

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

January 21, 2026

In this issue

- [Legislative update: Legislative Analyst's Office releases response to Governor's January Budget Proposal](#)
- [Legal update: New training requirements can be met through CSBA offerings](#)
- [Register now for the CSBA Counties Governance Workshop](#)
- [New CSBA fact sheet: How to Access Publicly Available and Reliable Data as a Board Member](#)
- [State Board kicks off 2026 with a deep dive into accountability measures and improving equity](#)
- [What's Your Why with Lucy Hendry, Imperial COE](#)
- [Convert property ownership into an active asset](#)

Legislative update: Legislative Analyst's Office releases response to Governor's January Budget Proposal



Last week, the [Legislative Analyst's Office \(LAO\)](#) released its assessment of Gov. Gavin Newsom's January Budget Proposal, providing a very different take on the Governor's vision for the 2026–27 budget. In contrast with the LAO's November fiscal outlook, which projected an \$18 billion deficit, the Governor only projects a \$3 billion deficit. The difference

is largely due to the fact that the Governor does not include the risk of a downturn in the economy in his revenue estimates, ultimately assuming that revenues will be \$42 billion more than what was projected in June 2025.

The **LAO's assessment is more critical of the Governor's proposal than during past years, noting that while the Governor acknowledges the challenges that the state could face if the artificial intelligence-fueled stock market tumbles, he makes no proposals to address this risk and build budget stability.** In fact, both the Governor and LAO project multiyear deficits of between \$20 and \$35 billion a year, showing that budget problems that the state has solved for in the past few years are no longer cyclical, but chronic. **As the state faces what the LAO calls, "the most negative forecast of the budget's position since the pandemic," the LAO is calling on the Legislature to take action to align state expenditures with the revenues it takes in** to avoid the risk of history repeating itself akin to the dot-com bubble and the Great Recession.

In other budget and state news:

- **CSBA is co-sponsoring a series of in-person Budget Perspectives Workshops in partnership with Capitol Advisors** that will focus on a detailed breakdown of the Governor's 2026–27 Budget Proposal. Workshops will be held at county offices of education across the state from Jan. 20 to Feb. 2. [Register »](#)
- Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas announced on Jan. 16 that **Al Muratsuchi will be replaced as chair of the Assembly Education Committee by Darshana Patel**, a first-term lawmaker from San Diego. Assemblymember Patel is likely recognizable to governance teams — she **was a trustee on Poway Unified School District's Board of Education, president of the San Diego County School Boards Association, and a familiar face to CSBA members** as a regular presenter of Annual Education Conference and Trade Show workshops, as well as a [contributor](#) to [CSBA webinars](#) and [publications](#).

Legal update: New training requirements can be met through CSBA offerings



Assembly Bill 640 (Muratsuchi), signed into law in October, **requires school district and county governing board members to receive training on "K-12 public education school finance laws."** This training must be completed by **April 1, 2028.**

According to the bill, **board members who have successfully completed CSBA's Masters in Governance® (MIG) program and provide proof of completion of the program to their local educational agency are exempt from this requirement.** MIG equips board members with the knowledge and skills to build and support an effective governance structure. MIG modules are available for school districts in February and members may register [here](#).

County board members can take MIG for County Offices of Education 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction at the Counties Governance Workshop in San Diego on March 10 by registering [here](#). [Learn more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Register now for the CSBA Counties Governance Workshop



Registration is open for the **2026 CSBA Counties Governance Workshop**, taking place **March 11-12 in San Diego**. The event is designed to empower and inspire county board members and superintendents, and **this year's focus — serving homeless and foster youth — is a core responsibility for all county boards**. For example, one session to be led by **experts from the Los Angeles County Office of Education**

will delve into the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP) and its role in supporting the academic success, stability and well-being of students in foster care. Attendees will learn about the purpose and requirements of the FYSCP, key services and supports provided to students in foster care, and how COEs collaborate with school districts, child welfare, probation and community partners.

Additionally, for the first time, **Masters in Governance® for County Offices of Education Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction will be offered as a pre-workshop training on March 10**. Don't miss this chance to strengthen governance skills, expand support networks and become a stronger advocate for students. [Learn more and register »](#)

New CSBA fact sheet: How to Access Publicly Available and Reliable Data as a Board Member



CSBA's **Research and Education Policy Development (REPD) team has developed a fact sheet to help governance team members access foundational data needed to support and guide their policies, funding allocation and more**. As members of a governance team, **having access to up-to-date data is crucial for making informed and impactful decisions**, and while local educational agency staff will likely have the

most nuanced and granular data, **there is a wealth of free and available data resources about LEAs that are accessible 24/7**. From DataQuest to the California School Dashboard, Ed-Data and more, this fact sheet breaks down how each resource can be utilized, the limitations of each and where the future of state data collection is headed. [Download the fact sheet »](#)

State Board kicks off 2026 with a deep dive into accountability measures and improving equity



The **California State Board of Education (SBE)** kicked off 2026 with a [Jan. 14 meeting](#) that included a review of the 2025 California School Dashboard and 2024–25 Data Release, **approval of the 2026 Accountability Workplan and a study session on the College/Career Indicator.**

In her opening remarks, **SBE President Linda Darling-Hammond** noted that the development of the state's [Portrait of a Graduate/Learner](#) is underway. Currently, the **California Collaborative for Educational Excellence** is gathering feedback from stakeholders through listening sessions and a survey ([available here](#)) that she said will “provide a vision of what every California student should know, be like and be able to do — that can provide a North Star for our State Board decision-making about curriculum, instruction assessments and accountability.”

Echoing CSBA's call for a cohesive state operations and support plan, SBE Vice President Cynthia Glover Woods said it's imperative that the board look at how its decisions are braided together. She cited the importance of “understanding the implications and domino effect as we look at each of these areas here on the work plan and how it plays in our accountability system, and also how it overlays within that system for differentiated assistance support and direct technical assistance support as well.” [Read a full recap of the meeting »](#)

What's Your Why with Lucy Hendry, Imperial COE



After retiring from a 35-year career in education, **Lucy Hendry continues to serve some of the most vulnerable students in her community as a board member for the Imperial County Office of Education.** “I wanted to continue to provide services to my community, mostly to help children, underprivileged children, receive all the benefits that are available to them,” Hendry said in CSBA's latest What's Your Why? video.

“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. [View Hendry's interviews and others »](#)

Convert property ownership into an active asset

Property Planning Solutions



Property Planning Solutions by DCG Strategies aims to **help school leaders explore the ways in which their real estate assets can be leveraged** to secure additional funding for district initiatives, equip students with the education and experiences they need to be successful, invest in deferred facilities maintenance and capital improvements, reduce cost and liability from

holding closed or grossly underutilized sites, bolster general fund reserves and even attract new staff. School leaders and board members can gain access to real estate experts that work to align a local educational agency's priorities with the realities of the real estate market. Services include **real estate consulting, property planning, strategic asset management, educator housing development and real property brokerage services.** [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

Board Presidents Workshop

Feb. 4 | [Register](#)

The Brown Act

Feb. 6 | [Register](#)

Masters in Governance (MIG) Course 3: School Finance Part 1 and Part 2

Feb. 11-12 | [Register](#)

Executive Assistant Tau: Governance 2A/2B

Feb. 19-20 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/ Collective Bargaining

Feb. 25-26 | [Register](#)

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

Feb. 27 | [Register](#)

Legislative Action Week

March 17-19 | [Register](#)

In-person events

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

Sponsors



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

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

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

March 10 | San Diego | [Register](#)

**2026 CSBA Counties Governance
Workshop**

March 11-12 | San Diego | [Register](#)

**Education Workforce Housing 101
Workshop Series: Part 1**

March 13 | Palo Alto | [Register](#)

March 20 | Los Angeles | [Register](#)

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

March 14 | Chico | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)



California School Boards Association | 3251 Beacon Blvd., West Sacramento, CA 95691
Phone: (800) 266-3382 | Fax: (916) 371-3407