

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

April 1, 2026

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Legislative update: First committee hearing for CSBA's SOS for Student Achievement legislative package



On April 8, **CSBA's SOS for Student Achievement legislative package** is scheduled to receive its first committee hearing with the Assembly Education Committee.

The four-bill package includes:

- **Assembly Bill 2225** (Patel, D-San Diego) would convene educators, families, researchers and policymakers to develop a comprehensive statewide plan to close achievement gaps
- **AB 2149** (Garcia, D-San Bernardino) would require the Legislative Analyst's Office to annually evaluate how well the state budget and its education policies align with

the statewide plan

- **AB 2514** (Ransom, D-Tracy) would establish a public dashboard to track the state's progress in implementing the achievement gap plan and to provide transparent data about whether state programs are helping improve student outcomes
- **AB 2202** (Muratsuchi, D-Torrance) would establish a Closing the Achievement Gap Commission under the State Board of Education to monitor state programs and strengthen coordination across California's education system

The proposed legislation addresses the lack of planning, coherence, transparency, budget alignment and programmatic evaluation at the state level needed to help improve overall student performance and close achievement gaps. It is the latest step in CSBA's [SOS for Student Achievement: Close the State Accountability Gap](#) campaign calling for the creation of a state-level operations and support plan to better assist local educational agencies in addressing persistent achievement gaps. [Learn more about the campaign and bill package »](#)

In related news:

- CSBA has published the [SOS for Student Achievement Member Activation Toolkit](#), which serves as a one-stop shop for members for all campaign details. It includes core messaging and ready-to-use talking points; board-level actions, such as resolutions and agenda language; templates for legislative letters in support of the bill package, op-eds and community communications; guidance for engaging policymakers, media and stakeholders; and digital and social media resources.

Call for Proposals to present at AEC open now



The **Call for Proposals** to showcase the innovative programs and successful strategies happening in your local educational agency at the 2026 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show (AEC) is open through May 1!

AEC, California's premier continuing education conference for school trustees and other education leaders, **will take place Dec. 3-5 in**

San Diego. This year's strands include Empowering All Students and LEAs in a Digital World; Fostering Strong Community Partnerships; Health, Safety and Wellness; Pathways to College Career and Beyond; Strategic Governance for Organizational Success; and Strategies for Financial Resilience. [Learn more about proposal requirements and the submission process »](#)

CSBA President shares role of school board at AI summit

CSBA President Dr. Debra Schade attended the Student and Community Voice AI Summit in Anaheim March 20-21, representing CSBA.



During the event, students, educators, parents, technologists and community leaders all grappled with one central question: how do we ensure artificial intelligence (AI) serves our students, not the other way around?

The overarching theme was clear: purpose must come before implementation. As AI rapidly enters classrooms and systems, governance cannot be an afterthought. **School boards play a critical**

role in setting direction, establishing guardrails, and ensuring that innovation aligns with the core mission of public education: student learning, human connection and opportunity. [Read Schade's highlights from the summit »](#)

Third County Board Handbook series webinar to focus on shared governance



The **third installment in CSBA's County Board Handbook webinar series will take place at 11 a.m. on April 8 and feature county superintendents sharing how they see the handbook supporting stronger governance teams, clarifying statutory roles and ensuring alignment in decision-making.** Moderated by CSBA Director of County Board Member Services Mike Walsh, panelists include Derick Lennox,

California County Superintendents senior director of Governmental Relations & Legal Affairs; Mendocino County Office of Education Superintendent Nicole H. Glentzer; and Santa Cruz COE Superintendent Faris Sabbah. [Learn more and register »](#)

The final two webinars will cover **fiscal leadership and governance** (May 7) and **advocacy and community engagement** (June 17).

State update: 2026 Exemplary Dual Enrollment Schools announced



On March 23, **32 schools were recognized by the California Department of Education (CDE) as California Exemplary Dual Enrollment Award winners.** The program highlights schools with exemplary dual enrollment programs and features the practices that contribute to their success. **Schools from districts in Fresno, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San**

Diego and Santa Clara counties are represented.

Awardees must demonstrate strong, collaborative relationships between the participating high school, college, families, community members and industry partners and provide

evidence of “equity, integration of college and district plans and frameworks, dual credit for high school graduation, outcome data, pathways, and student supports,” according to the CDE. [View the list of schools »](#)

In other state news:

- The CDE recently **selected three schools** — Aggeler Community Day School (Los Angeles Unified School District), Carr Lake Community Day School (Salinas Union High School District) and Santa Clara Community Day School (Santa Clara USD) — **as 2026 Model Community Day Schools (MCDS)**. These schools serve students who have been expelled from school or have had attendance or behavior problems. They will be designated as an MCDS for three years, during which time they serve as a resource on the subject.
- Rounding out Arts Education Month in March, the CDE **announced** that **19 schools were selected for 2026 California Exemplary Arts Education Awards** for their commitment to providing adequate resources and funding for arts education. [View the list of schools »](#)

Raise funds needed for real property acquisitions and capital improvements

CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION Program

CSBA's Certificates of Participation program assists California school districts, county offices of education and community college districts in their efforts to raise funds for capital equipment or real property acquisitions and improvements and allows capital project finance or loan refinancing without voter approval. Finance construction, renovations, equipment, energy projects and more with fast and efficient

financing. [Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

April 8 | [Register](#)

May 5 | [Register](#)

June 22 | [Register](#)

Fiscal Responsibility: Key Financial Concepts for New Board Members

April 20 | [Register](#)

The Brown Act

Sponsors



PIPER | SANDLER

April 24 | [Register](#)

June 26 | [Register](#)

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

June 15 and 29 | [Register](#)

In-person events

Coast2Coast

April 13-15 | Washington, D.C. | [Register](#)

**MIG Course 4: Human
Resources/Collective Bargaining**

April 18 | Santa Clara | [Register](#)

April 18 | Chico | [Register](#)

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

May 1 | San Diego | [Register](#)

May 8 | Daly City | [Register](#)

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

May 2 | Chico | [Register](#)

May 2 | San Jose | [Register](#)



[View complete calendar](#)