

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

August 27, 2025

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Legislative update: Housing budget trailer bill negatively impacts school property



Among the many provisions in **Assembly Bill 130, the budget trailer bill**, two exemptions from the **Surplus Lands Act (SLA)** were eliminated for local educational agencies. Specifically, it deleted two cross references to sections 17388 and 17536 of the Education Code that provided LEAs exemptions from the SLA to facilitate the development of affordable workforce housing projects. **Now, under the SLA, before**

selling or leasing land deemed "surplus," LEAs must first offer it to entities that will develop affordable housing for very low-, low- and moderate-income households. However, **LEAs can exempt themselves from this requirement when they meet**

certain conditions that enable them to better utilize, transfer or sell property to help meet the needs of their students.

AB 130 severely impacted the types of property transactions LEAs may use to help develop or exchange property for the benefit of their students. This includes property transfers, exchanges or financial arrangements LEAs can use to help fund and develop school facilities, including education workforce housing, nutritional services facilities, and onsite student mental health and health care services, among others.

CSBA took an Oppose Unless Amended position on AB 130 and continues to advocate for the restoration of the two SLA exemptions. **Members who have questions on the subject or would like to provide information about how AB 130 impacts their LEA can email advocacy@csba.org.**

Legal update: Court of appeal rejects claim that AB 218 is unconstitutional



On Aug. 18, the Fifth District Court of Appeal issued its decision in *John Doe R.L. v. Merced City School District*, reversing the Superior Court's order of dismissal and remanding the case for further proceedings. The **case was filed after Assembly Bill 218 retroactively waived the Government Claims Act's claim presentation requirement for childhood sexual assault (CSA) and allowed claims from**

decades ago to be brought against local educational agencies between Jan. 1, 2020, and Dec. 31, 2022. In his complaint, the plaintiff alleged that he was subjected to CSA when he attended elementary school in the district, between 1965 and 1969. The district filed a demurrer at the Superior Court level urging dismissal of the plaintiff's complaint because plaintiff failed to comply with the Government Claims Act.

The district argued that since the Government Claims Act requirement was a substantive element of a cause of action against a public entity, AB 218's retroactive waiver of that requirement would create a new cause of action or basis of liability for financial recovery that was not in existence when the alleged conduct occurred. This, the district argued, would be prohibited under the gift clause of the California Constitution. The Superior Court agreed with the district's argument and dismissed the case.

Upon the plaintiff's appeal, the court of appeal reasoned that the Government Claims Act was simply the mechanism by which the state could waive procedural immunity, rather than a substantive element of a cause of action against a public entity. The court also held that AB 218's retroactive waiver of the Government Claims Act requirement was not a gift, prohibited under the gift clause, but was constitutionally permissible, as it serves a public purpose. **This is the second court of appeal to reject the argument that AB 218 is unconstitutional, making it unlikely that any relief for the economic impacts of AB 218 will come through the courts.**

State update: Education leaders vow to decrease chronic absenteeism



State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond on Aug. 19 announced a new goal — **California will cut chronic absenteeism by half over the next five years** — as well as guidance for local educational agencies to support the state's efforts. In partnership with Attendance Works and the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence, the **California Department of Education (CDE)** released the

California Attendance Guide, which offers recommendations tailored to local schools, districts and county offices of education. Chronic absence rates more than doubled during the pandemic, from 12.1 percent in 2018–19 to 30 percent at the peak in 2021–22. While it has decreased to 20.4 percent in 2023–24, the CDE's goal is to reduce chronic absenteeism by half by 2030. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Other state updates:

The State Board of Education (SBE) announced the opening of applications for the following positions:

- **2026–27 student board member:** Any student who is a California resident and enrolled in a public high school, will be a senior in good standing in the 2026–27 school year, and will be available to attend a statewide student leader conference in Sacramento from Nov. 3-5 is eligible to apply. **Applications must be received by 5 p.m. on Sept. 19.** [Learn more and apply »](#)
- **Three appointments of currently practicing teachers and/or education leaders to serve on the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC).** The application, along with a current résumé and two letters of recommendation, **must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Sept. 29.** The SBE is also **seeking applicants for a student member to serve a one-year term on the IQC.** [Learn more and apply »](#)
- **Three positions on the California Practitioners Advisory Group (CPAG) to provide input to the SBE on ongoing efforts to establish a single, coherent local, state and federal accountability system.** The advisory committee serves as the state's committee of practitioners under federal Title I requirements. Applicants can include principals and other school leaders, superintendents or other administrators, or specialized instructional personnel and paraprofessionals. **Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Sept. 29.** [Learn more and apply »](#)

August newsletter available online



The latest edition of *California School News* details the status of a CSBA-sponsored bill package that has continued to see success during the current legislative session; takes a



deep dive into the **latest actions taken by the State Board of Education on accountability**; and **kicks off the countdown to the 2025 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show with a call for student-led proposals and an**

essay by General Session speaker Matt Lehrman, a civic facilitator who helps education leaders move from conflict to conversation, specializing in strategic planning, mediation and public dialogue for governing boards. This issue also includes policy updates and resources on supporting students after graduation, identifying students with early reading difficulties and more. [Read the August newsletter »](#)

Maximize your budget, lower administrative costs and streamline the procurement process



Since 1998, BuyBoard has been providing local educational agencies with increased purchasing power, lower administrative costs and compliance with legal requirements. **BuyBoard vendors have been awarded contracts for products and services through a competitive procurement process, thereby giving members the opportunity for bulk discounts, combined with the ease of online shopping.** Find everything

from classroom teaching aid supplies and equipment and furniture to custodial supplies and equipment or field lighting products. [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

Sept. 3 | [Register](#)

Masters in Governance (MIG) Course

1: Foundations of Effective Governance/ Setting Direction

Sept. 10-11 | [Register](#)

Executive Assistant Sigma: Governance 2A/2B

Sept. 18-19 | [Register](#)

2025 CCSA Fall Virtual Workshop

Sept. 19 | [Register](#)

Sponsors



In-person events

County Board Conference

Sept. 5-7 | Monterey | [Register](#)

MIG Course 3: School Finance Part 1 and Part 2

Sept. 20 | Torrance | [Register](#)

MIG Course 3: School Finance Part 1 and Part 2

Sept. 20 | Stockton | [Register](#)

Education Workforce Housing Bootcamp

Oct. 15 | San Jose | [Register](#)

Education Workforce Housing Bootcamp

Oct. 24 | Covina | [Register](#)

Legal Services UCP University

Oct. 29 | Redondo Beach | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

