



CSBA

County Board Member Services Conference

Formerly the CCBE Annual Conference

Program Overview *(Subject to change)*

Thursday, Sept. 12 Pre-conference Trainings	
<p>Noon – 5 p.m.</p>	<p>Pre-conference Registration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Mark Thomas Foyer, Regency Conference Center, Lower Level <p>The pre-conference training courses are available to all members and require separate registration. Sign in for attendance credit, if applicable.</p>
<p>12:30 – 2:30 p.m.</p>	<p>California School Board Ethics Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cypress, Regency Conference Center, Lower Level <p>Learn about California's ethics laws designed to ensure public officials serve with loyalty and integrity. This comprehensive training meets statutory requirements and covers applicable laws includes hypothetical scenarios for deeper understanding and provides resources for further learning. Attendees will receive a certificate of completion. Required every two years under Assembly Bill 2158, this training is mandatory for all school board members, regardless of compensation.</p> <p><i>Presenters: Kristin Lindgren-Bruzzone, General Counsel (CSBA) and Ethan Retan, Deputy General Counsel (CSBA)</i></p>
<p>3 – 5 p.m.</p>	<p>Key Elements of the Brown Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cypress, Regency Conference Center, Lower Level <p>Board members, board presidents, superintendents and executive assistants frequently have questions about the Brown Act. Join this course to explore key elements of this important legislation. This session offers an overview of the essential aspects of the Brown Act and insights into the challenges of complying with open meeting laws, without the depth of a full training.</p> <p><i>Presenter: Robert Tuerck, Chief Legal Counsel, District and County Office of Education Legal Services (CSBA)</i></p>
Friday, Sept. 13 Conference Program	
<p>8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Conference Registration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Monterey Terrace, Hotel Registration Building
<p>9 a.m. – Noon</p>	<p>Advanced Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Seminar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Grove, Hotel Registration Building <p>Conference registrants are invited to join this <i>optional</i> seminar, specifically tailored for education leaders and board members. Gain in-depth knowledge about how the State Legislature works, its timelines and politics, including how to navigate the legislative landscape. Learn how lawsuits and a statewide ballot initiative led to Proposition 98 and why CSBA fights to protect it. Participants will leave with practical skills for effective advocacy, building strategic alliances and driving meaningful change in your community and beyond. This seminar is optional for conference attendees. There is no additional fee. RSVP is required due to limited capacity.</p> <p><i>Presenters: Raquel Madden, Senior Director, External Affairs (CSBA); Patrick O'Donnell, Chief, Governmental Relations (CSBA); and Chris Reeve, Legislative Director (CSBA)</i></p>
<p>10 a.m. – Noon</p>	<p>CSBA Region 14 Caucus Meeting <i>(Invited participants only)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pacific, Hotel Registration Building
<p>Noon – 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Networking Lunch <i>(Limited number of boxed lunches will be available between noon and 1 p.m.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pebble/Beach, Hotel Registration Building
<p>1:30 – 2:45 p.m.</p>	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pebble/Beach, Hotel Registration Building <p><i>Speakers: Albert Gonzalez, CSBA President (Santa Clara USD); Vernon M. Billy, CEO & Executive Director (CSBA); and Mike Walsh, Board Member (Butte COE); Director, County Board Member Services (CSBA)</i></p> <p>Panel Pure Politics</p> <p>Historic budget challenges follow California's largest school investments, primarily due to Proposition 98. Protecting these funds and navigating political dynamics will be key. New legislators and leaders facing budget cuts for the first time add to the complexity. This panel will explore the implications and strategies for school leaders.</p>

	Continued... <i>Presenters: Kevin Gordon, President (Capitol Advisors Group); Jack O'Connell, Partner (Capitol Advisors Group); Lee Angela Reid, Partner (Capitol Advisors Group) Rick Shea, Board President (San Diego COE); and Barrett Snider, Partner (Capitol Advisors Group)</i>
Skills Courses (Choose one) 3 – 4:45 p.m.	<p>Charter Renewals and the Role of the County Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pacific, Hotel Registration Building <p>After a period of exemptions for charter petition renewals, approved charter schools will begin submitting renewals this fall. This session will cover the A-Z of charter renewal, focusing specifically on the county board role. What should county board members pay specific attention to? What types of questions should board members ask? What are the legal requirements for renewal? This session will provide governance teams with up-to-date information to prepare county boards to make charter renewal decisions this year.</p> <p><i>Presenters: Stephanie Medrano Farland, Director of Education Policy (Capitol Advisors Group); Mike Walsh, Board Member (Butte COE); Director, County Board Member Services (CSBA); and Ed Sklar, Attorney (Lozano Smith)</i></p>
	<p>Understanding CSBA and the Governance Structure: How County Board Members Can Engage and Access Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Grove, Hotel Registration Building <p>Join this session to learn about CSBA services, the association's governance structure, and ways to get the most from your membership. CSBA provides a platform for county board members to connect, share ideas, and access resources that can help them be more effective in their roles. CSBA's organizational structure involves an elected Board of Directors and Delegate Assembly that represents member interests, and a range of committees that address specific issues affecting California's students and families.</p> <p><i>Presenters: Amy Christianson, Chief, Member Services (CSBA); Aaron Davis, Director, Membership (CSBA); and Susan Henry, Director, Region 15 (Huntington Beach Union HSD)</i></p>
	<p>Making Your Policies Yours: An Overview of How to Use CSBA's Sample Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cypress, Regency Conference Center, Lower Level <p>Policies are the means by which a county board of education legislates, making it one of the most important responsibilities of a county board member. Policies convey expectations for actions, clarify roles and responsibilities, and communicate county board philosophy and positions. This workshop will focus on the policy development process, starting with how CSBA prioritizes and decides on which sample policies will be updated at a given time, CSBA's update packets, and the county board's review and adoption processes.</p> <p><i>Presenter: Joshua Daniels, Chief, Policy and Governance Technology Services (CSBA)</i></p>
	<p>Why does the County Board need to receive and approve the County Office of Education Budget and receive other financial documents?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Big Sur, Regency Conference Center, Lower Level <p>The budget is the financial plan for meeting the goals and priorities of the County Office. County Boards are legally responsible for providing oversight and transparency of the County Office of Education budget. This active learning workshop will focus on how County Boards effectively fulfill their role while maintaining positive relationships with the County Superintendent and their staff. Participants will learn the purpose of each financial document, how to read and interpret them, and what criteria might be used to make an informed decision to approve or receive them.</p> <p><i>Presenter: Dr. Charles Weis, Facilitator, Masters in Governance (CSBA)</i></p>
5 – 6:30 p.m.	<p>Welcome Reception</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Monterey Terrace, Hotel Registration Building <p>Enjoy this excellent opportunity to mingle with colleagues from across the state. Please note that the no-host bar will only accept credit cards.</p>
Saturday, Sept. 14 Conference Program	
7:30 – 9 a.m.	<p>Networking Breakfast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pebble/Beach, Hotel Registration Building <p>Enjoy the breakfast buffet open to all registered conference attendees.</p>
Breakouts (Choose one) 9 – 10:15 a.m.	<p>School Boards Elevating Community Schools Advocacy and Community Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pacific, Hotel Registration Building <p>Join the Community Schools Initiative to explore the California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP) and discover how school boards play a pivotal role in elevating community school implementation by leveraging their deep community knowledge to foster impactful collaborations, supporting the development of the whole-child. During this session, participants will learn how these efforts lead to improved outcomes for students through an overview of CCSPP and identifying opportunities for advocacy/engagement.</p> <p><i>Presenters: Navdeep Purewal, Director (Community Schools Initiatives)</i></p>

<p>Breakouts continued (Choose one) 9 – 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>Community Engagement Through Interdistrict Attendance Appeals County Board Core ◆ Grove, Hotel Registration Building This presentation will provide attendees with guidance regarding how the interdistrict appeals process can engage a local educational community. The presentation will also cover the technical details of conducting and deciding interdistrict appeals for a county board. <i>Presenter: Michael Tucker, Partner (East Attorneys)</i></p> <p>Engaging the Board of Trustees in Charter Authorization Shared Governance: Roles of the County Board ◆ Cypress, Regency Conference Center, Lower Level In 2023–24, Alameda COE embarked on a year-long learning journey in partnership with the county superintendent, board of trustees and staff members to strengthen charter authorizing capacity across all levels of the organization. Staff members collaborated with a designated charter liaison on the board to review and present data during monthly board meetings, strengthening the foundation for the upcoming year of renewals, potential appeals and material revisions. This session will focus on sharing lessons learned from this year-long process and provide an opportunity for participants to reflect on how to shift the lens of board members from charter governance to charter authorization. <i>Presenters: Alysse Castro, Superintendent (Alameda COE); Juwen Lam, Chief of Accountability Partnerships (Alameda COE) and Cheryl Cook-Kallio, Board Member (Alameda COE)</i></p> <p>CalHOPE Student Support: Growing Our CA SEL Garden Wellness, Safety, and Learning ◆ Big Sur, Regency Conference Center, Lower Level In response to the global health crisis, county offices of education leaders have been collaborating with the Sacramento COE and other partners to elevate high-quality implementation of social-emotional learning in regional hubs across the state. Research has demonstrated that high-quality, well-implemented social-emotional learning reduces mental, emotional and behavioral problems and promotes well-being and prosocial behaviors. This workshop aims to share California’s statewide effort to build capacity among its 58 county offices of education leaders and to amplify systemic social-emotional learning as a key lever for transformational change toward well-being and thriving. Attendees will learn how the unique partnership between health care and education is paving the way for equity-centered systemic social-emotional learning and how the CalHOPE Student Support Community of Practice is building a robust network of leaders and educators across the state. <i>Presenter: Mai Xi Lee, Social Emotional Learning Director (Sacramento COE)</i></p>
<p>Breakouts (Choose one) 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.</p>	<p>“The Truth About Reading” Documentary Screening Advocacy and Community Engagement ◆ Pacific, Hotel Registration Building “The Truth About Reading” is a powerful documentary that exposes the gravity of the illiteracy crisis and the hope found in the available solutions. The film adopts a “train, don’t blame” approach, emphasizing that equipping educators with proper tools is key. After viewing, panelists will discuss what educators can do to tackle curriculum challenges and how new research highlights better methods for reading instruction. Attendees will walk away feeling empowered to take action to end illiteracy. <i>Presenters: Tawny Robinson, Board President (Kings COE) and John Corcoran, Founder of the John Corcoran Foundation, Literacy Advocate</i></p> <p>Forecast for Charter School Authorizers: Issues and Impacts County Board Core ◆ Grove, Hotel Registration Building After a few years of a political and legislative truce among the titans of education politics, the charter community and organized labor, contentious debate has resumed in Sacramento. Two bills covered issues as varied as verified data and a district’s ability to preserve their financial health with the ability to deny a petition based on fiscal impact. This session provides insights into the political environment and potential ways charter school law may be impacted in the future. The discussion will also cover charter school renewals and how current law is being implemented. <i>Presenters: Barrett Snider, Partner (Capitol Advisors Group); Gayle Garbolino-Mojica, Superintendent (Placer COE); and Stephanie Medrano Farland, Director of Education Policy (Capitol Advisors Group)</i></p> <p>County Boards and Superintendents = Shared Governance Shared Governance: Roles of the County Board ◆ Cypress, Regency Conference Center, Lower Level County boards of education and county superintendents have both separate and shared roles and responsibilities. To serve students effectively, both must work collaboratively. Attendees of this workshop session will receive a comprehensive overview of the roles and responsibilities of county boards of education and where collaboration with county superintendents is critical. The session will include in-depth discussions of critical issues such as budget approval, court schools, charter and student appeals and setting the superintendent’s salary. <i>Presenters: David Patterson, Board Member (Placer COE); Beverly Gerard, Board Member (San Mateo COE); and Juliana Feriani, Board Member (Tuolumne COE)</i></p> <p>County Educational Innovations Wellness, Safety, and Learning ◆ Big Sur, Regency Conference Center, Lower Level In this panel, board members and superintendents from county offices of education in Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Diego will discuss cutting-edge innovations established in each county. Los Angeles will describe the AI Task Force that explored ways to assist local educational agencies with assessments, vetting of vendors, pilot testing, empowering staff, communications and budget through emergent artificial intelligence. Sacramento will discuss their partnership with the state Department of Public Health to place mental health clinicians at every school, paid for by reimbursements. San Diego will</p>

<p>Breakouts continued (Choose one) 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.</p>	<p>Continued... describe their Innovations Center Global Academy to provide U.S. and Mexico high school diplomas for U.S students living across the Mexican border. <i>Presenters: Debra Duardo, Superintendent (Los Angeles COE); Brent Malicote, Associate Superintendent (Sacramento COE); Monte Perez, Board Member (Los Angeles COE); and Christopher Williams, Executive Director, Mental Health and Wellness (Sacramento COE)</i></p>
<p>Noon – 1 p.m.</p>	<p>Networking Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pebble/Beach, Hotel Registration Building Enjoy the lunch buffet open to all registered conference attendees.</p>
<p>1 – 2 p.m.</p>	<p>Keynote Effective Governance at the County Board of Education Level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pebble/Beach, Hotel Registration Building In this talk, county board members will gain essential strategies for effective governance, tailored to their unique responsibilities and challenges. Former CSBA executive director, education leader and governance expert Davis Campbell will share best practices for leadership, collaboration and decision making to enhance board effectiveness and drive positive outcomes for all children in the state. <i>Presenter: Davis Campbell, UC Davis School of Education Dean's Board of Advisors</i></p>
<p>Breakouts (Choose one) 2:15 – 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Understanding and Advocating for Literacy for All Students Advocacy and Community Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pacific, Hotel Registration Building The topic of reading has been center stage for educators, families, legislators and advocates for years. County boards of education have an opportunity to help educate communities on current reading initiatives and to serve as a conduit between local educators and legislators on this topic. The San Mateo COE has been leading this work with school districts, and its board has prioritized reading instruction and serving students with dyslexia in their advocacy work. In this session, the San Mateo County team will provide an overview of the science of reading, address myths and misconceptions, and offer recommendations on building community support for integrated approaches to reading instruction. The team will also address the state requirement for districts to conduct universal screening for reading beginning with the 2025–26 school year and share materials board members can use in their education and advocacy work. <i>Presenters: Beverly Gerard, Board Member (San Mateo COE); Chad Slife, Coordinator, Center for Access and Engagement (San Mateo COE); and Maria Vlahiotis, Coordinator, English Language Arts (San Mateo COE)</i></p> <p>The Latest on Charters, Including Renewals and Appeals County Board Core <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Grove, Hotel Registration Building Charter petitions for new schools and renewals are back, and so are appeals; but the rules have changed. Charter oversight is under high scrutiny than ever. In this session, attendees will learn the latest from the California Department of Education-funded Charter Authorizer Support Initiative on the county board's role, especially in high-stakes decisions with big implications for students. Learn about changes in law, board tips and successful authorizing best practices and tools that county offices, large or small, can replicate and adapt locally. Bring your questions! <i>Presenters: Tom Hutton, Executive Director (California Charter Authorizing Professionals); David Patterson, Board Member (Placer COE); Mefula Fairley, Executive Director, Charter Schools (Santa Clara COE); and Michelle Johnson, Associate Director, Charter Schools (Santa Clara COE)</i></p> <p>Understanding the Legal and Practical Aspects of Setting the Superintendent's Salary Shared Governance: Roles of the County Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cypress, Regency Conference Center, Lower Level This session will cover the legal requirements and practical considerations for setting the salary and remuneration package of the county superintendent. The county board of education plays a crucial role in ensuring that the superintendent's services promote student success and the educational programs in the county. However, any changes to the superintendent's salary or remuneration package must follow strict legal guidelines, including Education Code 1209 and Government Code 54956. Attendees will gain a thorough understanding of these legal requirements and learn about the practical considerations involved in setting the superintendent's salary. The session will also cover the Attorney General's opinion on salary changes during the Superintendent's term and the importance of seeking legal counsel before making any salary decreases. <i>Presenters: Matt Juhl-Darlington, Attorney (Dannis, Woliver & Kelley) and John R. Yeh, Partner (Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP)</i></p> <p>New MCOE ELP Discovery STEAM Program Ignites Curiosity Wellness, Safety, and Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Big Sur, Regency Conference Center, Lower Level Monterey COE's new Early Learning Discovery STEAM Program, opened in conjunction with a partnering community college, is designed to ignite curiosity, foster a love for learning and offer hands-on activities in STEAM that encourage creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving for the county's very young learners. In this session, learn what it takes to create a nurturing environment, guided by expert educators, which focuses on identifying and supporting special education needs, ensuring every child thrives in an inclusive environment and discovers the joy of exploration and learning from an early age. <i>Presenters: Dr. Deneen Guss, Superintendent (Monterey COE); Janet Wohlgemuth, Board President (Monterey COE); Sonia Jaramillo, Senior Director, Early Learning Program (Monterey COE); Dora McKean, Consultant, Early Learning Program (Monterey COE); Isabel Valtierra, Assistant Director, Early Learning Program (Monterey COE)</i></p>

Breakouts (Choose one) 3:45 – 5 p.m.	<p>Are You Prepared?: U.S. Department of Education Issues Long-Awaited Final Title IX Regulations County Board Core</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pacific, Hotel Registration Building <p>On April 19, 2024, the U.S. Department of Education released the highly anticipated Final Title IX Regulations. These regulations come after the Department released the proposed regulations in July 2022. The new regulations went into effect on Aug.1, 2024, and apply to complaints of sex discrimination regarding alleged conduct that occurs on or after that date. Adherence to the various requirements under the new regulations will require collaboration with your local educational agency's superintendent, Title IX coordinators, student services administrators, special education administrators, board policy subcommittees and/or legal counsel to determine how to effectively implement the 2024 Title IX Regulations. In this informative session, lawyers will discuss what this means and how it will impact your LEA. <i>Presenters: Georgelle Cuevas, Partner (Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo); and Mellissa Gallegos, Partner (Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo)</i></p>
	<p>Roadmap to the Future: Changing the Trajectory for Children and Youth in Yolo County Advocacy and Community Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Grove, Hotel Registration Building <p>In April 2022, Yolo COE embarked on a multiyear countywide initiative for children, youth and families as the lead agency. Executing on the vision of the ambitious effort has led to the development of a complex initiative with multiple agencies and partners, including school districts, elected officials and community leaders. In this session, attendees will hear from the project team as they reflect on what they have learned about the role of the COE in leading a countywide initiative and how it has changed internal operations for the county office. <i>Presenters: Garth Lewis, Superintendent (Yolo COE); Maria Arvizu-Espinoza, Deputy Superintendent (Yolo COE); Anthony Volkar, Public Information Officer (Yolo COE); and Shelton Yip, Board Member (Yolo COE)</i></p>
	<p>Innovative Ways that County Offices of Education Can Support Education Workforce Housing Funding, Finance, and Human Capital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cypress, Regency Conference Center, Lower Level <p>Education workforce housing is usually framed as an issue for districts to address, but many COEs have found ways to address the housing unaffordability crisis that educators in their counties face. In this presentation, you will hear from a panel of county trustees and staff on their distinct approaches to education workforce housing. Participants will learn strategies including creating a joint powers authority (JPA) with a local district, buying and renovating units for educator use, facilitating a countywide network and more. <i>Presenters: Greg Francis, Senior Program Manager, Education Workforce Housing (CSBA); Sara Hinkley, California Program Manager (Center for Cities + Schools, UC Berkeley); Ken Lippi, Deputy Superintendent (Marin COE); Consuelo Lara, Board Member (Contra Costa COE); and Sabrena Rodriguez, Board Member (Ventura USD)</i></p>
	<p>Student Mental Health and Wellness: Multiple Paths, One Destination Wellness, Safety, and Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Big Sur, Regency Conference Center, Lower Level <p>While there has been a slow but growing understanding of the mental health challenges facing K-12 students, COVID magnified the issues and helped accelerate a broader understanding of the imperative to do much more about student well-being and mental health. There is no one perfect way to provide mental health and wellness services to students but all good programs have certain elements in common — good people, sufficient resources, consistent practices, strong relationships and open communication. This session will help board members understand the approaches and innovation being implemented across California that are among the best practices in local school agencies and will demonstrate how programs must intersect and connect to best serve our students. <i>Presenters: Jeremiah Aja, Director, Executive Communications (Wellness Together); Sheri Coburn, Executive Director (California School Nurses Organization); Scott Kuykendall, Superintendent (Stanislaus COE); Dr. Jami Parsons, Deputy Executive Director (California Association of School Counselors); and Lee Angela Reid, Partner (Capitol Advisors Group)</i></p>
Sunday, Sept. 15 Conference Program	
7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	<p>Networking Breakfast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pebble/Beach, Hotel Registration Building <p>Enjoy the breakfast buffet open to all registered conference attendees.</p>
8:30 – 11 a.m.	<p>Panel From Awareness to Action: Tackling Human Trafficking Together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pebble/Beach, Hotel Registration Building <p><i>Presenters: Ashley Chesney, Survivor Leader, Author and Advocate; Dr. Deneen Guss, Superintendent (Monterey COE); Janet Wohlgemuth, Board President (Monterey COE); John McPherson, Region 14 Director (CSBA) and Board Member (Monterey COE); Annette Yee Steck, Board Member (Monterey COE); and Justin Parker, Program Coordinator, Foster Youth (Monterey COE)</i></p>
	<p>Transitional Working Group Updates & Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pebble/Beach, Hotel Registration Building

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Presenters: Dr. Ramon Flores, Board Member (Ventura COE); Aisha Knowles, Board Member (Alameda COE); Michael Teasdale, Director-at-Large, County (Ventura COE); Mike Walsh, Board Member (Butte COE); Director, County Board Member Services (CSBA); and John McPherson, Region 14 Director (CSBA) and Board Member (Monterey COE)