

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

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State Budget: May Revise keeps Proposition 98 withholding, increases COLA



On May 14, Gov. Gavin Newsom presented the May Revise to his January Budget Proposal, announcing a balanced budget for the next two fiscal years. Notably, revenues — largely driven by higher-than-expected increases in personal income and capital gains — are \$16.5 billion more than projected in January.

The May Revise **contains welcome provisions that will benefit public schools, including a 4.31 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for the Local Control Funding Formula and a \$2.4 billion ongoing increase for special education. Unfortunately, the Governor's proposal maintains a**

withholding of the Prop 98 school funding guarantee and relies on the prolific use of one-time money to inflate funding levels in the short term without providing the stability and predictability schools need to plan effectively for student support. The **increased COLA is intended to support a new proposal to provide 14 weeks of paid pregnancy disability leave** to local educational agency employees.

“Voters approved Proposition 98 to ensure schools receive stable, predictable funding and because they understood something fundamental: that education funding must be protected, especially in difficult fiscal times,” **CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy** said. **“The consequences of undermining Prop 98 and withholding \$3.9 billion from students are very real. You cannot plan responsibly when funding is unpredictable and you cannot build and maintain a stable workforce** when resources are being withheld. Ultimately, our students pay the price.” [Read more about the May Revise »](#)

Legislative update: CSBA-sponsored bills continue to move through Legislature



On May 14, the Legislature’s respective Appropriations Committees dispensed with their suspense files, which compile bills with a price tag of over \$150,000 to be considered in bulk in order to assess their fiscal impact upon the state as a whole. **Of CSBA’s 10 sponsored bills, three have been adopted. Of the remaining seven, the five that were on suspense in the Assembly Appropriations Committee passed**

with flying colors.

Three of CSBA’s SOS for Student Achievement legislative package bills were passed by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and move on to the Assembly Floor: [Assembly Bill 2225](#) (Patel, D-San Diego), which calls for the state to convene a broad stakeholder workgroup to create a plan for greater state-level support to help local educational agencies close achievement gaps; [AB 2514](#) (Ransom, D-Tracy) to create a State of the Achievement Gap Dashboard to inform the public of the state’s progress in implementing the state plan; and [AB 2202](#) (Muratsuchi, D-Torrance), which establishes a Closing the Achievement Gap Commission under the State Board of Education to help develop and recommend a system to monitor the performance of new and existing state programs to support LEAs in closing the achievement gap. [AB 2149](#) (Garcia, D-San Bernardino), which would require the Legislative Analyst’s Office to annually evaluate and report on the alignment of the state plan and the budget, **bypassed the Appropriations Committee and is awaiting referral to the Senate Education Committee.**

CSBA’s co-sponsored reporting burden legislative package is also moving along, with the adoption of [House Resolution 87](#) (Muratsuchi) on April 6. **HR 87 urges the Governor and Legislature to ask questions of purpose, audience, value, feasibility, duplication and duration when analyzing bills. [AB 2008](#) (Patel), which would place a time limit on reporting requirements, passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee and**

moves on to the Assembly Floor. [AB 2496 \(Solache, Jr., D-Lynwood\)](#), which would eliminate the School Accountability Report Card and other duplicative and overlapping reports, passed the Assembly Floor and moves to the Senate. [Read a full rundown of all CSBA-sponsored legislation and other relevant education bills »](#)

New governance tool: CSBA's Board Policy Development Toolkit



The **Board Policy Development Toolkit** has been designed to support and enhance board governance, helping trustees assess and improve their policy literacy, engage with community stakeholders, and create robust and equitable policies for their local educational agencies. The toolkit contains a **Policy Framework**, which provides board members with guidance on policy development, review and implementation, along with a shortened framework document; **individual board member reflection tool**, which helps trustees assess their own policy literacy and practices; **board policy process evaluation tool**, a comprehensive rubric for evaluating existing board policy practices; and a **policy principles quick reference guide**, which helps board members understand how to engage in high-quality policy review and discussion at the dais. [Access the Board Policy Development Toolkit »](#)

Register for the May policy update webinar



Join CSBA's Policy and Governance Technology Services team for a **webinar on May 27 at 11 a.m., "An Inside Look at the May Policy Packet."** This quarterly update will **highlight policies related to weather safety, student safety and employee misconduct, student disturbances and division of governance responsibilities.** The presentation will give attendees essential insight into the process and rationale behind the policy updates to help with a general understanding of the policy changes as well as how they may impact districts or county offices of education. A Q&A session will follow. [Register now »](#)

New resource hub and report for small school districts



Small school districts face unique challenges such as limited resources with limited staff and large expectations. They also hold a **powerful advantage: deep community connection** and



the ability to make a big impact quickly. CSBA recognizes these realities and has **curated resources to support small district leaders and help them navigate specific issues** such as

artificial intelligence, instructional materials and immigration enforcement. [Access these resources »](#)

The Small School District Resources page features a **new research report, *Two Jobs, One Person: Supporting the superintendent-principal***. To better understand the experiences of the more than 260 superintendent-principals who serve in the demanding dual role of leading both district operations and school administration across California, **CSBA's Small School District Advisory Workgroup conducted a statewide survey exploring the challenges, opportunities and support needs tied to the position.** [Read the report »](#)

CSBA Delegates take positions on ballot measures



At the **May 16-17 Delegate Assembly meeting in Sacramento, Delegates voted on five proposed ballot initiatives for the November General Election** that could significantly impact public education funding and governance in California.

One of these measures has qualified while the other measures are currently in the signature-gathering phase. The inclusion of these measures on the ballot is not guaranteed, as they

may not meet the necessary signature threshold or could be pulled from the ballot by the sponsor.

The following initiatives were voted on:

- **Voter approval for local government services: Would increase the voter-approval threshold for locally proposed (voter-initiated) special taxes placed on the ballot by petition from a simple majority (over 50 percent) to a two-thirds vote.** This proposition has qualified for the November election. *Delegates voted to oppose this measure.*
- **Private school vouchers: Would require the state to establish a school voucher program** funded through Proposition 98. *Delegates voted to oppose this measure.*
- **Funding for schools and healthcare: Would make permanent the existing Proposition 55 tax on high-income earners** and generate \$5 billion to \$15 billion in annual state income taxes for TK-14 schools. *Delegates voted to support this measure.*
- **The wealth tax: Would impose a one-time tax on very high wealth individuals and trusts to fund healthcare,** with up to 10 percent of funds going to food assistance and education-related programs. *Delegates voted to oppose this measure.*
- **Proposition 98 protection initiative: Would require all new state-level general taxes passed after Jan. 1, 2026, to be subject to Prop 98** and would ensure that

provision in Prop 98 would apply to the wealth tax if passed. *Delegates voted to support this measure.*

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](#).

In-person events

Masters in Governance (MIG) for County Offices of Education (COE) Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement | Policy & Judicial Review

Aug. 14 | Woodland | [Register](#)

MIG COE Course 3: Finance & Facilities

Aug. 15 | Woodland | [Register](#)

MIG COE 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](#)

Virtual events

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/ Collective Bargaining

June 15 and 29 | [Register](#)

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

June 22 | [Register](#)

Sponsors

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CLIMATEC
MERGING BUILDINGS & TECHNOLOGY

The Brown Act
June 26 | [Register](#)

**MIG Course 5: Community Relations &
Advocacy/ Governance Integration**
July 13 and 27 | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)



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