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## Legal update: CSBA's ELA scores a victory in defending local control of charter school authorization



In the first litigation regarding **Assembly Bill 1505**, a sweeping charter school reform bill, CSBA's Education Legal Alliance (ELA) secured a victory from the Court of Appeal in *Napa Valley USD and CSBA's ELA v. State Board of Education*. In an opinion issued March 14, the Third District Court of Appeal upheld the Superior Court decision in the ELA's favor, **finding that the State Board of**

**Education erred when it found that the Napa Valley Unified School District (NVUSD) and the NVUSD Board of Education abused their discretion when they**

denied the **Mayacamas Charter School petition**. This is a substantial win for charter authorizers in California. [Read the details of the case on the CSBA blog »](#)

## Trustees make their voices heard at Legislative Action Week



More than 300 board members and superintendents from across California came together last week to meet with the state senators, assemblymembers and staff that represent their local educational agency. Over a three-day period, CSBA members “held court” with the State Legislature, hosting over 110 meetings. **CSBA members spoke on pressing state budget priorities**

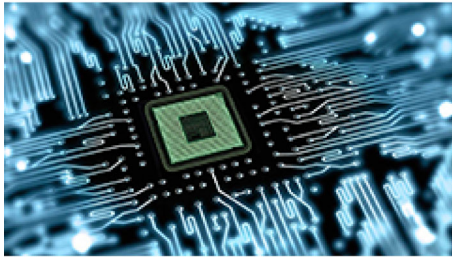
**and legislation that will have great impact on LEA operations.** Attendees called on the Legislature to:

- **Protect Prop 98 by rejecting Gov. Gavin Newsom’s effort to manipulate the Prop 98 Funding Guarantee by withholding \$1.6 billion** in public education funding.
- **Fully fund the estimated 2.43 percent cost-of-living adjustment** and ensure that the Student Support & Professional Development Discretionary Block Grant is fully discretionary.
- Protect school district and county office of education solvency by **providing related solutions for the impacts of [Assembly Bill 218](#)**.

LEA leaders also advocated for **four CSBA-sponsored legislative measures** and against another, urging the Legislature to:

- **Support CSBA's education workforce housing package — [AB 1021](#)** (Wicks/Muratsuchi) to expand existing incentives and efficiencies to rural and small school districts and county offices of education, and [AB 1381](#) (Muratsuchi) to help provide much-needed predevelopment funds for workforce housing projects.
- **Support [AB 1111](#) (Soria) to help push out the mandatory electric school bus purchase mandate by 10 years** from 2035 to 2045.
- **Support [AB 1224](#) (Valencia) to expand the amount of time a substitute teacher can serve** in a classroom from 30 to 60 days.
- Oppose [Senate Bill 494](#) (Cortese), a re-introduction of SB 433 from 2023, which CSBA opposed and helped to successfully veto. It would **fundamentally undermine school and county boards of education local control by removing their personnel authority to determine disciplinary outcomes for classified staff.**

## State update: Artificial intelligence initiatives



Applications for the **California Department of Education's (CDE) Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Education Workgroup** are being accepted through **April 11**. The workgroup is being established in response to California's legislative mandate to develop guidance and model policies for the safe and effective use of AI in schools. Those selected will participate in three, full-day remote meetings to develop

recommendations and policies. [Learn more »](#)

To assess the landscape of AI in schools across the state, CDE is also conducting a **survey** for local educational agencies to share their policies and how they use the technology. Survey responses will help inform the workgroup.

CSBA convened its AI Taskforce: Education in the Age of Artificial Intelligence in 2023 and has since developed a suite of resources, including a roadmap facilitation guide, sample policies and local resolutions, original research and webinars, promising practices and more. [View CSBA's AI resources »](#)

## Read the March newsletter online



The March edition of **California School News** includes details on CSBA co-sponsored legislation to support education workforce housing as well as the latest on efforts to renew the federal Secure Rural Schools Act and a message from CSBA President Dr. **Bettye Lusk on the importance of ethics**.

Also covered is the launch of CSBA's first Delegate Assembly Governance Review

Committee, updates to policies on cellphones in schools, a summary of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing's annual teacher supply report, a recap of CSBA's webinar on ethical AI integration, San Diego County Office of Education's Cybersecurity Bootcamp Program and more. [Read it now »](#)

## New County Board Governance Workshop speakers announced

County office of education leaders will not want to miss **the 2025 County Board Governance Workshop, taking place April 11-12 in Sacramento, featuring Chris Gardner, bestselling author of "The Pursuit of HappYness,"** which inspired the critically acclaimed film starring Will Smith. **Gardner, who is renowned for his inspiring journey and entrepreneurial expertise, will share powerful lessons on resilience and success.**

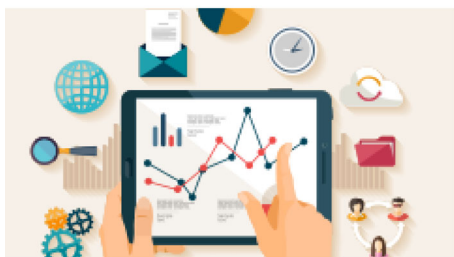


The workshop will cover the **latest analysis of the state budget from a county perspective, review legislative developments** of particular importance to county boards and learn **critical advocacy strategies**. David M. Toston from the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence will **dive deep into the organization's Community Engagement Initiative** and learn how it can accelerate

academic performance and close achievement gaps for students.

This workshop will also **debut a series of micro-trainings** — bite-sized workshops designed to provide members with actionable tools and strategies to enhance leadership and elevate performance across county offices of education. In addition to learning opportunities, attendees can connect with peers, share challenges and triumphs and gain inspiration. [Learn more and register »](#)

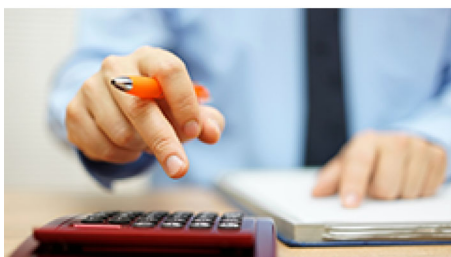
## CCEE talks direct technical assistance



Much of the **California Collaborative for Educational Excellence's (CCEE) board meeting on March 13 focused on discussions around direct technical assistance (DTA)** as the state has seen an increase in eligible districts.

**In 2021, there were seven local educational agencies across 25 county offices of education receiving DTA from CCEE, compared to 54 in 2024**, which requires support from the entire organization to manage cases as well as contractors. according to Executive Director Matt Navo. Navo, board members and staff covered recent successes and challenges related to the work as well as potential strategies for the future. [Read a full recap »](#)

## Save with the GO Bond Refunding Pool



For more than 30 years, California school districts and community college districts have **saved time and money by issuing tax and revenue anticipation notes (TRANS) through the California School Cash Reserve Program Authority sponsored by CSBA and the California Association of School Business Officials**, the largest pooled TRAN financing in the nation. The GO Bond Refunding Pool

continues this tradition by allowing districts to **unlock taxpayer savings by driving down costs** through an easy-to-use shared financing platform. [Learn more »](#)

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

## Virtual events

**Masters In Governance Course 4: Human Resources/ Collective Bargaining**  
April 2-3 | [Register](#)

**Executive Assistant (EA) Pi: Governance Integration**  
April 4 | [Register](#)

**Ethics Assembly Bill 2158**  
April 7 | [Register](#)

**SBM Advancing Budget Priorities and Advocacy**  
April 7 | [Register](#)

**Fiscal Responsibility: Key Financial Concepts for New Board Members**  
April 14 | [Register](#)

## In-person events

**Small School District Financial Workshop**  
March 29 | Camino | [Register](#)

**MIG Course 3: School Finance Part 1 & 2**  
April 5 | [Hayward](#)

**2025 CSBA County Board Governance Workshop**  
April 11-12 | [Sacramento](#)

**Small School District Financial Workshop**  
April 12 | Redding | [Register](#)

**Ethics Assembly Bill 2158**  
April 14 | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

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