

# California schoolnews

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## Weekly Update

December 10, 2025

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## Federal update: Congress passes Secure Rural Schools Act reauthorization



On Dec. 9, in a testament to the value of persistent advocacy, the **U.S. House of Representatives passed the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2025**, on a vote of 399-5. The Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Act, which passed the U.S. Senate this past June, **provides much needed public education and infrastructure funding for school districts and county offices of education that sit on federal**

**land.** Passage of the Secure Rural Schools Act also vindicated **years of federal**

lobbying efforts from CSBA, which has vigorously supported SRS since its inception and aggressively pursued renewal every time it neared expiration.

**In California, school districts and county offices of education in 29 counties receive SRS funding.** Its reauthorization helps to ensure that all students receive an appropriate and equitable education equal to all other students throughout the state. The last allocation local educational agencies received under the SRS Act went out in April 2025, leaving many small and rural LEAs struggling to fund public education programs and keep their doors open. **If signed by President Donald Trump, the reauthorization would extend the program through 2027, provide about \$250 million a year for school and infrastructure initiatives in more than 700 rural counties, and provide retroactive payments to LEAs. CSBA thanks the members who responded to Action Alerts on SRS and who advocated for its passage on Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trips.**

## California Attorney General releases updated guidance for immigration enforcement at schools



Following the passage of new laws, on Dec. 1, **California Attorney General Rob Bonta issued updated guidance for students, families, educators and school officials to help ensure a safe and secure school environment for all.** Approximately 133,000 undocumented children attend California's public K-12 schools, and many more have parents or relatives who do not have legal

status. **The updated model policies and recommendations are intended to help staff develop practical plans to protect the rights of immigrant students and their families to safely access schools, in accordance with state and federal laws.** Additional related resources can be found [here](#). [Access the guidance »](#)

## AEC 2025 unites California education leaders for innovative learning



**CSBA would like to thank the thousands of education leaders who attended the 2025 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show in Sacramento, Dec. 3-5, for their commitment to professional development and passion for supporting students' academic and social-emotional well-being.** Along with more than 100 informative and dynamic sessions on education topics across

the board, the conference also featured a **Gubernatorial Candidate Forum and a State Superintendent of Public Instruction Candidate Forum.**

Participants were also introduced to **CSBA's campaign for a state-level operations**

plan that better supports local educational agencies in their work in closing the achievement gap and provides clear goals, benchmarks, and reporting mechanisms to allow policymakers and the public to evaluate the effectiveness of state efforts to accelerate student performance. **Dr. Rumman Chowdhury, U.S. Science Envoy for Artificial Intelligence** and CEO and co-founder of Humane Intelligence, and **civic facilitator and leadership coach Matt Lehrman** delivered powerful keynote addresses and attendees met with exhibitors on the Trade Show Floor to learn about practical solutions to improve student learning and achievement, enjoyed student performances and networked with peers from across the state.

## CSBA Delegate Assembly elects 2026 officers



At the Dec. 1-2 CSBA Delegate Assembly Meeting, 2026 officers were elected. **Sabrena Rodriguez, CSBA's 2025 Vice President, was elected to the office of President-elect.**

Rodriguez is a trustee for Ventura Unified School District and is a conservation biologist who has worked with communities in Central and South America, Southern Africa and Europe to develop sustainable economic ventures that

benefit both local people and wildlife. **Elected as 2026 Vice President is Jackie Thu-Huong Wong**, a Washington USD (Yolo County) board member. Wong is also the executive director of First 5 California and a professor for Sacramento State's School Nurse Credential Program. **Rounding out the Executive Committee is 2026 CSBA President Dr. Debra Schade and Immediate Past President Dr. Bettye Lusk.**

## Read the latest issue of *California Schools* magazine online



The fall edition of CSBA's magazine **features an in-depth look at the state's System of Support**, how well it's working for districts in the field **and what the state needs to do differently to support — not dictate to — local educational agencies to make real progress on closing decades-long achievement gaps.** Other features dive into **the original purpose and current state of the U.S. Department of Education** and the

**importance of thoughtful and solid policies** in a rapidly changing education environment. The magazine also includes a column on safeguarding democracy through public education and an interview with Manny Barbera, an award-winning education leader who consults with districts on school closures among other must-read articles.

[Read the issue »](#)

## State update: State Board of Education-approved math instructional materials available



**New State Board of Education-approved instructional materials for K-8 that align with California's 2023 Mathematics Framework and Common Core Mathematics Standards are available.** These instructional materials provide K-8 students opportunities to access and engage with the "Big Ideas" as exemplified in the framework. **A total of 64 instructional programs were approved by the SBE for K-8**

**mathematics.** Districts may choose to purchase the instructional materials adopted by the State Board; if they choose their own, materials used in the classroom must be aligned to content standards and reflect the guidance in the 2023 Mathematics Framework.

### In other state news:

- **Two high school students have been chosen to represent California in the 64th annual United States Senate Youth Program.** Cindy Chen of Walnut (Los Angeles County), a senior at Walnut High School in the Walnut Valley High School District, and Gabrielle Listana of San Francisco (San Francisco County), a senior at Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory, were selected for their outstanding leadership skills, extraordinary commitments to their schools and communities and academic and extracurricular achievements as California's delegates in this highly competitive program.

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



With challenging financial times ahead due to expiring or paused funding sources, 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 with **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. LEAs may request and adopt a TRAN resolution starting February 2026. [Learn more »](#)

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

## Virtual events

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

Jan. 14-15 | [Register](#)

**Executive Assistant (EA) Training  
Program Tau cohort: Understanding  
Culture 1A/1B**

Jan. 22-23 | [Register](#)

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

Jan. 26 and Feb. 23 | [Register](#)

**MIG Course 2: Student Learning &  
Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review**

Jan. 28-29 | [Register](#)

## In-person events

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

Feb. 21 | Chico | [Register](#)

Feb. 21 | San Jose | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

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