finance construction, renovations, equipment, energy projects and more with fast and efficient

financing. [Learn more »](#)

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

## Virtual events

### Student Board Member Networking Call

Sept. 23 | [Register](#)

Nov. 4 | [Register](#)

### Masters in Governance Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review

Oct. 2-3 | [Register](#)

### 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

## Sponsors



## Finance

Oct. 23-24 | [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](#)

[View complete calendar](#)