

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

January 28, 2026

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Legislative update: CSBA sponsors School Board Recognition Month legislation



To commemorate School Board Recognition Month in January, **CSBA is sponsoring two legislative resolutions that spotlight the critical work of school district and county boards of education.** **Senate Resolution 73** is authored by Sen. Steve Choi (R-Irvine), a former Irvine Unified School District trustee, and the companion **House Resolution 77** is authored by Assemblymember Juan Carrillo (D-Palmdale), a former Palmdale

School District board member. **These measures formally acknowledge trustees'**

responsibilities in safeguarding student welfare and helping to improve outcomes for all students.

The resolutions underscore that school board service, which often involves significant personal and professional sacrifice, prioritizes advocacy for students and the local school community. Trustees routinely balance careers and family life with long meetings, community outreach, and a commitment to representing diverse constituencies.

By recognizing School Board Recognition Month, the measures honor the commitment of roughly 5,000 elected and appointed trustees across California and draw attention to the frequently unseen costs of local governance that sustain public education. Of equal importance, **the resolutions affirm the value of civic service and the essential role trustees play in advancing student success statewide.** [Access CSBA's School Board Recognition Month resources »](#)

Legal update: California Supreme Court decision on CPRA case



On Jan. 15, the California Supreme Court issued a decision in *City of Gilroy v. Superior Court of Santa Clara County*, in which it clarified two issues related to the California Public Records Act (CPRA). First, the court found that the CPRA allows for declaratory relief, even in some circumstances when it is uncontested that there are “no existing nonexempt records to disclose.” And second, the court

determined that public agencies do not have an independent obligation under the CPRA to retain records that the agency determines are exempt from disclosure.

Under this decision, **even if an agency has disclosed all nonexempt records, a court could still make findings as to whether the agency’s practices comply with the CPRA and order the agency to make changes to their CPRA practices and/or policies.** Further, based on this decision, **agencies are not required to maintain exempt records beyond their normal retention period solely because they were requested under the CPRA.** [Learn more on the CSBA blog »](#)

State update: March 1 deadline to revise immigration-related policies



In 2018, the California Legislature added Education Code (EC) Section 234.7 to safeguard students and school communities from potential increased federal immigration enforcement actions. That law prohibits districts and county offices of education from (i) soliciting or collecting information or documents regarding the citizenship or immigration status of a student or the student’s family members, and (ii) seeking

or requiring information or documents, to the exclusion of other permissible information or documents, regarding the citizenship or immigration status of a student or the student's family members. Additionally, it required districts and COEs to adopt policies using model policy language developed by the state Attorney General (AG) or use equivalent language.

In early 2025, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security rescinded its longstanding policy limiting immigration enforcement in schools and other “sensitive locations.” As a result, the California Legislature amended EC 234.7 to further safeguard students and school communities by imposing new restrictions, prohibitions and obligations on districts and COEs in response to immigration enforcement activities.

The amendments to EC 234.7 directed the AG to revise its model policy language from 2018. The AG did so in December 2025, and the revised model policy language can be [found here](#). EC 234.7, as amended, requires districts and COEs to revise their policies in accordance with Ed Code and the revised model policy language (or equivalent language) by March 1, 2026. Notably, EC 234.7 also imposes a new compliance process obligating districts and COEs to provide their revised policies to the California Department of Education (CDE) upon request. CDE has directed all districts and COEs to upload their revised policies to an [online portal on CDE's website](#) no later than March 1. [Learn more on the CSBA blog »](#)

In other state news:

- The California Air Resources Board opened the Request for Applications for 2025 Community Planning and Capacity Building Grants to help schools with early-stage planning efforts to increase access to clean transportation, promote safer routes for students and improve transportation equity. Applications are due Feb. 10. [Learn more »](#)
- Per Senate Bill 153 (2024), which made modifications to California Education Code (EC) sections 49428.1 and 49428.2 regarding behavioral health, the CDE developed [Model Referral Protocols for Addressing Pupil Behavioral Health Concerns](#). Local educational agency boards **must adopt a policy** based on the referral protocols or consistent with EC 49428.1 for grades 7-12 by Jan. 31. Learn about employee training requirements that must be met by July 2029 [here](#). Email the CDE's Office of School-Based Health Programs at OSBHP@cde.ca.gov for upcoming training dates with Blue Shield of California or for more information about the legislation.

Coast2Coast is approaching fast — register now



Registration for CSBA and the Association of California School Administrators' fifth annual Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip is now open! This impactful three-day event, taking place **April 13-15 in Washington, D.C.**, empowers California education leaders to advance the issues affecting nearly 6 million preK-12 students on a national stage. Over the first two days, participants will attend

sessions on federal education policy, network with prominent D.C. figures and engage in briefings with decision-makers and influencers directly. The event culminates in face-to-face meetings with California's congressional representatives.

This year's program will **focus on the topics most likely to shape federal education policy in 2026** and impact district operations, school supports and long-term student outcomes: **artificial intelligence and education, workforce and career technical education, children's online safety and privacy, and federal education appropriations.** [Learn more and register »](#)

Reminder: Take the iCount Membership Survey today



CSBA is asking members to take a few minutes to **complete the 2025–26 iCount Membership Survey.** Member input allows CSBA to learn more about how individuals and local educational agencies utilize their memberships, and to ensure that CSBA's trainings, products and services directly **benefit local governance teams.** The survey is open to all governing board members, as well as

superintendents and staff of CSBA member school districts and county offices of education. All CSBA members completing the survey will receive a prize via email. [Take the survey »](#)

Read the January newsletter



The **January edition of *California School News*** is available online and includes a message from CSBA President Dr. Debra Schade's on the importance of leading with intention and belief in the power of public education, **resources for School Board Recognition Month**, the Governor's **January Budget Proposal** and a recap of the 2025 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show.

Additionally, it covers the latest California School Dashboard release and **CSBA's call for a state operations and support plan to aid local educational agencies in closing the achievement gap**, new Brown Act requirements, tips for board development activities and how the Ventura County Board of Education demonstrated its commitment to students, putting political differences aside, in a recent decision. [Read the newsletter »](#)

Instructional Quality Commission sets 2026 goals

The **Instructional Quality Commission (IQC)** started off 2026 with an orientation day on Jan.



21 before holding a **brief meeting** on Jan. 22 where goals for the year were approved.

Among the six **goals** set are providing support for the upcoming English Language Arts/English Language Development Instructional Materials Follow-up Adoption; providing guidance, feedback and support for the development of the Personal Finance Curriculum Guide; and ensuring that the IQC's priorities reflect the advisory needs of the

State Board of Education.

Additionally, commissioners elected Jennifer Hicks as their 2026 chair and Alicia Raygoza as vice chair, selected Kou Vang, Charice Guerra, Janet Lanning as Executive Committee members and designated assignments for various committees. A recording of the meeting will be available [here](#). The IQC is scheduled to convene next March 18-19.

Foster & Foster can help with GASB report needs



The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) establishes accounting reporting standards. GASB 68 reports are required for pensions that are provided to the employees of state and local governmental employers through pension plans that are administered through trusts. GASB 75 reports are required for other post-employment benefits that are provided to the employees of state and local governmental

employers. **CSBA offers actuarial services through its partner Foster & Foster, which provides GASB-compliant reports to state and local governmental employers with no limit to the number of participants.** [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

**Masters in Governance (MIG) Course 3:
School Finance Part 1 and Part 2**
Feb. 11-12 | [Register](#)

**Executive Assistant (EA) Tau:
Governance 2A/2B**
Feb. 19-20 | [Register](#)

**MIG Course 4: Human
Resources/Collective Bargaining**
Feb. 25-26 | [Register](#)

Sponsors



Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

Feb. 27 | [Register](#)

March 23 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration

March 11-12 | [Register](#)

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

March 16 and April 13 | [Register](#)

Legislative Action Week

March 17-19 | [Register](#)

EA Tau: Job Mechanics 3A/3B

March 19-20 | [Register](#)



In-person events

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

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](#)

March 14 | San Jose | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)