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## Legislative update: Governor's Administration releases education budget trailer bill language



proposals made last month.

In keeping with the requirements of statute, **the Governor's Department of Finance released their budget trailer bills.** Providing greater clarity on Gov. Gavin Newsom's January Budget Proposal, the trailer bills provide the details where specific statutory amendments are proposed on how specific programs and proposals are intended to operate. As part of that release, **the education trailer bill helps to shed light on significant**

As provided by CSBA's Governmental Relations team in its write-up of the Governor's [January Budget Proposal](#) and subsequent [budget webinar](#), **the proposed state budget is generally balanced in the current and coming fiscal year.** However, **beginning in 2026–27, it is projected that the state's operational budget will re-emerge with a year-over-year deficit** amounting to potentially \$30 billion annually.

In regard to the specific proposals in the January Budget release, **the education trailer bill helps to flesh out many of the proposals announced last month, but also raises additional questions as to the intent and purpose of others.** [Read a summary of the education budget trailer bill and its specifics on the CSBA blog »](#)

## Register now for CSBA's County Board Governance Workshop



Join fellow county board members at the **2025 CSBA County Board Governance Workshop on April 11-12 in Sacramento.** This interactive workshop is **designed to empower, educate and inspire county board members and superintendents.** Attendees will receive an up-to-the-minute analysis of the state budget from a county perspective, discuss legislative issues that directly impact county boards, engage with key state policymakers and learn critical advocacy strategies.

This year's workshop will **also include special guest speakers and an informative session to help attendees deepen their understanding of how the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence's Community Engagement Initiative can accelerate academic performance and close achievement gaps for students.** [Register now to secure a discounted rate »](#)

## State update: Bonta lawsuit temporarily blocks federal funding freeze



On Jan. 31, California Attorney General Rob Bonta **announced** that the **U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island had granted a temporary restraining order preventing the Trump Administration's freeze on federal assistance.** Bonta, alongside attorneys general from 22 other states, filed a lawsuit to block the intended funding pause on Jan. 28. According to the Bonta's office, the coalition of states is now

working to secure a preliminary injunction on the matter, but in the meantime, the Trump Administration cannot "pause, freeze, impede, block, cancel, or terminate its awards or obligations to provide federal financial assistance unless specifically allowed under the

law,” nor can it reissue or implement other measures to the effective of the directive.

[Learn more »](#)

**In other state news:**

- **House Resolution 6 (Connolly, D-San Rafael) and Senate Resolution 7 (Ochoa Bogh, R-Yucaipa) proclaimed January as School Board Recognition Month — a time to celebrate the contributions of school district and county office of education trustees.** The resolutions highlighted board members’ work to ensure the needs of all K-12 students are met. “Local school district governing boards and county boards of education are a central part of our democracy,” they read.
- **Applications for the 2024–25 Youth Advisory Council are being accepted through Feb. 17.** High school students with diverse perspectives and backgrounds are encouraged to apply for a chance to work with California Department of Education staff and leadership and provide insights on issues that impact their peers, families, schools and communities. [Learn more »](#)
- **The application periods for the Summer Food Service Program and the Seamless Summer Option will be open Feb. 18-May 15.** The programs offer children aged 18 and under access to essential nutrition during school closures and summer break. [Learn more »](#)

## Federal update: New executive orders target gender and equity initiatives and antisemitic protests

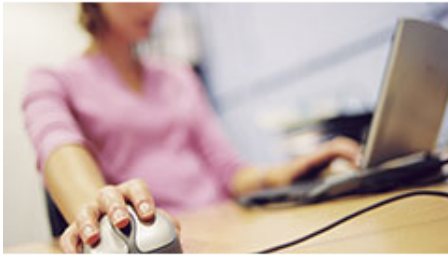


The Trump Administration continued its flurry of executive orders on Jan. 29, issuing three declarations with significant implications for public education. The **new executive orders seek to end what the Administration describes as “indoctrination” in K-12 schools, launch a federal school choice initiative and facilitate investigations into campus protests deemed as antisemitic.** Unlike the funding freeze order

announced on Jan. 27 (and later rescinded) that applied broadly to all federal government agencies, the latest executive orders focus squarely on public education. [Read summaries of the executive orders »](#)

## CSBA webinar showcases frameworks for ethical AI integration

A Jan. 29 webinar hosted by CSBA’s AI Taskforce titled **“Ethical AI in Education: Building transparent frameworks for the future”** offered local educational agency leaders tips on creating an artificial intelligence (AI) governance committee,



**environmental scans and organizational roadmaps, and evaluation metrics for the use of new education technology.** The event also explored how to implement components of ethical AI that fit local needs, among other critical topics.

“I feel like a lot of our school districts might feel like they’re behind because AI has taken off ... but I think if I’ve learned anything from the taskforce, it’s that we’re all in the right place right now

because we’re all figuring it out,” said taskforce member Jennifer Crabtree, educational technology coordinator at West Covina Unified School District. **A number of strategies, free resources and CSBA policies were detailed by experts. [Read a full recap and access a recording of the webinar and presentation slides](#) »**

## Black History Month spotlight: Raising the bar at Emery Unified



**Emery Unified School District — a two-school district located in the Bay Area — has seen significant improvement among its African American students in recent years, with test scores on the rise and chronic absence rates declining.**

The district has been **working to diversify staff to better reflect the community,** according to

Superintendent Quiauna Scott. About 36 percent of Emery USD staff are African American and 68 percent are people of color. Additionally, **Emery USD has gone to great lengths to ensure teachers have the time and ability to collaborate in meaningful ways.**

**Being flexible and responsive to students has also proven beneficial.** The high school shifted to an “equitable grading” system, which focuses more on assessing students’ knowledge at the end of the grading period rather than their classroom behavior or whether they turned homework in on time. **[Read more on the CSBA blog](#) »**

## Expert MAA and LEA billing assistance



Student-centered services and medical care in the school setting are pivotal to student success. **Practi-Cal offers the most comprehensive Medi-Cal and Medicaid Administrative Activities (MAA) billing services** available to local educational agencies. Its broad range of expertise allows it to **identify areas of reimbursement often overlooked by others and simplifies the complicated billing process,**

while minimizing your efforts — all with no up-front costs to the district. [Learn more »](#)

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

## Virtual events

### Student Board Member Networking Call

Feb. 10 | [Register](#)

March 3 | [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

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

### Board Presidents

Feb. 19 | [Register](#)

### The Brown Act

Feb. 21 | [Register](#)

### Uniform Complaint Procedures University

Feb. 26 | [Register](#)

### MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration

March 6-7 | [Register](#)

## In-person events

## Sponsors



# NGS



**Masters In Governance Course 1:  
Foundations of Effective  
Governance/Setting Direction**  
Feb. 15 | Riverside | [Register](#)

**MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective  
Governance/Setting Direction**  
Feb. 22 | Hayward | [Register](#)

**MIG Course 2: Student Learning &  
Achievement/Judicial Review**  
Feb. 22 | Tulare | [Register](#)

**MIG Course 2: Student Learning &  
Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review**  
March 8 | Riverside | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)