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Breaking down the Governor's 2025–26 January Budget Proposal



On Jan. 10, California Department of Finance Director Joe Stephenshaw formally presented the Governor's January Budget Proposal, expanding on Gov. Gavin Newsom's sneak peek presentation of his proposed budget on Jan. 6. **The theme for the 2025–26 budget proposal is one of caution and vigilance.** Citing the state's revenue volatility, which is in part due to its reliance on the top 1 percent of income earners and capital gains

revenues, the proposed budget is balanced and comes with a modest surplus of \$363 million.

As proposed, **the overall state budget is \$322.2 billion, which includes all federal, state and special funding.** The General Fund share of the budget is estimated at \$228.9 billion with an available reserve amount of \$16.9 billion, which includes \$1.5 billion for the Proposition 98 Rainy Day Reserve, and a projected cost-of-living adjustment of 2.43 percent. **Regarding the current year, the Governor proposes to fund the guarantee \$1.6 billion below the projected amount** of \$119.2 billion, lowering the possible total guarantee to \$117.6 billion due to “inherent risk in revenue projections” that “is intended to mitigate the risk of potentially appropriating more resources to the [Prop 98] Guarantee than are ultimately available in the final calculation for 2024–25.” [Read a full overview on the CSBA blog »](#)

Read CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy's statement on the proposal [here](#).

On Jan. 13, CSBA held its annual webinar reviewing the January Budget Proposal, answering member questions and charting an advocacy path for the coming months. [View a recording of the event, presentation slides and other related resources »](#)

Save the date! The CSBA County Board Governance Workshop returns in April



The 2025 CSBA County Board Governance Workshop will take place April 11–12 in Sacramento. Designed to empower county board members, **the workshop will offer insights and strategies to improve governance effectiveness and drive impactful change at a local level.** This event will highlight the critical role county board members play, in partnership with county superintendents, in providing opportunities

for students and improving their academic achievement and physical and mental well-being.

Interactive sessions, led by experienced county board members and CSBA experts, will provide actionable tools and strategies to enhance leadership and elevate performance across county offices of education. Attendees can also connect with peers, share challenges and triumphs and gain inspiration. Registration and housing details will be available soon. [Learn more »](#)

State update: Gov. Newsom signs executive order to support LA school communities affected by fires

On Jan. 14, Gov. Gavin **Newsom signed an executive order to expedite assistance for students and schools in the Los Angeles area that have been impacted by the recent and ongoing devastation caused by wildfires.** The order will allow for the suspension of multiple state



rules to let displaced students attend schools outside of their districts, an easier path for damaged schools to use temporary facilities and ways to help schools avoid penalties for not meeting minimum school year requirements. It also directs state agencies to work with damaged schools to develop plans to serve displaced students and rebuild.

Also on Jan. 14, an **agreement between State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, Airbnb and Pasadena Unified School District was announced**, providing free emergency housing to more than 1,300 staff members from the district whose homes were evacuated in the Eaton Fire's burn zone.

Additionally, the California Department of Education (CDE) has **resources to support school communities impacted by wildfires, smoke and extreme weather**, including information on relief, donation links and emergency school closure (J-13A) waivers.

In other state news:

- On Jan. 6, Attorney General Rob Bonta **issued guidance advising immigrant students and their families on their educational rights and protections, including confidentiality regarding personal information and how to avoid immigration scams, and resources for school officials** to ensure compliance with state law. For local educational agencies, a **document** featuring guidance and model policies to assist K-12 schools in responding to immigration issues is among the resources. [View the resources »](#)
- In late December, the CDE's ESSER [Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief] Reporting Team sent a letter to LEAs clarifying **that the U.S. Department of Education property interest reporting and recording requirements associated with COVID relief dollars used for facility improvement projects with a reminder that forms for both are due by Jan. 28, 2025**. An updated [FAQ](#) on the subject was also published.

Federal update: Education Department letter on restraint and seclusion practices



On Jan. 8, U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona released a **note on ongoing concerns that students “continue to be subjected to restraint and seclusion practices even though these practices are harmful to children and despite the lack of evidence that these practices are effective strategies to respond to a child’s behavior or that these practices reduce the occurrence of behaviors that interfere with**

learning.” The letter **encourages the exploration of positive, proactive practices instead and offers related guidance**. [Read the letter »](#)

Also that day, an additional [letter](#) by Cardona was released providing resources to ensure equal access to education for immigrant students.

What's Your Why? with Cipriano Vargas, Vista USD



As a current board member and former student in Vista Unified School District, Cipriano Vargas hopes to lead his district into the future. "It's an opportunity to give back to an institution that has given so much to me," Vargas said of his "why."

"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. [Watch Vargas' and other What's Your Why? videos »](#)

CSBA continues to encourage local educational agencies and other state and local leaders to celebrate School Board Recognition Month this January. [Find resources, including a social media toolkit and sample press release, here »](#)

BuyBoard Spotlight: Science instructional materials and supplies



This month, CSBA is highlighting science instructional materials and supplies available from BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative vendors used by local educational agencies across California. The rigorous criteria of both CSBA and BuyBoard ensure that these vendors meet high expectations for quality and service.

Science instructional materials, equipment, supplies and products have been competitively procured by BuyBoard, saving districts valuable time and resources. BuyBoard members can purchase a wide variety of science classroom-specific instructional materials, equipment and supplies from awarded vendors, such as Carolina Biological Supply Co and Flinn Scientific, Inc. For more information about the procurement of science instructional materials and supplies as well as over 90 other contract categories, reach out to Doug Williams at douglas.williams@buyboard.com or 425-260-4423. [Learn more »](#)

Let Total School Solutions help with your Facilities Master Plan

Up-to-date facilities can support the educational and programmatic goals of local educational agencies. **A Facilities Master Plan provides a**



district with vital information regarding current and future needs for student housing, quality of existing facilities, and facilities renovation and expansion requirements to meet its educational and programmatic goals. The master plan also assists in identifying funding needs for capital improvement and developing financing options. **Total School Solutions Facilities Master Plans include** accurate

projections regarding enrollment, careful determination of school site capacity, educational specifications to ensure programmatic needs are served, a detailed need assessment, and conclusions and recommendations about the availability and timing of financing and funding. [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

Orientation for New Trustees for COEs
Jan. 22 | [Register](#)

The Brown Act
Jan. 24 | [Register](#)
Feb. 21 | [Register](#)

**Masters in Governance Course 1:
Foundations of Effective
Governance/Setting Direction**
Feb. 3-March 10 | [Register](#)

**Masters in Governance Course 4: Human
Resources/Collective Bargaining**
Feb. 6-7 | [Register](#)

**Student Board Member February
Networking Call**
Feb. 10 | [Register](#)

**Masters in Governance Course 2: Student
Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial
Review**
Feb. 12-13 | [Register](#)

Orientation for New Trustees
Feb. 13 | [Register](#)

**Executive Assistant Pi: Governance
2A/2B**

Sponsors



PIPER | SANDLER



Feb. 13-14 | [Register](#)

Board Presidents

Feb. 19 | [Register](#)

**Advanced Governance Skills for
Transformational Leadership**

Feb. 22 | [Register](#)

In-person events

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

Jan. 22 | Apple Valley | [Register](#)

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

Feb. 15 | Riverside | [Register](#)

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

Feb. 22 | Hayward | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)