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## Action Alert: Help end the federal funding freeze



The **U.S. Department of Education** has announced it will withhold nearly **\$6.8 billion** in federal funding for TK-12 schools, dollars that were scheduled for distribution on July 1. If this action stands, **\$811 million** that has already been appropriated by Congress for use in **California schools** remains frozen and cannot be used to benefit students. It also means local educational agencies will have to revisit,

revise and reduce their budgets, resulting in fewer programs, staff and services that support students and positive academic outcomes.

This is unacceptable. **Please urge your representatives to tell the federal government it cannot freeze funds that have already been appropriated for schools by Congress and that doing so weakens schools nationwide and harms ALL students. [Learn more and email your federal representative »](#)**

## Policy Alert: Implications of *Mahmoud v. Taylor*



On June 27, the U.S. Supreme Court released its opinion in *Mahmoud v. Taylor*, which addressed whether parents/guardians must be provided with notice and allowed to opt their children out of instruction regarding “LGBTQ+ storybooks” on the grounds it violates their First Amendment rights by substantially interfering with their children’s religious development.

**In addition to setting new legal precedent, the U.S. Supreme Court’s recent opinion in *Mahmoud v. Taylor* has significant policy implications.** Under California law, districts and county offices of education are required to provide notice and the ability to opt out of certain instructional content only in very limited circumstances. *Mahmoud* appears to significantly expand the type of instructional content for which notice and the ability to opt out is required. However, at least one of CSBA’s sample policies contains language that is generally aligned with *Mahmoud* and which may be helpful to districts and COEs. Additionally, CSBA has identified several sample policies that will likely need to be revised in light of *Mahmoud*. **A [new article](#) on the CSBA blog offers further assessment of implications and some related observations. [Read it now »](#)**

## CSBA’s AI Taskforce provides suite of resources to guide schools in the adoption of AI



After two years of dedicated service, **CSBA’s Artificial Intelligence (AI) Taskforce: Education in the Age of Artificial Intelligence, has concluded with the development of a [suite of original publications](#) designed to support public schools in adopting AI in a manner consistent with their educational mission as well as with the privacy and safety of students in mind.**

With AI emerging as the dominant development of the current age and a transformative element in public schools, CSBA’s resources offer critical knowledge and tools for the integration of AI into the work of school districts and county offices of education.

The AI Taskforce produced an expansive microsite featuring resources, news, sample resolutions and policies as well as information on promising practices; fact sheets, research briefs and articles; and four webinars. Taskforce members collaborated with CSBA’s GAMUT Policy team to introduce a new AI sample policy, BP 0441 – Artificial

Intelligence, as part of a mini policy packet on AI released in June and covered in the [June 27 policy webinar](#) for subscribers.

Education advocates should expect further guidance and resources from CSBA on the ever-evolving topic of AI in public schools. [Learn more about the Taskforce's accomplishments »](#)

## Federal update: What the Big Beautiful Bill's passing means for education



By narrow margins last week, **the Senate and House both approved the final version of HR 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act**, that enacts the President's domestic agenda which includes making permanent the 2017 tax cuts, increasing funding for border control and defense, extending the debt ceiling, and enacting changes to Medicaid, supplemental food programs and other policies.

Major education and workforce related provisions in HR 1 include the establishment of a federal tax credit for individuals and corporations donating to qualified state-approved scholarship granting organizations. **Scholarships may be used for private school tuition and fees, homeschooling costs and therapies and services for children with disabilities.** The bill also advances a "Workforce Pell Grant" program which expand eligibility to shorter-term, high-quality career and technical education programs.

**There are two provisions that did not make it into the final version of the bill:** a 10-year moratorium on states enacting legislation to address issues around artificial intelligence and provisions that would have reauthorized the Secure Rural Schools Act (SRS). However, prior to passage of HR 1 **in the Senate, separate legislation (S 356 by Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho) to extend SRS for three years was passed. S 356 is pending in the House.** [Learn more on the CSBA blog »](#)

## State update: School library survey now open



In accordance with Education Code Section 18122, **the California Department of Education's annual survey of the condition of school libraries will be open through Aug. 31.** Local governing boards are directed to submit information regarding the 2023–24 and 2024–25 academic years by the deadline. [Learn more »](#)

### In other state news:

- In the summer heat, proactive steps should be taken to protect young people participating in sports or other strenuous outdoor activities. **The California Department of Public Health's Health Guidance for Schools on Sports and Strenuous Activities During Extreme Heat** serves a resource for

**local educational agencies on how to keep students safe**, including how school staff can minor for signs of heat exhaustion or stroke.

## IQC moves on tasks related to ELA/ELD Instructional Materials follow-up adoption



The Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) **met** July 2 and voted to approve a **schedule of significant events** for the English Language Arts/English Language Development (ELA/ELD) Instructional Materials follow-up adoption and forward it to the State Board of Education (SBE) for consideration. As staff noted, once fully approved by the SBE (tentatively scheduled to happen November 2026), the

additions will only broaden the options that local educational agencies have and will not require them to select new materials.

**Commissioners also approved and recommended to the SBE instructional materials reviewer application questions.** The application period, per the proposed schedule, is set to take place between August and October of this year. The IQC also provided feedback on the draft **Personal Finance Curriculum Guide**, which will come before them for approval in September for a 30-day public comment period in October. A recording of the meeting will be available [here](#). The commission is scheduled to convene next on Aug. 13.

## What's Your Why? with Aisha Knowles, Alameda COE



**Reflection and positive relationships are traits that Alameda County Office of Education trustee Aisha Knowles believes can be used to benefit the students of her community.** "I am motivated by trying to continue the work of people who came before me in the process. Trying to build relationships, create pathways between unincorporated communities and cities ... and look at how we can strengthen opportunities for

students," she said.

"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 Knowles' and other What's Your Why? videos »](#)

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



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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

Aug. 4 | [Register](#)

Sept. 3 | [Register](#)

#### The Brown Act

Aug. 15 | [Register](#)

Sept. 3 | [Register](#)

#### Executive Assistant Sigma: Understanding Culture 1A/1B

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

### In-person events

#### Masters in Governance (MIG) Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining

Aug. 16 | Visalia | [Register](#)

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

Aug. 23 | Visalia | [Register](#)

#### County Board Conference

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

[View complete calendar](#)

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