

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

August 19, 2026

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Legislative update: Senate Appropriations Committee halts state accountability bills; AB 2225 moves forward



On Aug. 13, the **Senate Appropriations Committee** left three key bills from CSBA's **SOS for Student Achievement: Close the State Accountability Gap** legislative package in its **suspense file**, which prevents these bills from moving forward in the last two weeks of the legislative session. However, **the package's flagship measure, Assembly Bill 2225 (Patel,**

D-San Diego), passed out of the committee and continues to advance to votes on the Senate and Assembly floors. If passed there, AB 2225 will be delivered to Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk for his signature.

"The committee's decision does not change the need for meaningful reform to California's fragmented system of state-level education governance, which must include the type of reciprocal accountability that CSBA has been advocating for this legislative session," Vernon Billy, CEO & Executive Director of CSBA, said in a [statement](#). **"We recognize that our policy approach was a first of its kind in California, and that it often takes time for a new policy approach to take hold. We are hopeful that this will be the case here.**

"We are proud of how far this effort has come and are grateful to our members, legislators who supported our bill package throughout the process, and the education champions whose bipartisan support reflects a shared vision for a more coherent and accountable state education system," Billy continued. "We are hopeful AB 2225 and its mutual accountability provisions will be signed into law."

Additionally, **CSBA's bills on reducing the reporting burden, AB 2008 (Patel) and AB 2496 (Solache, Jr., D-Lynwood), passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee and are now on the Senate Floor.** [Find out how other education-related bills performed in the roundup on the CSBA blog »](#)

New at AEC: Learn about promising programs firsthand during exclusive site visits



For the first time, **CSBA's Annual Education Conference and Trade Show (AEC)**, taking place Dec. 3-5 in San Diego, is offering **two exclusive pre-conference site visits on Dec. 2**, giving school board members, superintendents and executive assistants the opportunity to **experience innovative educational programs firsthand and glean key insights that could better support program planning and**

implementation back in their own local educational agency.

At the [San Diego County Office of Education Innovation Center](#), attendees will explore an immersive learning environment designed to prepare students for career readiness and success, while those who visit [Cajon Valley Union School District](#) — one of California's leading districts in career-connected learning — will go behind the scenes to see how the district integrates real-world learning opportunities from grades K-12. These visits offer rare, hands-on opportunities to see transformational education in action, providing the chance to connect with the people who run the programs and the board leaders who helped make it happen. [Learn more about these and other AEC pre-conference activities »](#)

Registration for these visits is open, and space is limited. To add or change a pre-conference activity, call 864-641-6838 or email csba@maritz.com.

Nominate a CSBA Director-at-Large



Nominations for CSBA Director-at-Large, Hispanic, and Director-at-Large, Asian/Pacific Islander, are being accepted through Oct. 2.

Director-at-Large candidates must be nominated by a CSBA member board and nominees must be a member of a member board. Directors-at-Large serve two-year terms and take office immediately upon the close of the association's Annual Education Conference and Trade Show. **Read the**

memorandum from CSBA President Dr. Debra Schade and this **Frequently Asked Questions document** for more information.

Federal update: FCC announces major proposed changes to E-Rate Program and seeks public comment



On Aug. 14, the **Federal Communications Commission (FCC)** issued a **Notice of Proposed Rulemaking** to conduct a **comprehensive review of the nearly 30-year-old E-Rate Program, which provides discounted telecommunications and broadband services to schools and libraries.**

Following a 2-1 vote by the commission last June to begin the review, the FCC is

considering whether the program should be narrowed or modified as broadband connectivity has expanded and concerns about student screen time and online safety continue to evolve.

The FCC is seeking input on:

- How E-Rate can better support student learning and online safety, including the roles of parents/guardians and teachers, and potential limits on screen time
- Whether students and families should be able to opt out of some screen-based learning and whether screen-time limitations could mandate that schools purchase additional software or network support
- Its interpretation of the Children's Internet Protection Act, including whether protections should apply to personal devices connected to school networks, how student online activity should be monitored and what privacy protections should apply
- Whether Head Start and pre-kindergarten students and facilities should remain eligible for E-Rate and if schools should be required to separate the costs associated with these students from their E-Rate funding requests

CSBA is reviewing the proposal and will advocate for maintaining E-Rate as a critical source of reliable and affordable connectivity for California schools and

libraries while preserving local decision-making and avoiding unnecessary administrative burdens. Public comments are due by Oct. 13. [Leave a public comment »](#)

Small Schools, Big Ideas: Bret Harte Union HSD Fire Technology Program



CSBA is recognizing the work of small districts through the [Small Schools, Big Ideas](#) blog series. Bret Harte Union High School District's Fire Technology Program launched in 2022 to help prepare students for in-demand careers in fire and emergency medical services close to home. Located in a rural community surrounded by forest in Calaveras County, the program currently serves 30 of the approximately 600 students enrolled in the district. The program has already seen success, with some graduates working for nearby fire departments.

On May 13, CSBA Public Affairs and Community Engagement Representative Stephen Reid toured the transportation facilities and spoke to Fire Tech instructor John Parks to learn more about how the Fire Technology Program is supporting students and the greater community. **"Students who thrive in hands-on environments have found a place where they feel motivated, connected and successful,"** Parks said. **"The program has improved confidence, accountability, attendance and participation among many students who may not traditionally excel in a standard classroom setting."** [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

State update: New resources from the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence



New and upcoming resources and events available to local educational agencies were discussed at the Aug. 13 California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE) board meeting. Among them was the [Statewide System of Support \(SSOS\) Toolkit](#) that includes materials ranging from universal resources to data dashboards and self-assessment frameworks. For those wishing to better familiarize themselves with the SSOS and tools and resources available to support the work of their LEAs, registration is open for [Connecting California](#), a free, virtual conference happening Nov. 18.

The CCEE also reminded attendees that **applications are being accepted for the 2026–27 CCEE Data Academy** through 3 p.m. on Aug. 21. The free statewide

professional learning opportunity is meant to strengthen data capacity among education professionals with [courses](#) on data literacy, data inquiry and data leadership. [Read a full recap of the meeting »](#)

In other state news:

- The **California Department of Education** has released an updated **Recommended Literature List for Prekindergarten Through Grade Twelve** with hundreds of newly published titles in children's and young adult (YA) literature. The list is annually refreshed to include the latest and best in children's and YA literature so that educators, families and students can find new and exciting books to read that reflect the rich diversity of California.

Total Schools Solutions can help with closing and budget development



Even districts that are fully staffed with qualified employees find themselves **struggling with added seasonal work such as budget development while meeting the day-to-day vigorous demands** of district financial management. Total Schools Solutions staff possess extensive expertise in budget development and **specialize in making the budgeting process transparent to staff and the**

community, developing trust in the process and the providing data that best serves the district. [Learn more »](#)

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

In-person events

Masters in Governance (MIG) for County Office of Education Course 4: Community Relations and Advocacy | Governance Integration

Sept. 24 | Marina del Rey | [Register](#)

2026 CSBA Counties Conference

Sept. 25-27 | Marina del Rey | [Register](#)

2026 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show

Dec. 3-5 | San Diego | [Register](#)

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Virtual events

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

Sept. 8-16 | [Register](#)

Executive Assistant (EA) Upsilon: Governance 2A/2B

Sept. 10-11 | [Register](#)

CCSA 2026 Fall Workshop

Sept. 18 | [Register](#)

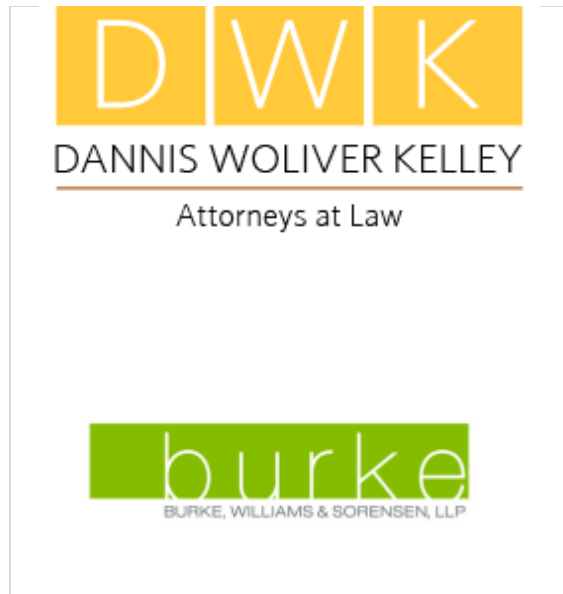
Student Board Member Bundle Subscription

Sept. 21-May 10 | [Register](#)

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

Sept. 22-30 | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)



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