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Mao Misty Her

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – DECEMBER 20, 2024

TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Interim Superintendent, Mao Misty Her

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT – Mao Misty Her, Interim Superintendent

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S-2	Ambra O'Connor	Winter Break Office Closures

BUSINESS & FINANCIAL SERVICES – Patrick Jensen, Chief Officer

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BFS-3	Kim Kelstrom	Joint Health Management Board Financial Updates

ENGAGEMENT & EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS – Wendy McCulley, Chief Officer

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ID-1	Marie Williams, Ed.D.	Retiree Contract for Estella Reyes
ID-2	Marie Williams, Ed.D.	Update on College and Career Readiness Center Facility Improvements

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number S-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Mao Misty Her, Interim Superintendent
Cabinet Approval:

Date: December 20, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3884

Regarding: Interim Superintendent Calendar Highlights

The purpose of this communication is to inform the Board of notable calendar items:

- Met with Executive Cabinet
- Attended the Central Valley Community Foundation Board Meeting
- Met with Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, Michelle Copher, Clovis Unified Superintendent, Corrine Folmer, and Central Unified Superintendent, Ketti Davis
- Read at the Holiday Reading event at Centennial Elementary school
- Met with labor partners
- Attended the Holiday Family Luncheon at Phoenix Elementary School

Approved by Interim Superintendent

Mao Misty Her 

Date: 12/20/24

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number S-2

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Ambra O'Connor, Chief of Staff
Cabinet Approval:

Date: December 20, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3838

Regarding: Winter Break Office Closures

The purpose of this communication is to notify the Board of planned office closures during Winter Break.

The Offices of the Superintendent and the Board of Education will be closed to the public December 23, 2024, through January 03, 2025, and will reopen on Monday, January 06, 2025. Although these offices will be closed to the public, several employees will be working on various days and Board packets will be delivered on Monday, December 30, 2024.

Approved by Interim Superintendent

Mao Misty Her




Date: 12/20/24

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number BFS-1

From the Office of the Superintendent

To the Members of the Board of Education

Prepared by: Kim Kelstrom, Chief Executive 

Cabinet Approval: 

Date: December 20, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3907

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for December 13, 2024

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board a copy of School Services of California's (SSC) Weekly Updates. Each week SSC provides an update and commentary on different educational fiscal issues. In addition, they include different articles related to education issues. The SSC Weekly Updates for December 13, 2024 are attached and include the following articles:

- PPIC Releases Their Evaluation of the LCFF – December 12, 2024
- Will Filling Out Student Aid Form Target Undocumented Parents for Trump's Mass Deportations? – December 12, 2024
- The Clock is Ticking, Ethnic Studies Remains an Unfunded Mandate; What Will Newsom Do? – December 12, 2024

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Kim Kelstrom at 457-3907.

Approved by Interim Superintendent

Mao Misty Her 

Date: 12/20/24



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DATE: December 13, 2024

TO: Misty Her
Interim Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

RE: ***SSC's Sacramento Weekly Update***

Bill Introduced to Protect Schools from ICE

Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance), last year's Assembly Education Committee chair and the presumed chair for 2025, has introduced a bill to limit the ability of officers from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to enter school and preschool sites.

Assembly Bill (AB) 49 prohibits local educational agencies (LEAs) from allowing an ICE officer to enter a school site without providing valid identification, a written statement of purpose, and a valid judicial warrant. The bill also requires an ICE officer to receive approval from the superintendent of the school district, the superintendent of the county office of education, or the principal of the charter school before entering school grounds. If the ICE officer meets the requirements, the bill limits the officer's access to facilities where students are not present. The bill includes identical protections for any state or federally supported childcare preschool program.

AB 49 is part of California Democrats' effort to push back against the presumed immigration policies of the incoming Trump Administration. We expect that there will be similar measures introduced when the Legislature comes back for session in January, when they will also be conducting a special session to bolster resources for impending litigation against the Trump Administration.

Biden Signs FAFSA Legislation

On Wednesday, President Joe Biden signed the FAFSA Deadline Act, which requires the U.S. Department of Education to make October 1 the official launch date each year of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). If agency officials cannot meet that deadline, the secretary of education is required to testify before Congress and explain any delays and estimate their potential costs to families.

The bill was introduced in direct response to all of the issues and delays that students and parents experienced with the launch of the new version of the FAFSA the past two years. While the application has typically been released by

October 1, that date was never a hard deadline in law and due to the issues experienced by students this year, lawmakers wanted to codify that October 1 deadline into federal law.

PPIC Releases Latest Monthly Survey

The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) released its latest monthly [survey](#) this week, which provided some insight into how Californians feel about their economic well-being. The survey was conducted November 6-22, 2024, and included 2,344 California adult residents with a 3.1% margin of error.

According to PPIC pre-election polling, the economy was the top issue facing Californians. With the election over, 84% of likely voters say that getting costs and inflation under control should be a “very high” or “high” priority for President-elect Donald Trump. A similar number of likely voters (86%) also believe that building an economy that gives every American a chance to succeed should be a “very high” or “high” priority for the incoming administration.

Turning to California elected officials, the survey found that just over half (52%) of likely voters approve of the way that Governor Gavin Newsom is handling the issue of jobs and the economy, while 48% of likely voters disapprove. Conversely, less than half of likely voters (46%) said that they approve of the way that the California Legislature is handling the economy, while 52% say they disapprove of the way the lawmakers are handling the state’s economy.

When asked if things in California are generally headed in the right or wrong direction, less than half (46%) of likely voters said things are headed in the right direction and 53% said things are headed in the wrong direction. Additionally, nearly six in ten likely voters (57%) think that California will experience bad economic times during the next 12 months, versus 41% who think that the state will experience good economic times over the next year.

Turning to personal finances, 51% of likely voters say that they are about the same financially than they were a year ago, while one in five voters say that they are better off, and 29% say that they are worse off. When asked how they feel their finances will look a year from now, 52% of likely voters predict that their family will be about same, a quarter believe that they will be better off, and 22% think that they will be worse off.

When asked whether today’s California children will be better or worse off financially than their parents, nearly three-quarters of likely voters (74%) say that today’s kids will be worse off compared to just 24% who think they will be better off.

The survey shows that despite the low unemployment rate and cooling inflation, Californians are still anxious and pessimistic about the economy heading into the New Year.

Leilani Aguinaldo

PPIC Releases Their Evaluation of the LCFF

By John Gray
School Services of California Inc.'s *Fiscal Report*
December 12, 2024

The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) is a nonpartisan think tank whose mission is to inform and improve public policy in California through independent, objective, nonpartisan research. In its November 2024 report, the PPIC examined California's Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) implemented over ten years ago. The report focused more specifically on recent policy changes and what appears to be a growing mismatch between free or reduced-price meals (FRPM) and other poverty indicators that may complicate the LCFF's ability to target resources based on student need effectively and equitably.

Some of the major themes noted in the report include:

- The gap between FRPM and other poverty measures has grown over time. While poverty rates have decreased in the last decade, FRPM enrollment has grown slightly.
- "FRPM remains a strong predictor of student test scores. But this is less true for non-test score outcomes like graduation, A–G completion, and absenteeism; broader socioeconomic measures are more highly associated with need across all dimensions."
- "Equity implications of the LCFF formula changes depending on how concentrated poverty is funded. Targeting improves with formulas that provide additional funding for students who fall into multiple categories of disadvantage—such as English Learners (ELs)—and formulas that define low-income status automatically via participation in other social services like food assistance."
- "FRPM does not always capture or reflect nuances in districts' socioeconomic characteristics. Differences between FRPM and comparable Census-based income estimates can be partially explained by differences in the share of lower- to middle-income students just above the FRPM-eligibility cutoff."

The timing of PPIC's latest analysis on the LCFF corresponds to the Assembly's fall discussion of its foundational tenets and deep look at its components, such as the reliability of FRPM as the LCFF's proxy for student poverty.

The full PPIC report can be found [here](#).

Note: Many undocumented parents are fearful that the incoming Trump Administration will use FAFSA data to deport them.

Will Filling Out Student Aid Form Target Undocumented Parents for Trump's Mass Deportations?

By Mikhail Zinshteyn
CalMatters
December 12, 2024

Incoming president Donald Trump has vowed to deport all of the country's undocumented residents.

For students who are eyeing college, his presidency represents a potentially brutal Sophie's Choice if they have undocumented parents: Risk exposing them to a possible immigration dragnet by completing the federal Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, or leave thousands of dollars in cash for school on the table.

While researchers and advocates have yet to hear anything concrete from Trump representatives about using financial aid data to target undocumented residents, they know families are afraid.

"Front line staff that work directly with students are reporting that students and parents are asking them if the FAFSA is safe" given Trump's campaign promises of mass deportation, said Marcos Montes, policy director for Southern California College Attainment Network, a coalition of nonprofits that help students apply for college admission and financial aid.

The National College Attainment Network said those fears are justified. It "cannot assure mixed-status students and families that data submitted to the US Department of Education, as part of the FAFSA process, will continue to be protected," a message on its website read late last month.

That fear is exacerbated by Trump's claims Sunday to NBC News that the only way to deport undocumented parents whose children are citizens is to have the whole family leave. "I don't want to be breaking up families," Trump said. "So the only way you don't break up the family is you keep them together and you have to send them all back." How Trump can force out citizens, including those with parents not born in the U.S., is unclear; experts say ending birthright citizenship would violate the U.S. Constitution.

An estimated 3.3 million Californians live in mixed-status households, including 1 in 5 children under 18, according to data from Equity Research Institute, a USC research group.

A California workaround

Experts say California students eligible for financial aid can minimize the possible harm to their undocumented parents. Unlike the FAFSA, the state aid application is not shared with federal agencies. That policy is among the various protections in place under California's so-called "sanctuary" laws that limit the use of state resources to help federal immigration enforcement. Several legal experts told CalMatters the Trump administration would have to clear a high legal bar to gain access to those state records and that court cases have put restrictions on how wide a net immigration enforcement agencies can cast in their search for data.

Because the deadline for state financial aid is in March — though there are plans to move it to April — and the federal deadline is much later, Californians attending college here should complete the state application first, said Montes. Then they should wait to see if the Trump administration will break precedent and begin using the federal financial aid data for immigration enforcement purposes.

That strategy is also endorsed by Madeleine Villanueva, the interim higher education director at Immigrants Rising, a California-based advocacy and research group focused on undocumented residents. She stressed that there's a bevy of analysts and immigrant rights advocates who'll be watching for updates from the Trump administration.

"Unfortunately, we can't say what's going to happen federally," she said. But the California state aid application, known as the California Dream Act Application, is an "extra layer of safety when it comes to applying for financial aid."

The California Student Aid Commission, an agency with the sole goal of getting students more money, suggests students may need to forgo federal aid given the risks to their families. The agency, which runs the state's financial aid programs, wrote in a memo last month that completing just the state aid application is a "viable option" for students in mixed-status homes who have "fears of adverse action by federal immigration enforcement."

However, taking a wait-and-see approach with federal aid means California campuses won't have a full picture of how much aid a student is likely to get when they send out financial aid estimates to admitted students in the spring. The University of California's central office worries that students may not complete the FAFSA and lose out on aid. Both UC and the California State University indicated to CalMatters they'll process either form students submit and will work with students who file their federal applications later.

About 400,000 Californians receive the Cal Grant, which waives tuition at the public universities and partially at private colleges. That grant plus the state's Middle Class Scholarship can add up to more than \$17,000 in aid in one year. The state aid application ensures students fearful of the federal application can still receive the state support for which they're eligible.

The University of California's undergraduate student government is also on edge about FAFSA. The lack of a firm firewall "could put certain students at risk," said Saanvi Arora, external vice president for UC Berkeley's student government and a board member for the systemwide student government.

Understanding the FAFSA risk

Students who are citizens and permanent residents are eligible for up to \$7,400 in Pell grants and access to federal loans that come with repayment protections that are often stronger than what the private sector offers. To receive this aid, students who live with their parents need them to fill out portions of the federal aid application. More recently, parents without Social Security numbers have been asked to indicate they lack one and then must answer a set of questions about their identity.

The U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Homeland Security, which also oversees the country's immigration enforcement, have a regularly renewed agreement limiting the use of a student's personal information. Because students need to be citizens or permanent residents to get financial aid, a signed agreement between the two departments states that students' information they submit for FAFSA will be matched against an eligible immigration list called SAVE. It's one that hundreds of state, local and federal

agencies use to determine whether an individual is eligible for federal benefits. Neither SAVE nor the agency that operates it, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, are used for immigration enforcement purposes.

Conceptually, it's not hard to use that federal financial aid data for enforcement purposes, according to experts who spoke with CalMatters. However, doing so would be a major break from current protocol.

Under the Biden administration, the U.S. Department of Education "has not provided and will not provide information gathered through FAFSA to any federal immigration-related agency for law enforcement activities," wrote in an email James Kvaal, who holds the number two spot at the U.S. Department of Education and is the top higher education officer in the federal government. However, he wrote, "students and their families should make the decisions that are right for them."

That does not "sound like a robust encouragement to go ahead and fill out the FAFSA," said Bob Shireman, who was a senior higher education official in the education department during the Obama administration.

The agreement between the departments "is not much of a firewall, it is more like a picket fence," Shireman said in an interview. The agreement can be changed in a matter of months, he said, "so if the next administration wants to use education department records to identify people who may have an immigration status that could subject them to deportation, I don't see anything preventing that from happening."

Federal laws limit the data sharing that can occur between the U.S. Department of Education and law enforcement agencies, said Shelveen Ratnam, a spokesperson for the California Student Aid Commission. Ratnam said that current law "strictly prohibits" agencies in possession of personally identifiable information, like parental data, from releasing that information, with few exceptions. Some other laws and policies also apply and the gist is that an agency can only use the personal information of others in ways that support the mission of that federal agency.

But if the U.S. Department of Education gets subpoenaed for information, the department's "responses and likelihood of challenging the demand for information are unknown," according to Ratnam.

Even analysts who say using parental FAFSA information is an inefficient way to find possible undocumented parents urge caution. They say it's not out of the question that a Trump administration could try to make use of that data for immigration enforcement purposes.

While "it's sort of methodologically flawed as a way to identify individuals," said Corinne Kentor, an immigration and higher education researcher, "that doesn't mean that it won't be attempted. But I think it is probably harder and more work than other avenues."

California Dream Act Application is safer

The California Dream Act Application has more protections than the federal application. Though originally designed to allow undocumented students who are California residents to apply for state college benefits, the application in 2024 was modified to permit any student who ran into problems with the federal application to at least apply for state grants. The change stemmed from colossal data issues with the federal application this year that prevented students with parents without Social Security numbers from completing the FAFSA.

According to a 1988 federal appeals court decision, "the government can't enforce a subpoena that is just 'fishing' for data about undocumented people," said Ahilan Arulanantham, a scholar on immigration law at

UCLA. That's in contrast to "trying to gather information on a particular individual that the government has reason to suspect is here in violation of the immigration laws."

Arulanantham also said that a federal agency asking California's financial aid agency to search databases for undocumented students could run afoul of the 10th Amendment.

Finally, the state's financial aid agency could challenge a judicial order or subpoena that seeks student records on the grounds that it's not specific enough and violates the Fourth Amendment's protections against unreasonable search and seizure, Ratnam said.

Now what does all this mean for students with undocumented parents who already submitted FAFSA information last year? Their information is already in government systems. Should they continue to file their FAFSA? Experts had few answers. They said that's a decision that only families can decide together given the varying protections available.

Arora, the UC student government member, is sympathetic to those households. It's "absolutely a tough question," she said. That's one reason she wants UC officials to bolster existing immigration legal aid services, such as bringing in more lawyers.

It's one answer she has to her own question: "How do we mitigate retribution that's likely to happen against those students?"

Note: Beginning in 2025-26, high schools are required to begin offering students a semester of ethnic studies; however, the legislation that established this mandate stated it would only go into effect "upon an appropriation of funds by the Legislature."

The Clock Is Ticking, Ethnic Studies Remains an Unfunded Mandate; What Will Newsom Do?

*Governor could tie funding required for ethnic studies to strengthening the
law's guardrails aimed at Liberated Ethnic Studies*

By John Fensterwald
EdSource
December 12, 2024

Three years ago, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation mandating that high schools offer ethnic studies "upon appropriation," starting in 2025-26.

Now, those two words — upon appropriation — loom large. The deadline to offer a semester of ethnic studies in 2025-26 is only seven months away, and requiring the course for graduation is due to begin with the graduating class of 2029-30.

Since 2022, the California Department of Finance has taken the position that there has been no appropriation to implement the course, and some other legislators agree — no money, no requirement to develop or offer classes. As a result, school districts might conclude that the law's "guardrails" intended to prevent bias,

bigotry, and discrimination from seeping into instruction could be ignored. However, the guardrails language was copied from existing state education statutes (Education Code 220), which would still prevail.

That lack of funding is creating uncertainty about the future of ethnic studies and suspense about whether Newsom will deliver the money next month when he proposes his 2025-26 budget — and, as importantly, whether he will condition funding on amendments to the law (Assembly Bill 101), including those championed by the Jewish Legislative Caucus.

“I come at this with a fresh set of eyes. It’s pretty clear that the law only really takes effect if there is funding for this during the budgetary process. There has been no budget allocated for that,” said Assemblymember David Alvarez, D-San Diego, who was elected to the Legislature in 2022 and chairs the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance while serving on the Assembly Budget and Education committees.

“But that doesn’t mean that that won’t happen in the budget that’s to be released in January, which then funds the 2025-26 school year, which is when this would take effect,” he said. “I would expect it would” be funded.

Options ‘upon appropriation’

There is no statutory definition of “upon appropriation,” which is sometimes inserted in bills requiring significant funding. That leaves the governor and Legislature several options, according to legislative staff. One would be a significant one-time investment with dedicated funding in subsequent years. Another would be to eliminate “upon appropriation” by amending the bill — although that wouldn’t eliminate the state’s obligation to fund the mandate. The Legislature could then leave it to the Commission on State Mandates to decide how much should be reimbursed annually. Districts have complained that the commission tends to lowball reimbursements.

Advisers to and spokespeople for Newsom refused to discuss the unfunded mandate or what to expect in January, and leaders of one of the strongest advocates of ethnic studies, the controversial Liberated Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Consortium, aren’t answering requests for comment. An administrator of the San Diego County Office of Education, which is coordinating state grants to develop ethnic studies course curriculums, also declined to comment.

Finance Dept. states its position

A spokesperson for Newsom referred EdSource to the Department of Finance, which, in turn, pointed to a link to a Feb. 22, 2022, webcast of Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance hearing ([watch between 2:57 to 3:07](#)).

At the hearing, then-Assemblymember Kevin McCarthy, D-Sacramento, a strong proponent of ethnic studies, noted that the 2021-22 state budget included \$50 million that would be disbursed to school districts to “launch this work.”

“Do we think that’s the adequate amount we need to make sure we have a successful ethnic studies requirement for high schools throughout California?” he asked state officials.

Amber Alexander, representing the Department of Finance, clarified that the \$50 million was one-time funding for districts to create, not implement, the graduation mandate. “Nor,” she added, “does the Finance Department believe the \$50 million would be sufficient, should the mandate progress.”

“I know that we have some debate about that, and I’m not sure why you need an appropriation because you’re going to have that class taught in a high school anyway, and you’ll have a teacher teaching that class as opposed to another class,” McCarthy responded. “Just simple mathematics; I don’t get it yet.”

Turning to Mike Torres, director of the curriculum frameworks division of the California Department of Education, McCarthy asked, “Do we think that we need, uh, any other resources? Um, on the lead-up to, uh, ethnic studies throughout California?”

Torres answered, “Gearing up for this requirement is likely to be a multi-year process with costs exceeding \$50 million statewide (for districts) to make that happen.”

In an analysis of the financial impact of AB 101, the Finance Department estimated the implementation cost of ethnic studies at \$272 million. Alvares said that the 2021 ballpark estimate would need to be recalculated, and he wouldn’t hazard a guess of the cost other than to say it would be well over \$100 million annually to reimburse districts.

Jewish caucus finds an ally in Newsom

Despite uncertainty over funding, intense work continues on developing ethnic studies curricula and piloting courses throughout the state. This week, the California Department of Education launched a website dedicated to Southeast Asian ethnic studies, including separate K-12 lesson plans exploring Vietnamese, Cambodian and Hmong histories and experiences. Chapters on Native American studies are planned for next fall.

The site was developed by the county education offices in Orange, Humboldt and San Diego counties, with \$14 million in state funding from the 2021-22 budget. San Diego County has also hosted multiple series of ethnic studies webinars for teachers.

Meanwhile, the spread of the liberated ethnic studies curriculum developed as an alternative to the state’s Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Framework has escalated tensions between its creator and promoter, the Liberated Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Consortium and the Jewish Legislative Caucus. The “liberated” version has been a focus of several lawsuits (see [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)) brought by Jewish families and supportive law firms charging that its one-sided, ideological opposition to the state of Israel and its ongoing war with Hamas in Gaza has fostered antisemitism in schools.

Critics say that “liberated” ethnic studies view race relations in America as a continuing struggle against white supremacy and its oppression of people of color. It stresses the importance for students to challenge capitalism and the forces of imperialism, including Israel, which the curriculum calls a modern outpost of “settler colonialism.”

At the urging of the Legislative Jewish Caucus, the Legislature wrote into AB 101 that school districts should not use unadopted portions of earlier drafts of the model curriculum — an oblique reference to the elements of the liberated curriculum that were excised from the first draft. Advocates of liberated ethnic studies charged that the clause and other “guardrails” seek to squelch their free speech.

But the Jewish caucus has found an ally in Newsom. In August 2023, Brooks Allen, executive director of the State Board of Education and a Newsom adviser, wrote in a memo to school districts, “We have been advised, however, that some vendors are offering materials that may not meet the requirements of AB 101, particularly the second requirement (not reflecting or promoting any bias, bigotry, or discrimination), an important

guardrail highlighted when the bill was signed. Accordingly, before any curriculum or instructional materials for ethnic studies courses are selected, we strongly encourage you to closely scrutinize them to ensure that they meet the above requirements.”

Newsom cites the need to include lessons about Jewish Americans in the ethnic studies curriculum in his 17-page Golden State Plan to Combat Antisemitism, issued in April 2024. It also includes, “The Governor will work with the Jewish Caucus and Legislature to pursue legislation strengthening the guardrails established by AB 101 to ensure all ethnic studies courses are free from bias, bigotry, and discriminatory content.”

Second attempt at tighter guardrails

That is the intent of Assembly Bill 2918, authored by Assemblymembers Rick Zbur, D-Los Angeles, and Dawn Addis, D-Morro Bay. Introduced late in the last legislative session, it ran aground amid opposition from the liberated consortium and the California Teachers Association as well as criticism that it short-circuited the full legislative process. Addis and Zbur promised to start from scratch and confer with opponents and Latino, Black, and Asian legislative caucuses.

The bill called for strengthening vague wording of the guardrails as well as requirements that more opportunities for the public to weigh in on the development of local ethnic studies courses be created before a final vote for adoption by school boards. This has not been the case in some districts and is central to a lawsuit against Santa Ana Unified.

Newsom has not given any sign of whether he would treat funding and amending AB 101 separately or use funding as leverage for added protections. Zbur, a member of the Jewish caucus, said he’s not calling for that approach.

“I want ethnic studies to move forward. The entire Jewish caucus supported ethnic studies when it came up (for a vote). We (he and Addis) don’t view this in a context of leverage,” he said. “We actually have faith that the education unions and our colleagues want to ensure that we meet the goals of ethnic studies in a manner that’s appropriate for all students, including Jewish students.”

But Alvarez, who said he is “fully supportive of ensuring that the guardrails exist from the Jewish caucus perspective,” added that it’s appropriate to revise AB 101 while discussing how to fund it.

“We have an opportunity to ensure we get this right,” he said. “And so as we go forward and implement, we need to make sure that we do so in the best way possible. It’s germane to the requirement that it needs to be funded.”

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number BFS-2

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education

Date: December 20, 2024

Prepared by: Kim Kelstrom, Chief Executive

Phone Number: 457-3907

Cabinet Approval:

Regarding: December Legislative Committee Meeting

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with information shared at the December 12, 2024, Legislative Committee Meeting.

Budget and Economic Update

Ms. Aguinaldo provided a budget legislative update.

The Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) released its fiscal outlook in November. The LAO predicts a balanced budget in 2025/26, however does warn beyond 2025/26, there will be deficits to contend with. In 2024/25, Proposition 98 is projected to be \$3.0 billion higher than planned and any surplus is anticipated to be deposited into the Rainy-Day fund. Finally, the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2025/26 is anticipated to be 2.46% (previous estimate was 2.86%) based on six of the eight components that calculate the COLA.

President-elect Donald Trump announced Linda McMahon as his pick for Secretary Department of Education to implement Trump's education platform at the federal level, which includes ending tenure, Universal School Choice, overhauling discipline standards, and close the Department of Education.

In 2018, AB 699 required all districts to adopt a policy limiting assistance to immigration officials. Currently AB 49 is being introduced for the 2025 legislative session, which would prohibit school officials from allowing an employee of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement to enter a school site without providing identification, a written statement of purpose, a judicial warrant, and receiving approval from the superintendent.

The School Services Legislative Committee December 2024 report is attached. The next Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2025.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Kim Kelstrom at 457-3907.

Approved by Interim Superintendent

Mao Misty Her



Date: 12/20/24

Fresno Unified School District

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2024**

2025-2026 Legislative Session

Prepared By:

**Leilani Aguinaldo
Director, Governmental Relations**



School Services of California, Inc.
Legislative and Economic Update Prepared for:
Fresno Unified School District
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December 11, 2024

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LAO's Fiscal Outlook for Education—Positive, but Modest

By: Megan Baier and Patti F. Herrera, EdD

November 21, 2024

Yesterday, November 20, 2024, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) released its *2025-26 Budget Fiscal Outlook (Fiscal Outlook)* report that includes a specific forecast for Proposition 98 affecting TK-12 and community college agencies. This annual report offers an updated multiyear forecast of the State Budget condition, including economic and revenue assumptions that impact the annual State Budget and the programs that rely on it, such as public education.

Yesterday's report predicts that, while better-than-expected General Fund revenues are offset by higher spending, the state can anticipate a relatively balanced budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year. The LAO warns, however, that the state is likely to face deficits in the outyears due to anomalously high spending obligations that lawmakers would need to address either through program reductions or increased revenue via tax increases.

Proposition 98: Outlook for TK-12 and Community College Funding

Within the broader context of the multiyear State Budget condition, the *Fiscal Outlook* revises estimates of the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee for 2024-25, issues an estimate for 2025-26, projects a statutory cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2025-26 of 2.46%, and explains why the state will be required to make a deposit into the Proposition 98 reserve and will *not* be required to make a restoration (or maintenance factor) payment to public education. Following the shifting pieces of Proposition 98 can be difficult, so below we provide a brief summary of the LAO's report as it relates to public education.

- **2024-25 Minimum Guarantee up \$3.0 Billion**

Due to upward revisions in General Fund revenues and local property taxes, the LAO estimates that the current-year minimum guarantee will be \$3.0 billion higher than the 2024-25 Budget Act estimates from June, now totaling \$118.3 billion (up from \$115.3 billion). However, this increased revenue will not be available as the state will be required to deposit the funds into the Proposition 98 reserve. This is because the State Constitution requires deposits into the reserve when robust revenues are due largely to increases in capital gains. The *Fiscal Outlook* assumes a revised 2024-25 required deposit of \$3.7 billion (\$1.1 billion of which was already included in the June budget). This higher deposit will once again trigger caps on local school district reserves in fiscal year 2025-26 for those local educational agencies (LEAs) that are subject to the requirement.

- **\$2.8 Billion Proposition 98 Surplus in 2025-26**

Based on the constitutional formulas to calculate Proposition 98, the *Fiscal Outlook* estimates that the minimum guarantee for 2025-26 will be \$116.8 billion, which is notably lower than the LAO's revised 2024-25 level of \$118.3 billion. This funding level is driven by Test 1 remaining operative (meaning, K-14 education receives approximately 40 cents of every

General Fund dollar) and a constitutional provision that protects the state from unsustainable Proposition 98 obligations when there are temporary spikes in revenue (referred to as “spike protection”).

Despite the year-over-year modest decline in the minimum guarantee levels, the LAO estimates that Proposition 98 will enjoy a \$2.8 billion surplus in 2025-26, resulting from the net of \$3.7 billion freed up from expired, one-time costs, offset by an ongoing cost of a 2.46% COLA.

- **No Required Restoration (Maintenance Factor) Payment in 2025-26, but New Obligation Created in 2026-27**

The state’s decision to use their constitutional authority to suspend Proposition 98 in fiscal year 2023-24 creates an obligation to restore funding for TK-12 and community colleges to the level the state *should* have provided, an obligation known as the “maintenance factor.” The 2024-25 Budget Act included a \$4.1 billion maintenance factor payment based on June revenue assumptions. According to the LAO’s revised revenue estimates in the *Fiscal Outlook*, the maintenance factor and payment obligation to TK-12 and community college agencies increases by \$761 million, leaving an outstanding obligation at the end of the current fiscal year of \$3.3 billion.

However, because the LAO’s broader economic assumptions include robust capital gains revenues, the *Fiscal Outlook* assumes that the state will not be required to make a restoration payment in 2025-26. This is because the State Constitution requires maintenance factor payments only in fiscal years in which General Fund revenue growth outpaces per capita personal income growth. Finally, the LAO estimates that the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee will be determined by Test 3 in fiscal year 2026-27, which will create a new maintenance factor obligation of approximately \$2.0 billion, totaling \$5.9 billion at the end of 2026-27 when added to the existing obligation. Any remaining balance in the state’s obligation to restore education funding is adjusted each year for changes in average daily attendance and per capita personal income. At the end of the *Fiscal Outlook’s* forecast period in 2028-29, the total maintenance factor obligation is estimated to be \$6.5 billion.

- **Minimum Guarantee Experiences Moderate Increases After 2025-26—up \$17.4 Billion by 2028-29**

Finally, tracking with the LAO’s larger state economic and revenue forecast, the *Fiscal Outlook* projects that, after a sluggish 2025-26, education funding will enjoy annual increases averaging \$5.8 billion over the three-year period. It assumes that the minimum guarantee will benefit from increases in both state General Fund revenue and local property taxes.

Proposition 98 Minimum Guarantee					
Dollars in billions					
	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
General Fund	\$ 84.8	\$ 81.7	\$ 85.2	\$ 89.7	\$ 94.1
Local Property Taxes	33.5	35.1	36.1	38.1	40.1
Total	\$ 118.3	\$ 116.8	\$ 121.3	\$ 127.8	\$ 134.2

- **Proposition 98 Reserve**

As noted earlier, better-than-expected revenues resulting from strong capital gains increase the required deposit into the Proposition 98 reserve in 2024-25. Under the LAO's forecast assumptions, there would be no required deposits into, nor withdrawals from, the fund in 2025-26. However, the state would be required to make a \$2.0 billion and a \$1.7 billion withdrawal in fiscal years 2026-27 and 2027-28, respectively. The \$1.7 billion account balance at the end of 2026-27 and the depletion of the account the following year would make the cap on local school district reserves inoperative beginning in 2027-28 through the remainder of the forecast period.

- **Annual Statutory COLA Increases**

The LAO's forecast of the statutory COLA increases to above-average trends of 3.00% beginning in 2026-27 through the 2028-29. The Proposition 98 costs associated with estimated outyear COLAs are \$3.2 billion, \$4.0 billion, and \$4.3 billion in 2026-27, 2027-28, and 2028-29, respectively.

Statutory COLA			
2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
2.46%	3.10%	3.80%	4.00%

The LAO concludes its forecast cautioning its susceptibility to over- and under-projections, depending on state General Fund revenue performance. Consistent with its broader concern about budget headwinds in the outyears, the LAO recommends that the Legislature consider using its modest \$2.8 billion Proposition 98 surplus to build resiliency in the education budget, which could include retiring deferrals and using the surplus to fund one-time investments. They note, however, that lawmakers could also consider providing funding for TK-12 general apportionments beyond the statutory COLA or use the excess revenues to modify the Local Control Funding Formula (see [“Assembly Kicks Off Discussion of LCFF Modifications”](#) in the October 2024 *Fiscal Report*). Each fiscal policy decision comes with trade-offs, of course, which the LAO begins to outline for lawmakers in advance of spring budget hearings.

Those hearings will begin in the weeks following the release of Governor Gavin Newsom's 2025-26 January State Budget proposal, which he must release no later than January 10, 2025. His proposed budget will lay the fiscal framework for the budget discussion and negotiations, as well as highlight his priorities for California and public education.

We will provide an in-depth analysis of the Governor's education policy proposals and their impacts on LEA budgets and programs at our Governor's Budget Workshops in Sacramento on January 21, 2025, and in Anaheim on January 22, 2025. For more information about or to register for the workshop, click [here](#).

We hope to see you all there!

FISCAL REPORT

PUBLIC EDUCATION'S POINT OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING EDUCATED DECISIONS

October Revenues Continue Recent Trend

By: Matt Phillips, CPA

November 19, 2024

The Department of Finance released its November *Finance Bulletin*, which summarizes significant data points related to the economy including unemployment, United States gross domestic product, real estate, and state cash collections.

The U.S. unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.1%, while California's unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage points to 5.4%. The data shows that although California's unemployment rate increased, the state's labor force increased by 8,000 participants, which should lead to an increase in the tax base once those individuals find work.

Residential real estate and affordability continue to plague many Californians. Year-to-date, based on a seasonally adjusted annualized rate (SAAR), California has permitted nearly 104,000 housing units. This is comparable with the previous month's SAAR, but down 6.7% from a year earlier. The 104,000 housing units consisted of 61,000 single-family units and 43,000 multi-family units, up 16.6% and down 28.2% from the previous year, respectively. The increase in single-family unit production bodes well for Californians looking to purchase a home.

The most promising trend lies in the General Fund revenues as the actual tax collections for October exceeded projections by \$1.1 billion, or 11.2%. The October activity results in 2024-25 year-to-date revenues exceeding projections by \$5.2 billion, or 11.0%. The surplus is welcome news, especially when one considers that revenue projections were downgraded in both 2022-23 and 2023-24 resulting from weaker-than-expected income tax returns. The Governor, Legislature, and other state departments are hopeful that the trend continues as education will receive first dibs on excess revenues as the state must repay the maintenance factor that was created due to the suspension of the 2023-24 Proposition 98 minimum guarantee.

This report represents the penultimate cash report before the Governor Gavin Newsom finalizes and releases his proposed State Budget for 2025-26. Prior to the Governor's Budget proposal, we anticipate the Legislative Analyst's Office will release the *Fiscal Outlook*, which will summarize their office's analysis of the fiscal trajectory of the state and provide recommendations to the Legislature as they prepare for budget negotiations with the Administration.

Trump Selects Education Secretary

By: Michelle McKay Underwood

November 20, 2024

Yesterday, November 19, 2024, President-elect Donald Trump announced Linda McMahon as his pick for the Secretary of the Department of Education. McMahon has experience in the Trump Administration as head of the Small Business Administration during Trump's first turn in the White House.

McMahon has less experience directly in K-12 education, having served on the Connecticut Board of Education for about a year. The Education Secretary will be tasked with implementing Trump's education platform at the federal level, which includes the following points (the full 2024 GOP Platform can be found [here](#)):

- Ending Teacher Tenure, adopting Merit pay, and allowing various publicly supported Educational models
- Universal School Choice in every State in America
- Emphasize Education to prepare students for great jobs and careers, supporting project-based learning and schools that offer meaningful work experience
- Overhauling standards on school discipline, advocate for immediate suspension of violent students, and support hardening schools to help keep violence away
- Restore Parental Rights in Education, and enforce our Civil Rights Laws to stop schools from discriminating on the basis of Race
- Defund schools that engage in inappropriate political indoctrination of our children using Federal Taxpayer Dollars
- Support schools that teach America's Founding Principles and Western Civilization
- Champion the First Amendment Right to Pray and Read the Bible in school
- Close the Department of Education

While the last bullet point has garnered the most attention, closing the Department of Education would require an act of Congress, as would changing any specific funding streams through the budget process. (For more information on the federal budget process, see "[Will Lane Duck Congress Tackle FY 2025 Budget?](#)" in the November 2024 *Fiscal Report*.)

McMahon has served on the board of the America First Policy Institute, which promotes many of the same ideas included in the 2024 GOP Platform. As a cabinet secretary, McMahon will be subjected to the Senate confirmation process in the coming months.

Attorney General Releases Updated AB 699 Guidance

By: Megan Baier

December 6, 2024

The Attorney General (AG) released updated guidance and model policies for local educational agencies (LEAs) on immigration issues as expected (see “[By the Way . . . Attorney General to Update AB 699 Guidance](#)” in the November 2024 *Fiscal Report*). In 2018, Assembly Bill (AB) 699 (O'Donnell) required all LEAs to adopt a policy limiting assistance to immigration officials.

The AG's press release, guidance, model policies, and accompanying resources can be found at the links below:

[AG's Full Press Release](#)

[Updated TK-12 Guidance and Model Policies \(December 2024\)](#)

[Additional Resources for LEAs and Families](#)

Relatedly, on the first day of the new legislative session, Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) introduced AB 49, which would prohibit school officials from allowing an employee of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to enter a schoolsite without providing identification, a written statement of purpose, a judicial warrant, and receiving approval from the superintendent. It remains to be seen whether the Legislature will approve changes, like AB 49, to existing law in the upcoming 2025 legislative session.



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ROB BONTA

Attorney General

In Response to Increased Threats to California Immigrant Communities, Attorney General Bonta Provides Guidance to Public Institutions to Protect Immigrants' Rights Under the Law

Press Release / *In Response to Increased Threats to California Immigrant Com...*

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Contact: (916) 210-6000, agpressoffice@doj.ca.gov

Issues updated model policies and recommendations for California schools, libraries, healthcare facilities, courthouses, shelters, and labor agencies

SAN FRANCISCO – In response to the incoming Trump administration's inhumane threats of mass arrests, detention, and deportations, California Attorney General Rob Bonta today issued updated model policies and recommendations to guide public institutions in complying with California law limiting state and local participation in immigration enforcement activities. This guidance, first issued in 2018, is intended to help staff develop practical plans to protect the rights of immigrants and their families to safely

access public institutions by limiting support of immigration enforcement activity at these institutions. While the guidance is tailored to certain types of public institutions, any institution that is accessible to the public may choose to adopt a similar policy to protect the rights and safety of their patrons.

“No matter who is in the White House, in California, we will continue to lead with California values. California is the most diverse state in the nation, and immigrants are the backbone of our economy, history, and culture. We will not be caught flat-footed if the President-elect follows through on his threats of mass deportation,” **said Attorney General Bonta**. “Many public institutions already have policies in place for how to respond to immigration enforcement authorities – and we advise those who do not to make a plan today. My office will continue to use the full force of the law and every tool at our disposal to protect the rights of California’s immigrants – and we need staff at these critical locations to do the same. We cannot let the Trump deportation machine create a culture of fear and mistrust that prevents immigrants from accessing vital public services.”

Attorney General Bonta issued updated guidance for courthouses, healthcare facilities, colleges and universities, K-12 schools, labor agencies, public libraries, and shelters. Of these locations, state courthouses, public healthcare facilities, and public schools are required to adopt the model policies or equivalent policies; all other facilities are encouraged to do so. The guidance and model policies, which have been updated to be consistent with all current state and federal caselaw, are available at <https://oag.ca.gov/publications#immigration> :

1. Guidance and Model Policies to Assist California’s Superior Courts
2. Guidance and Model Policies to Assist California’s Healthcare Facilities
3. Guidance and Model Policies to Assist California’s Colleges and Universities
4. Guidance and Model Policies to Assist California’s K-12 Schools

5. Guidance and Model Policies to Assist the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, the Agricultural Labor Relations Board, and the Division of Workers Compensation
6. Guidance and Model Policies to Assist California's Public Libraries
7. Guidance and Model Policies to Assist California Shelters

Each model policy was originally developed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, advocates, and state and local agencies, and each: (1) outlines relevant federal and state protections for all individuals seeking access to the public institution; (2) provides policy recommendations that comply with federal and state laws, and that may mitigate disruptions from immigration enforcement actions at the institution; and (3) lists model policies that may be adopted by the institution. Depending on the type of institution, this may include policies to:

- Prohibit the unauthorized collection or disclosure of information that might indicate an individual's or family's citizenship or immigration status;
- Provide notification of individual and family privacy rights to everyone who seeks to use the institution's resources;
- Refer law enforcement to a designated person or persons, such as an administrator or legal counsel, who will have the authority to respond to immigration enforcement-related requests;
- Identify nonpublic restricted locations within the institution;
- Document all immigration enforcement-related requests; and
- Train workers about the institution's procedures for handling immigration-enforcement-related requests.

The guidance and model policies advise public institutions to treat all law enforcement agencies that seek to enforce immigration law the same. However, Californians should be aware that Senate Bill 54 (Statutes of 2017) – also known as the “California Values Act” – prohibits state and local law enforcement agencies from assisting with immigration

enforcement, with limited exceptions. If you believe a state or local law enforcement agency, a public institution or its staff are unlawfully assisting with immigration enforcement, report it to our office at oag.ca.gov/report.

The California Department of Justice's Office of Community Awareness, Response, and Engagement (CARE) will be hosting a community briefing on Friday, January 10, 2025, from 11:00-11:30 AM on immigrant rights resources. You can register to attend the briefing [here](#).

#

FISCAL REPORT

PUBLIC EDUCATION'S POINT OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING EDUCATED DECISIONS

Legislature Convenes the 2025-26 Legislative Session

By: Kyle Hyland

December 4, 2024

On Monday, December 2, 2024, the California State Legislature officially convened the 2025-26 legislative session.

While Monday's floor session was primarily organizational, designed to swear in the 80 Assemblymembers and 20 Senators elected this past November, a number of lawmakers used this opportunity to also introduce legislation. It is important to note that each Assemblymember and Senator is permitted to introduce 35 bills over the two-year legislative session. The deadline for lawmakers to introduce bills for the 2025 legislative year is Friday, February 21, 2025.

The Legislature also convened the special session called by Governor Gavin Newsom to bolster the state's resources to preempt the legal battles that California is expected to have with the incoming Trump Administration (see the article "[Special Session to Convene on December 2](#)" in the November 2024 *Fiscal Report*). The budget chairs of both houses introduced legislation to provide \$25 million in the 2024-25 State Budget to cover the costs of potential litigation. While these bills were introduced, they will not be debated on the house floors until the Legislature returns to Sacramento in January.

The makeup of the Assembly going into the new session is 60 Democrats, 19 Republicans, and 1 vacancy. The lone vacancy is in Assembly District (AD) 32, which was previously held by Assemblymember Vince Fong (R-Bakersfield) who had to resign after winning California's 20th Congressional District seat. Governor Newsom is required to call a special election for AD 32 within 14 calendar days of the occurrence of the vacancy.

The makeup of the Senate is 30 Democrats, 9 Republicans, and 1 vacancy. The vacancy is in Senate District (SD) 36, which was previously held by Senator Janet Nguyen (R-Huntington Beach) who resigned her seat after winning election to the Orange County Board of Supervisors. Governor Newsom will have to issue a proclamation to call for a special election for SD 36 within the next two weeks.

With their supermajority in both houses retained, Democrats can conceivably pass any legislation requiring a higher two-thirds vote threshold, such as tax increases, constitutional amendments, or urgency measures, without having to reach across the aisle for Republican votes. However, the varied (and sometimes conflicting) interests among members of the Democratic caucuses could make rallying the necessary votes difficult for any supermajority-vote measures, especially for any measures that increase taxes.

Monday's agenda also included the election of Senate and Assembly leadership positions, with Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire (D-North Coast) and Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas (D-Salinas) swiftly reelected to their leadership posts.

With the leadership positions established, we should find out about committee assignments and chairs soon. It would not be surprising to see Assemblymember David Alvarez (D-San Diego) and

Senator John Laird (D-Santa Cruz) retain their leadership posts of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Education Finance and Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Education, respectively. We also expect Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) to again chair the Assembly Education Committee. However, we will see a change in leadership for the Senate Education Committee as Senator Josh Newman (D-Fullerton) lost his reelection bid to Republican and former Assemblymember Steven Choi. When the committee assignments are announced, we will publish an article detailing the chairs and membership of the relevant education policy and budget committees and subcommittees.

After the Legislature approved a couple of housekeeping resolutions, they adjourned for the month and will not return to Sacramento until Monday, January 6, 2025.

FISCAL REPORT

PUBLIC EDUCATION'S POINT OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING EDUCATED DECISIONS

All Ten Statewide Measures Called

By: Kyle Hyland

December 2, 2024

The California 2024 General Election included ten statewide ballot measures for voters to consider. Of those ten propositions, five were placed on the ballot through the initiative process (requiring registered voter signatures) while the other five were placed on the ballot by the California State Legislature.

Although there are still a little more than 46,000 unprocessed ballots left to count, the races for all ten propositions officially have been called by media outlets. It is projected that voters have approved six out of the ten measures that were on the ballot.

Below we provide the results for each ballot proposition, including a brief description of the measure.

Successful Propositions

- **Proposition 2:** Issues \$10 billion (\$8.5 billion for K-12 education and \$1.5 billion for the California Community Colleges) in bonds to fund the construction and modernization of K-14 public education facilities (see “[School Facilities Bond Approved by Voters](#)” in the November 2024 *Fiscal Report*)
- **Proposition 3:** Repeals Proposition 8 (2008) and declares that a “right to marry is a fundamental right” in California
- **Proposition 4:** Issues \$10 billion in bonds to fund safe drinking water, drought, flood, and water resilience programs; wildfire and forest resilience programs; coastal resilience programs; and other climate-related infrastructure projects
- **Proposition 34:** Requires certain health care providers to spend 98% of revenues from federal discount prescription drug programs on direct patient care and permanently authorizes the state to negotiate Medi-Cal drug prices on a statewide basis
- **Proposition 35:** Permanently authorizes a tax on managed care organizations to fund Medi-Cal programs, which is currently set to expire in 2026
- **Proposition 36:** Revises Proposition 47 (2014) to raise the penalties and sentences for some drug and theft offenses

The six successful ballot propositions will officially take effect on the fifth day after the Secretary of State certifies the 2024 election results unless a different effective date is specified by the measure. The Secretary of State has until December 13, 2024, to certify the election results.

Unsuccessful Propositions

- **Proposition 5:** Would have lowered the vote threshold required to approve local special taxes for housing and infrastructure projects from two-thirds to 55%
- **Proposition 6:** Would have repealed language in the California Constitution prohibiting involuntary servitude except to punish crime and replace it with language prohibiting slavery and involuntary servitude
- **Proposition 32:** Would have increased the state's minimum wage to \$18.00 per hour (begins January 1, 2025, for employers with 26 or more employees and January 1, 2026, for employers with 25 or fewer employees) and thereafter would have adjusted it annually for inflation (see "[Voters Reject Minimum Wage Increase](#)" in the November 2024 *Fiscal Report*)
- **Proposition 33:** Would have repealed the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act (1995), thereby allowing cities and counties to limit rent increases, and would have prohibited the state from limiting how cities and counties expand or maintain rent control

FISCAL REPORT

PUBLIC EDUCATION'S POINT OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING EDUCATED DECISIONS

Minimum Wage Increases Effective January 1, 2025

By: Teddi Wentworth

November 22, 2024

California's minimum wage is projected to increase to \$16.50 per hour effective January 1, 2025. Per Labor Code, the minimum wage rate will be adjusted annually for inflation based on the national Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). Because the CPI-W increased by 3.18%, for the period from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, employees will be guaranteed the \$16.50 rate even if they work for small employers—those employers with 26 employees or less ([Labor Code Section 1182.12\[c\]\[3\]\[A-B\]](#))—and the ongoing increase in the future is caused by [Labor Code Section 1182.12\(c\)\(1\)](#)

Below is a table illustrating minimum wage on an hourly, weekly, monthly, and annual basis. Based on inflation, School Services of California Inc. staff project that the minimum wage will continue to increase by the maximum amount allowed by law through 2029.

Minimum Wage	Effective Date: > 25 Employees	Effective Date: ≤ 25 Employees	Exempt Minimum Salary (Weekly)	Exempt Minimum Salary (Monthly)	Exempt Minimum Salary (Annually)
\$16.00/hour	January 1, 2024		\$1,280	\$5,547	\$66,560
\$16.50/hour	January 1, 2025		\$1,320	\$5,720	\$68,640
\$17.00/hour	January 1, 2026		\$1,360	\$5,893	\$70,720
\$17.40/hour	January 1, 2027		\$1,392	\$6,032	\$72,384
\$17.80/hour	January 1, 2028		\$1,424	\$6,171	\$74,048
\$18.30/hour	January 1, 2029		\$1,464	\$6,344	\$76,128

The forthcoming increase in the minimum wage highlights important operational considerations to ensure that employers are maintaining their obligation to comply with state and federal laws. Local educational agency human resources departments should review current salary schedules now to identify salary cells that may fall below the scheduled minimum increase in addition to preparing for future increases. Keep in mind that increases in the minimum wage also impact the threshold for exemption from the overtime rules of the [Fair Labor Standards Act](#) (FLSA). Exempt workers in California must be paid a salary that is at least twice the state's minimum wage as well as meeting the duties test under the FLSA. Information on overtime exemptions in California can be found on the [Department of Industrial Relations](#) website.

Remember that the minimum wage, and any local ordinance, is an obligation of the employer and cannot be waived by any agreement, including collective bargaining agreements. So, even if you find yourselves in the middle of negotiations regarding salary, as employers, you are still obligated to comply with the minimum wage rate for the effective year.

FISCAL REPORT

PUBLIC EDUCATION'S POINT OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING EDUCATED DECISIONS

2024 General Election School Bond Results

By: Wendi McCaskill and Carmen Thompson

November 12, 2024

In addition to the presidential, congressional, and state legislative races on the ballot for the 2024 General Election held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, the ballot included a number of K-12 bond and parcel tax measures.

As we reported in the November 7, 2024, *Fiscal Report* article, "[School Facilities Bond Approved by Voters](#)," media outlets are projecting that Proposition 2, the \$10 billion K-14 school facilities bond, has been successful.

There was also a total of 264 local bond measures on ballots across California—240 of which were Proposition 39 (or 55%) general obligation (GO) bond measures totaling \$47.3 billion and 24 school facilities improvement district (SFID) bonds totaling \$3.1 billion. Of the 240 GO bond measures, voters passed 70%, totaling \$40.7 billion. Voters passed 16 (66%) of the 24 SFID bonds, totaling \$2.4 billion. These passage rates are historically low.

Of the 81 local bonds (GO bonds and SFID bonds combined) that have not secured the minimum vote to pass at the time of this writing, 52 have yes vote rates between 50% and 55%. If all these measures are successful, the passage rate would increase to approximately 90% for GO Bonds, 83% for SFID bonds, and a combined rate of 89%, which is above the approximately 86% combined statewide historical passage rate at General Elections since local educational agencies were authorized to pursue bond measures at a 55% vote threshold in 2000.

Additionally, the election included 26 parcel tax measures, of which 24, or 92%, passed. (Click [here](#) to see a list of the local measures that were on the ballot.)

	Local Measures	Passed	Failed	Passage Rate	Total Dollars Passed	Total Dollars Failed	Total Dollars
					(In millions)		
55% GO Bond	240	167	73	70%	\$40,719.5	\$6,532.9	\$47,252.4
55% SFID Bond	24	16	8	66%	\$2,435.9	\$632.4	\$3,068.3
Parcel Taxes	26	24	2	92%	—	—	—

School Services of California Inc. congratulates all the school districts that passed local tax measures. And education's collective thanks also go to all California voters—including yourselves—who, year after year, support our students by providing needed funding both in the classroom and for the construction and modernization of those classrooms.

Note: The total number of local bond measures was determined based on information obtained through publicly available sources and may not represent all local bond measures. In addition, the

figures noted above represent the semi-official tally as of November 8, 2024. Once all elections are certified, we will publish the results of the bond and parcel tax measures. Counties must certify election results by December 5, 2024.

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number BFS-3

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Kim Kelstrom, Chief Executive
Cabinet Approval:

Date: December 20, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3907





Regarding: Joint Health Management Board Financial Updates

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board the financial updates reported at the December 12, 2024, meeting of the Joint Health Management Board (JHMB).

The First Quarter Health Fund Report for the 2024/25 fiscal year provides a review of actual JHMB income and expenditures from July 01, 2024 through September 30, 2024. It also provides projected income and expenditures for the entire fiscal year 2024/25 compared to the budget for the same time period (Attachment I). Per the language in each of the district's collective bargaining agreements, the attached is provided by the health plan consultant.

For 2024/25, the report further shows a projected year-end surplus of \$1.0 million compared to budget of \$14.5 million surplus. The main reasons for the decrease in the surplus are due to increased medical and prescription claims and costs.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact either Kim Kelstrom at 457-3907 or Patrick Jensen at 457-6226.

Approved by Interim Superintendent

Mao Misty Her 

Date: 12/20/24

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joint Health Management Board – Employee Unit Representatives
FROM: Giovanni Pacheco, Principal
DATE: December 12, 2024
RE: Quarterly Health Fund Report for July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024

Attached is the Quarterly Health Fund Report for the first quarter of the 2024/25 fiscal year for the JHMB. This report provides a review of Income and Expenditures compared to Budget for the 2024/25 fiscal year. The Plan is managed by the Joint Health Management Board. We continue to modify and update the format as we work through all the aspects of managing the coverage and funding the Plan.

Adjusting for the tenthly District contributions, the first three months of the year are showing a surplus of \$6,486,475 compared to the budget surplus of \$14,461,265 for the fiscal year. Plan income is projected to be 1.08% higher than the annual budgeted amount per Active for the full fiscal year, while plan expenses are expected to be 6.26% above budget on a per capita basis at the end of the year. The attached exhibit provides detailed information and is summarized in the table below.

Please note that the figures contained in this report are based on data available to the JHMB. Audited figures may differ from those set forth in this report.

	<u>First Quarter of 2024/25 Fiscal Year (Actual)</u>	<u>Budget (Projected Period)</u>
	<u>July 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024</u>	<u>July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025</u>
Income ¹	\$58,130,541	\$225,994,941
Expenditures	\$57,433,683	\$211,533,676
Surplus / (Deficit)	\$696,859	\$14,461,265
Transfer of Reserves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	\$696,859	\$14,461,265
Encumbered Reserves	\$107,567,422	\$102,930,281
Unencumbered Reserves	\$117,457,356	\$131,221,762
Total Reserves	\$225,024,778	\$234,152,043

¹Income amount has been annualized to account for the tenthly District contributions

Please note that expenses shown in the vendor reports can differ slightly from the paid amounts shown in the District's Monthly Financial Report, as adjustments, credits, and delayed postings on the vendor side result in differences in the monthly costs compared to the amounts shown as paid by the District. The annual costs shown in this report have been adjusted to account for these differences and match the audited year-end financial report prepared by the District.

Definitions

Encumbered Reserves: A part of the Total Reserves amount that includes money held to cover the Incurred But Not Reported (IBNR) liability as well as assets held in the OPEB Irrevocable Trust.

Unencumbered Reserves: A part of the Total Reserves amount and is money that is available to pay claims in excess of Encumbered Reserves. This reserve covers the claim fluctuation and unexpected contingencies and is available to cover future cost increases to the Plan.

Total Reserves: represents the combination of Encumbered and Unencumbered Reserves. This is the amount that represents the Plan's ability to meet future contingencies and obligations.

Encls.

Fresno Unified School District

Exhibit I: YTD Income and Expenditures with Projected Budget Period



	Current Period				Current + Projected Period				Budget		
	Jul-24 - Sep-24	Tenthlly Cost per Active	Monthly Cost per Active	Difference from Budget ³	Jul-24 - Jun-25	Tenthlly Cost per Active	Monthly Cost per Active	Difference from Budget ³	Jul-24 - Jun-25	Tenthlly Cost per Active	Monthly Cost per Active
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
	Employees	Dependents	Members		Employees	Dependents	Members		Employees	Dependents	Members
Number of Employees	Employees	Dependents	Members		Employees	Dependents	Members		Employees	Dependents	Members
1. Actives	8,928	13,598	22,526		9,084	13,661	22,745		8,820	13,348	22,168
2. Retirees	<u>4,928</u>	<u>3,054</u>	<u>7,982</u>		<u>4,962</u>	<u>2,819</u>	<u>7,781</u>		<u>4,970</u>	<u>2,945</u>	<u>7,916</u>
3. Monthly Average	13,856	16,652	30,508		14,046	16,480	30,526		13,790	16,293	30,084
INCOME											
4. Employer Contributions ¹	\$20,077,695	\$899.54	\$749.62	-59.11%	\$200,970,495	\$2,212.36	\$1,843.63	0.56%	\$194,040,000	\$2,200.00	\$1,833.33
5. Employee Contributions	3,421,659	153.30	127.75	-38.88%	21,636,126	238.18	198.48	-5.03%	22,120,922	250.80	209.00
6. Retiree Contributions	1,315,286	58.93	49.11	22.73%	5,297,622	58.32	48.60	21.46%	4,234,985	48.02	40.01
7. COBRA Contributions	129,329	5.79	4.83	-52.32%	962,063	10.59	8.83	-12.86%	1,071,908	12.15	10.13
8. Prescription Rebates	0	0.00	0.00		0	0.00	0.00		0	0.00	0.00
9. Insurance Revenue	0	0.00	0.00		0	0.00	0.00		0	0.00	0.00
10. Low Income Premium Subsidy	204,404	9.16	7.63	-57.76%	1,638,607	18.04	15.03	-16.80%	1,912,270	21.68	18.07
11. Other Income	19,146	0.86	0.71	-73.48%	240,775	2.65	2.21	-18.05%	285,285	3.23	2.70
12. Interest	29,280	1.31	1.09	-94.83%	1,707,005	18.79	15.66	-25.91%	2,236,966	25.36	21.14
13. Investment Increase/Decrease	0	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00		0	0.00	0.00
14. Zelis Credit Rebates	0	0.00	0.00	-100.00%	69,454	0.76	0.64	-27.18%	92,605	1.05	0.87
15. Active Reserve Assessment ⁶	19	0.00	0.00		19	0.00	0.00		0	0.00	0.00
16. Retiree Reserve Assessment ⁶	0	0.00	0.00		0	0.00	0.00		0	0.00	0.00
17. Authorized Transfer to Reserves ²	0	0.00	0.00		0	0.00	0.00		0	0.00	0.00
18. Inter-District Transfer	0	0.00	0.00		0	0.00	0.00		0	0.00	0.00
19. Total Income	\$25,196,818	\$1,128.89	\$940.74	-55.94%	\$232,522,166	\$2,559.69	\$2,133.07	-0.10%	\$225,994,941	\$2,562.30	\$2,135.25
EXPENSES											
Benefits											
20. Active Medical Claims	\$24,880,765	\$1,114.73	\$928.94	6.90%	\$102,764,862	\$1,131.27	\$942.73	8.49%	\$91,974,143	\$1,042.79	\$868.99
21. Retiree Medical Claims	3,876,462	173.68	144.73	57.12%	13,495,184	148.56	123.80	34.40%	9,749,550	110.54	92.12
22. Kaiser Health Plan	5,577,125	249.87	208.23	-3.37%	21,906,870	241.16	200.97	-6.74%	22,807,428	258.59	215.49
23. Aetna MAPPO Premium	5,646,171	252.96	210.80	-2.47%	23,688,559	260.77	217.31	0.54%	22,875,716	259.36	216.13
24. Active Prescription Drug	7,819,285	350.33	291.94	20.63%	29,510,516	324.86	270.72	11.86%	25,614,510	290.41	242.01
25. Retiree Prescription Drug	1,367,577	61.27	51.06	10.95%	5,770,733	63.53	52.94	15.03%	4,870,881	55.23	46.02
26. EGWP Premium	0	0.00	0.00		0	0.00	0.00		0	0.00	0.00
27. Prescription Drug Fee	24,674	1.11	0.92	8.45%	141,765	1.56	1.30	53.10%	89,903	1.02	0.85
28. Blue Cross/Aetna PPO Fee	532,742	23.87	19.89	52.15%	1,617,251	17.80	14.84	13.49%	1,383,632	15.69	13.07
29. Delta Health Admin	616,082	27.60	23.00	-10.78%	2,527,100	27.82	23.18	-10.07%	2,728,554	30.94	25.78
30. Claremont EAP	68,802	3.08	2.57	-20.73%	300,031	3.30	2.75	-15.06%	342,969	3.89	3.24
31. Halcyon Mental Health	573,269	25.68	21.40	-50.08%	3,869,471	42.60	35.50	-17.22%	4,538,323	51.45	42.88
32. PhysMetrics	159,526	7.15	5.96	20.90%	593,124	6.53	5.44	10.45%	521,417	5.91	4.93
33. Standard Life Insurance	163,988	7.35	6.12	11.32%	619,880	6.82	5.69	3.40%	582,098	6.60	5.50
34. Delta Dental Claims	3,246,779	145.46	121.22	16.07%	12,012,052	132.23	110.19	5.51%	11,053,752	125.33	104.44
35. Delta Dental Admin Fees	192,918	8.64	7.20	15.44%	715,982	7.88	6.57	5.27%	660,360	7.49	6.24
36. Pacific Union Dental	198,953	8.91	7.43	19.61%	646,662	7.12	5.93	-4.48%	657,289	7.45	6.21
37. VSP Vision	562,200	25.19	20.99	0.40%	2,287,223	25.18	20.98	0.36%	2,212,807	25.09	20.91
38. Stop Loss Premium	219,412	9.83	8.19	-13.21%	998,561	10.99	9.16	-2.94%	998,946	11.33	9.44
39. Community Medical Provider	363,192	16.27	13.56	69.21%	999,336	11.00	9.17	14.40%	848,192	9.62	8.01
40. WellPATH	21,137	0.95	0.79	-76.96%	302,765	3.33	2.78	-18.91%	362,515	4.11	3.43
41. Transfer out to OPEB	500,000	22.40	18.67	-1.21%	2,000,000	22.02	18.35	-2.91%	2,000,000	22.68	18.90
42. Transfer out to IBNR	0	0.00	0.00	-100.00%	1,206,248	13.28	11.07	17.12%	1,000,000	11.34	9.45
43. ACA PCORI Fee	81,171	3.64	3.03	383.72%	81,171	0.89	0.74	18.85%	66,311	0.75	0.63
44. Total Benefits, Premiums & Fees	\$56,692,232	\$2,539.97	\$2,116.65	7.74%	\$228,055,347	\$2,510.52	\$2,092.10	6.49%	\$207,939,296	\$2,357.59	\$1,964.66
Operating Expenses											
45. Salaries	\$151,785	\$6.80	\$5.67	1.17%	\$596,414	\$6.57	\$5.47	-2.32%	\$592,838	\$6.72	\$5.60
46. Staff Benefits	71,216	3.19	2.66	-25.55%	354,724	3.90	3.25	-8.89%	378,010	4.29	3.57
47. Supplies	0	0.00	0.00	-100.00%	3,969	0.04	0.04	-27.17%	5,291	0.06	0.05
48. Auditor	0	0.00	0.00	-100.00%	19,289	0.21	0.18	-27.18%	25,719	0.29	0.24
49. Delta Fund Administrator Fees	79,074	3.54	2.95	-1.66%	325,423	3.58	2.99	-0.55%	317,729	3.60	3.00
50. MMA Consultant Fees	150,000	6.72	5.60	31.72%	450,000	4.95	4.13	-2.91%	450,000	5.10	4.25
51. Delta Team Care Fees	14,950	0.67	0.56	-67.65%	182,367	2.01	1.67	-3.05%	182,637	2.07	1.73
52. Claremont Partners: General	117,461	5.26	4.39	-18.23%	553,017	6.09	5.07	-5.40%	567,610	6.44	5.36
53. Claremont Partners: PBM Consulting (PSG)	0	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00		0	0.00	0.00
54. Taylor English Duma Legal Fees	45,000	2.02	1.68	-1.21%	180,000	1.98	1.65	-2.91%	180,000	2.04	1.70
55. KHK Law: Outside Counsel	0	0.00	0.00	-100.00%	35,000	0.39	0.32	-2.91%	35,000	0.40	0.33
56. JHMB Training / Education Expenses	24,245	1.09	0.91	-14.09%	107,888	1.19	0.99	-6.07%	111,524	1.26	1.05
57. Other Operating Expenses	87,188	3.91	3.26	-51.48%	619,780	6.82	5.69	-15.26%	710,124	8.05	6.71
58. Communications	531	0.02	0.02	-94.47%	28,954	0.32	0.27	-25.82%	37,898	0.43	0.36
59. Total Operating Expenses	\$741,450	\$33.22	\$27.68	-18.49%	\$3,456,824	\$38.05	\$31.71	-6.62%	\$3,594,380	\$40.75	\$33.96
60. Total Expenses	\$57,433,683	\$2,573.19	\$2,144.33	7.29%	\$231,512,171	\$2,548.57	\$2,123.81	6.26%	\$211,533,676	\$2,398.34	\$1,998.62
61. Surplus / (Deficit) ⁴	(\$32,236,865)	(\$1,444.30)	(\$1,203.59)	227.94%	\$1,009,995	\$11.12	\$9.27	99.57%	\$14,461,265	\$163.96	\$136.63
Beginning Reserve Balance											
62. Encumbered Reserves											
63. OPEB Irrevocable Trust	\$79,155,107				\$79,155,107				\$79,155,107		
64. Reserve Liability for IBNR	<u>\$28,412,315</u>				<u>\$28,412,315</u>				<u>\$28,412,315</u>		
65. Total Encumbered Reserves	\$107,567,422				\$107,567,422				\$107,567,422		
66. Unencumbered Reserves	<u>\$116,760,497</u>				<u>\$116,760,497</u>				<u>\$116,760,497</u>		
67. Total Reserves	\$224,327,919				\$224,327,919				\$224,327,919		
68. Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$32,236,865)				\$1,009,995				\$14,461,265		
69. Transfer In from Reserves	\$0				\$0				\$0		
70. Adjusted Unencumbered Reserves	\$84,523,632				\$117,770,492				\$131,221,762		
71. Target Unencumbered Reserves ⁵	\$38,289,122				\$38,585,362				\$35,255,613		
Ending Reserve Balance											
72. Encumbered Reserves											
73. OPEB Irrevocable Trust	\$79,155,107				\$82,655,107				\$76,772,872		
74. Reserve Liability for IBNR	<u>\$28,412,315</u>				<u>\$29,618,563</u>				<u>\$26,157,409</u>		
75. Total Encumbered Reserves	\$107,567,422				\$112,273,670				\$102,930,281		
76. Unencumbered Reserves	<u>\$84,523,632</u>				<u>\$117,770,492</u>				<u>\$131,221,762</u>		
77. Total Reserves	\$192,091,054				\$230,044,162				\$234,152,043		

1 Current + Projected Period amount calculated based on tentlly budget amounts, not monthly

2 District contribution subject to final negotiations

3 Difference from Budget percentages calculated based on Monthly Cost per Active

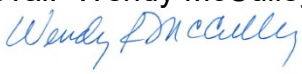
4 Surplus / (Deficit) percentage calculated as Total Expenses (row 58) divided by Total Budgeted Income (row 18)

5 Target Unencumbered Reserved calculated as 2.0 months of total annual expenses.

6 Active and Retiree Assessments were suspended beginning in May 2023

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number EEP-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Wendy McCulley, Chief
Cabinet Approval: Wendy McCulley
Approved by: 

Date: December 20, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3885

Regarding: Monthly Update - December

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board an update about the Foundation for Fresno Unified Students.

The Fresno Unified Scholarship Application will be opening on January 06, 2025. Last year, we received 565 applications and awarded 309 scholarships for a total of \$424,000. Please learn more about our scholarship opportunities at foundation4fUSD.org/scholarships-awards.

Through the Foundation's newest cornerstone of Champion, we advocate for and protect Fresno Unified students by championing their voices, needs, and opportunities to ensure they thrive. This cornerstone will be celebrated with a Tech Convening at Farber High School on January 28, 2025. In collaboration with DARO, we will be presenting results of our technology landscape analysis aimed at finding the gaps between technology skills education, training, and workforce development in the Central Valley. Our goal is to leverage collective knowledge and advance student outcomes with the help of leaders from tech companies, non-profits, post-secondary institutions, and FUSD staff.

Through our Adopt-A-Project initiative, The Foundation assisted FUSD's Hmong DLI program with finding financial support for an instructor's cultural exchange trip to Laos and Thailand from January 01 through 17, 2025. Ten teachers from various school sites will be travelling. The project received generous support from The California Wellness Center, The James B. McClatchy Foundation, The Fresno Center, Stone Soup Fresno, Groundswell Charitable Foundation, English Learner Success Forum, and several community members. The study trip will provide relevant Hmong cultural, historical, and linguistic learning opportunities.

Our annual Suit Drive will be kicking off on February 07, 2025, at Neighborhood Thrift's new location at 3139 W. Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93711. We will be collecting gently used business attire from the community February 10 through 21, 2025. Last year we were able to collect 5,000 pieces and our goal this year is 7,000. Remember to start cleaning out your closets for February!

For more questions or information, please contact Wendy McCulley at 559-457-3885.


Approved by Interim Superintendent

Mao Misty Her 

Date: 12/20/24

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number ID-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Marie Williams, Ed.D., Instructional Superintendent
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: December 20, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3731

Carlos Castillo (Dec 19, 2024 08:20 PST)

Regarding: Retiree Contract for Estella Reyes

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with information regarding a retiree contract for Estella Reyes to serve as a certificated tutor that will be presented for Board approval on January 08, 2025. The certificated tutor is responsible for Response to Intervention (Rtl) in literacy for students in kindergarten through 6th grade. The focus of the Rtl certificated tutor is to lead small group, intentional reading instruction, four days per week for 45 minutes each day. Strategies include guided reading and foundational reading skills practice. Ms. Reyes serves 25 students in the Dual Language Immersion program at Winchell, and intervention is provided in Spanish to support the target language. The services provided by the certificated tutor and the Rtl program are directly aligned to the site and district's literacy goals. Student progress is monitored using Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) in Spanish.

The contract is being presented for ratification as there was a transition in site leadership in the fall, and there was a lapse in communication regarding the status of the contract between the outgoing and incoming staff member responsible for completing the contract.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Kali Isom-Moore, at 457-3678.


Approved by Interim Superintendent

Mao Misty Her 

Date: 12/20/24

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number ID-2

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Marie Williams, Ed.D., Instructional Superintendent
Cabinet Approval: 
Carlos Castillo (Dec 19, 2024 08:20 PST)

Date: December 20, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3731

Regarding: Update on College and Career Readiness Center Facility Improvements

The purpose of this Board communication is to provide the Board information regarding the progress of the College and Career Experience and Support Center, previously called the IDEA (Innovation, Design, Experience and Apprenticeship) Center, located on the corner of Shields and Millbrook Avenues. On June 20, 2024, the Board approved the expenditure of \$1,116,440.00 to Career Nexus, the lease holder on the property, to pay for the first-year lease and begin facility improvements on the first of the two facilities located on the property. The funds to support the lease and facility improvements were secured through a grant with the local Fresno-Madera K16 Collaborative combined with carryover funds from the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP).

As the new lease holder of the property, Career Nexus gained access to begin facility improvements in late September 2024. Initial facility improvements have focused on improving the 14,000 square foot facility located on the west side of the property where the College and Career Readiness Department will be housed. This facility also includes collaborative spaces for work with local industry, community and higher education partners. To date, facility improvements have included new interior paint, new lighting, ceiling tile installation, bathroom and break room upgrades, replacement of cracked and damaged windows, installation of new data cables and terminal points, electrical work, and the removal of interior walls to increase the size of collaboration space.

On January 08, 2025, the Board will receive an amendment to the original agreement requesting an additional \$843,660.00 to allow the completion of improvements to the west facility. These improvements include new flooring and baseboards, repair of exterior stucco and damaged paint, and the creation of new exterior signage. These funds will also address the increased cost of labor and materials that has occurred since the lease was initially approved in June 2024. Carry-over funds from the ELOP have been identified to support the expenditure of the additional \$843,660.00.

The approval of the additional \$843,660.00 will also initiate design and increase work access to the second facility, a 22,000 square foot space located on the east side of the property. This property will focus on providing work-based learning and paid internships for students and young adults, college and career preparatory training for students, staff and community, career themed field trips, and summer and winter camps for students of all grade-levels. Design for the east facility will be presented to the Board by early spring 2025 for review, discussion and potential approval.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Jeremy Ward at (559) 248-7534.

Approved by Interim Superintendent

Mao Misty Her 

Date: 12/20/24