



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Valerie F. Davis, President
Genoveva Islas, Clerk
Claudia Cazares
Andy Levine
Elizabeth Jonasson Rosas
Keshia Thomas
Susan Wittrup

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Mao Misty Her

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – JANUARY 10, 2025

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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT – Mao Misty Her, Interim Superintendent

S-1 Mao Misty Her Interim Superintendent Calendar Highlights

BUSINESS & FINANCIAL SERVICES – Patrick Jensen, Chief Financial Officer

BFS-1 Kim Kelstrom School Services Weekly Update Reports
for December 19, 2024

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: January 10, 2025

Phone Number: 457-3884

Regarding: Interim Superintendent Calendar Highlights

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

- Attended Hmong New Year Celebration
- Held meeting with district leaders to create interim goals and guardrails
- Held department budget planning meetings
- Met with Stephanie Nathan, new CEO of United Way
- Visited Winter Camps



Approved by Interim Superintendent

Mao Misty Her _____ 

Date: 01/10/25

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: January 10, 2025

Phone Number: 457-3907

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for December 19, 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 19, 2024 are attached and include the following articles:

- Ask SSC...Do Students Have to Fill Out the FAFSA? – December 17, 2024
- California Schools Would Be Off-Limits to ICE Agents Under New Proposal – December 16, 2024
- Gov. Newsom Previews the Master Plan for Career Education – December 16, 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: 01/10/25



1121 L Street

•
Suite 1060

•
Sacramento

•
California 95814

•
TEL: 916 . 446 . 7517

•
FAX: 916 . 446 . 2011

•
www.sscal.com

DATE: December 19, 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

In last week's update we provided a summary of Assembly Bill (AB) 49 (Muratsuchi, D-Torrance), which would limit the ability of officers from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to enter school and preschool sites.

This week, Senate Majority Leader Lena Gonzalez (D-Long Beach) introduced a bill that would prohibit local educational agencies (LEAs) from granting an ICE officer, or any other federal official engaging in immigration related investigation or enforcement, permission to access a school campus without a judicial warrant.

Senate Bill (SB) 48 would also prohibit LEAs from disclosing or providing the education records of or any information about a student, student's family and household, school employee, or teacher to an ICE officer without a judicial warrant. Additionally, a student's educational records or personal information cannot be released without the written consent of the student's parent or legal guardian.

SB 48 would also prohibit California law enforcement agencies from collaborating with, or providing any information about a student, student's family and household, school employee, or teacher to immigration authorities regarding proposed or currently underway immigration enforcement actions when the actions could be or are taking place within a radius of one mile of any school site.

Senator Gonzalez has introduced SB 48 as an urgency measure, which means that the bill would take effect immediately upon Governor Gavin Newsom's signature. An urgency measure requires a supermajority (two-thirds) vote in both houses of the Legislature. While the bill is likely to face opposition from the Republican caucus, Democrats enjoy a comfortable supermajority status in both houses. In fact, they can afford to lose six Democratic votes in the Assembly and three in the Senate and still approve this bill.

SB 48 is sponsored by State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) Tony Thurmond. SSPI Thurmond issued a [press release](#) on Monday indicating his support and sponsorship of the measure. He also held two days of media interviews to discuss the legislation.

Both SB 48 and AB 49 are 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.

Master Plan for Career Education Executive Summary

On Monday, after an event in Shasta where the Governor highlighted the career education work taking place in the county, the Newsom Administration released its [executive summary](#) for the Master Plan for Career Education. The summary highlights six primary plans of action:

- 1. Create a State Planning and Coordinating Body.** The state should create a new statewide planning and coordinating body that brings together the state's education segments, workforce training providers, and employers. The coordinating body should evaluate changing economic needs and demand for skills, develop sector-based and cross-sector strategies, create statewide goals, align federal and state plans, coordinate efforts to maximize funding, coordinate implementation of specific federal and state programs, codesign programs to address workforce opportunities, and connect with regions.
- 2. Strengthen Regional Coordination.** The Governor's Office should evaluate how successful regional coordination models can be expanded to create sustainable forums in which educators, workforce training providers, and employers work together with a clear division of responsibilities across partners.
- 3. Support Skills-Based Hiring Through a Career Passport.** State agencies and institutions of higher education should make it easier for employers to make hiring decisions based on individuals' skills in addition to their academic credentials.
- 4. Develop Career Pathways for High School and College Students.** Pushing for universal availability and implementation of pathways programs would provide students from all backgrounds with clear roadmaps to gainful employment and career advancement. These pathways can be designed to provide experiential learning opportunities, shorten the time to a career, alleviate financial pressures, and empower individuals to actualize their dreams, all while contributing to social and economic mobility within communities.
- 5. Strengthen Workforce Training for Young People and Adults.** For adults who need additional training and for opportunity youth, education and workforce development agencies should ensure access to education, workforce training, and jobs that allow them to advance in stable, well-paying career pathways.
- 6. Increase Access to and Affordability of Education and Workforce Training.** State agencies and institutions of higher education should ensure that eligible learners from all backgrounds and parts of the state can easily access education, workforce training, and public benefits that open doors to more rewarding, well-paying jobs.

The Governor said that the full Master Plan will be released early in the new year and that there will be information regarding career education in his 2025-26 State Budget proposal, which will be released by January 10, 2025.

Holiday Break

Like many of you, our office will be closed from December 23, 2024, through January 1, 2025. Unless there is breaking news, we will return to our regular *Sacramento Update* production schedule for the week ending January 10, 2025.

Happy holidays from School Services of California Inc.!

Leilani Aguinaldo

Ask SSC . . . Do Students Have to Fill Out the FAFSA?

By Michelle McKay Underwood
School Services of California Inc.'s *Fiscal Report*
December 17, 2024

Ask SSC . . . Starting in 2022-23, local educational agencies (LEAs) have been mandated to confirm that all high school seniors have completed financial aid applications. I just read your recent article [see "[Submit Claims for FAFSA and CADAA Mandate](#)" in the December 2024 *Fiscal Report*] that a process to provide LEAs with funding for this mandate is now underway. How is this requirement affected by recent guidance to refrain from completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in some instances?

While the intention of the new mandate on LEAs is to increase widespread access to financial aid through required applications for high school seniors, options aside from the FAFSA exist. To meet the LEA mandate and for students to qualify for state financial aid *within* California, high school seniors can fill out the California Dream Act Application (CADAA). Students who are eligible to apply for financial aid under the CADAA include undocumented students, students who are a U visa holder, students who have valid or expired Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status, students who have temporary protected status, and students who meet the non-resident exemption requirements under Assembly Bill (AB) 540, AB 2000, or Senate Bill 68.

A recent memo from the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) notes, "Information provided on a [CADAA] is only used to determine eligibility for state financial aid. Information is never shared with the federal government or used for immigration enforcement." For more information from CSAC, see the [Executive Office Memorandum](#).

Additionally, state law allows for a student's parent or guardian, or the student themselves if they are over the age of 18, to opt out of this requirement by completing an opt-out form, which must be collected and retained by the student's high school. According to a [study](#) by the Public Policy Institute of California released in October 2024, the opt-out process was confusing for district staff and students. So, as more students are potentially primed to opt out, it will be important for LEAs to revisit their procedures for students to opt out of both the FAFSA *and* CADAA. A model [opt-out form](#) was produced by CSAC when the requirement was first put in place.

Note: SSPI Thurmond says that one of the reasons he is sponsoring SB 48 is that "We don't want kids going to school being fearful that they may come home and their parents aren't there anymore."

California Schools Would Be Off-Limits to ICE Agents Under New Proposal

By Steve Large
CBS News
December 16, 2024

Could California schools become off-limits to all federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents? That is a new proposal in response to fears of arrests for deportation as President-elect Donald Trump's Inauguration Day nears.

Now the California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond is proposing a statewide policy that school districts not cooperate with ICE.

"We don't want kids going to school being fearful that they may come home and their parents aren't there anymore," Thurmond said.

Thurmond is sponsoring a bill that would prevent ICE agents on school campuses or even within a mile of a school campus without a warrant from a judge.

"Because we know that sometimes ICE might be laying in wait, and that's enough by itself can suppress people coming to school," Thurmond said.

Jose Rodriguez is president and CEO of El Concilio California, an organization that helps immigrant communities know their rights.

"We as an organization have been receiving telephone calls from folks who are concerned about whether they should be sending their children to school because of the president-elect's threats to deport entire families," Rodriguez said.

Trump has called for mass deportations and said he would be for deporting families of mixed immigration status to keep them together. He has also said undocumented immigrants with criminal records will be the first to be deported.

Republican Assemblymember Bill Essayli (R-Corona) is opposed to the potential statewide school ban.

"There's been no indication that the Trump administration is going to do roundups at the public schools. What they've talked about and what the American people have said they want is to prioritize the deportation of criminal illegal immigrants," Essayli said.

There is no timeline for how soon lawmakers could vote on the legislation.

Note: The Master Plan framework outlines specific groups that could greatly benefit from improved career education including disabled adults, young people who are unemployed and not in school, people involved with the justice system, English learners, and first-generation students.

Gov. Newsom Previews the Master Plan for Career Education

By Emma Gallegos

EdSource

December 16, 2024

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced on Tuesday the framework for what he is calling the master plan for career education.

The framework recommends creating a new statewide planning body for career education, promoting a "career passport," developing career pathways for high school and college, strengthening workforce training and making both higher education and workforce training affordable.

Many of these efforts are already in the works, but the idea for a master plan for career education is to knit all these efforts together in a coherent way, Newsom said. There are \$100 million in state funds supporting this effort that spans from K-12 to higher education to workforce development.

Newsom said local communities' input and regional agencies are key to realizing this state vision. He made his announcement flanked by local leaders who discussed the importance of their regional collaborative North State Together — one of 13 in the state receiving state funding that improve the pathways between education and career.

Newsom emphasized that this plan is for everyone, including Californians without a college degree or even a high school diploma.

“We need to create a framework for a life well lived that doesn't include some fancy degree,” said Newsom, during a news conference in Shasta County.

An eight-page master plan framework released Tuesday outlines specific groups that could greatly benefit from improved career education: disabled adults, young people who are neither in school nor employed and people involved with the justice system, English learners and first-generation students. The goal is to create a career education system without a “wrong door” but many entry points, such as libraries, jails and prisons, community colleges, adult schools and community organizations.

Scaling up credit for prior learning — the practice of awarding college credit for learning conducted outside the classroom — for veterans and non-veterans alike is a key part of the master plan, Newsom said.

He also revisited the concept of a “career passport,” which means that more than grades would appear on a student's transcript. It would include marketable work skills and experience developed through classes as well as apprenticeships, internships or other outside-the-classroom experiences.

Newsom also trumpeted the work that the state government has done to rewrite certain job descriptions that would open them up to candidates who don't have a college degree.

Improved databases, such as the cradle-to-career system, are key to this effort as well, Newsom said.