

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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**INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT**

Mao Misty Her

**BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – FEBRUARY 07, 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  
January 31, 2025

**ENGAGEMENT & EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS – Wendy McCulley, Chief Officer**

EEP-1 Wendy McCulley Monthly Update – January

**INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION – Carlos Castillo, Ed.D., Interim Chief Academic Officer**

ID-1 Marie Williams, Ed.D. February 2025 Community Advisory Committee  
Meeting

ID-2 Marie Williams, Ed.D. Ratify Grant Applications for the After School  
Education and Safety Program Renewal

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: February 07, 2025

Phone Number: 457-3884

Regarding: Interim Superintendent Calendar Highlights

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

- Spoke at Principal's Meeting
- Site visits at Figarden and Yokomi
- Walked four classrooms during site visits and observed a Targeted Support Team
- Attended the CAAPLE Conference and participated in the Superintendent's Panel



Approved by Interim Superintendent

Mao Misty Her \_\_\_\_\_ 

Date: 02/07/25

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: February 07, 2025

Phone Number: 457-3907


Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for January 31, 2025

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 January 31, 2025 are attached and include the following articles:

- Ask SSC...Who Should Handle Employee Leaves? – January 22, 2025
- California Leaders Still Uncertain About Impact of Potential Federal Funding Freeze – January 28, 2025
- Ninth Circuit Temporarily Blocks California Social Media Law Aimed at Protecting Minors – January 30, 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: 02/07/25



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www.sscal.com

DATE: January 31, 2025

TO: Misty Her  
Interim Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

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

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### **Trump Administration Orders Pause of Federal Funding, Judge Freezes Order**

In relation to a myriad of executive orders related to spending, the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on Monday, January 27, 2025, issued a memorandum that ordered a pause in federal grants, loans, and other financial assistance. The memo unleashed massive confusion nationwide as many interpreted the measure as a sweeping pause of up to \$3 trillion in federal funding, including Title I and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grants.

However, after inquiring with the Trump Administration about the freezes, several prominent sources confirmed that for public education the memo only applies to discretionary grants at the U.S. Department of Education. The Administration further clarified that the memo does not impact Title I, IDEA, or other formula grants, nor does it apply to Federal Pell Grants and Direct Loans under Title IV of the Higher Education Act.

Shortly after the memo was released, Democratic attorneys general from 22 states and the District of Columbia sued the federal government over the order, and before the memo could go into effect on Tuesday evening, a federal judge froze the spending pause. The day after the judge froze the spending pause, the White House rescinded the order. However, Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said on social media that while the Administration rescinded the order, that does not mean there is a rescission of the federal funding freeze.

The judge that froze the order has signaled that he will issue a temporary restraining order barring the Trump Administration from freezing federal loans and grants. This is something that we will be monitoring moving forward.

### **Trump Issues EOs Aimed at Schools**

In addition to the OMB memo, Trump also issued two executive orders (EOs) aimed at schools.

One EO seeks to prevent schools from recognizing transgender identities or teaching about concepts such as structural racism, “white privilege,” and “unconscious bias,” by threatening their federal funding. Additionally, the order promotes “patriotic” education that depicts the American founding as “unifying, inspiring and ennobling,” while explaining how the U.S. “has admirably grown closer to its noble principles throughout its history.”

The other EO requires the leadership of several federal agencies, including the Secretary of Education, to look for ways to expand access to private school vouchers. The order requires the Secretary of Education to issue guidance regarding how states can use federal formula funds to support K-12 educational choice initiatives.

There are legal questions surrounding the two EOs, especially if the Administration has the authority to withhold federal funds if they believe that a school is recognizing gender identities or teaching critical race theory concepts. Both EOs are likely to be challenged in court.

### **Democratic Lawmakers Delay Special Session Vote**

In last week’s *Sacramento Update*, we reported that the Legislature approved, and Governor Gavin Newsom signed, the special session bills related to the Los Angeles County fires. Those measures will provide billions of dollars to expedite firestorm response and recovery efforts, streamline rebuilding efforts, and help rebuild fire-damaged school facilities.

We also reported that the Assembly was poised to approve two special bills that will shore up state and local legal defenses in anticipation of litigation with the Trump Administration. The Senate approved these bills last week and it was expected that the Assembly would approve those bills on Thursday morning and in effect close the special session. However, when the Democrats emerged from a closed-door meeting on Thursday morning, they did not take up the bills on the floor before leaving for their districts.

Democratic leaders attributed the delay to the confusion caused by President Trump’s now-rescinded funding freeze that we discussed above. In a statement, Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas said, “the actions by Republicans in Washington this week jeopardize the programs and services Californians rely on most, from health care to school funding.”

Democrats have signaled that they will take the special session bills up next week, while the Newsom Administration has said that the Governor is ready to sign the bills as soon as they hit his desk.

*Leilani Aguinaldo*

## Ask SSC . . . Who Should Handle Employee Leaves?

By Danyel Conolley and Sarah Niemann, EdD  
 School Services of California Inc.’s *Fiscal Report*  
 January 22, 2025

- Q.** Our district has struggled with managing employee leave. We are working to improve our processes, and we have a question concerning roles and responsibilities. Who is responsible for managing leaves, human resources (HR) or the business office?
- A.** We are pleased to hear that you are addressing employee leave management practices, which can be a complicated puzzle to solve. We wish there was a simple answer, but the short answer to your question is: both departments are responsible for ensuring legally compliant leave practices are in place.

To effectively manage employee leave, a multi-level approach that includes a supervisor-level position, analytical staff, and technical support staff will ensure internal control to manage leave. Figure 1 provides a sample of a staffing configuration to manage leave, which is based on best practice. We acknowledge that local educational agency (LEA) size is a factor, as some HR and business services departments have multiple levels of staffing, while others include lean staffing resources to handle HR and business services responsibilities. Regardless of the number of employees assigned to support leave, the functions require an assignment of work, so there may be one position handling multiple areas of leave management.

**Figure 1: Employee Leave Management Staffing Configuration**

Position Type	Function
Supervisor—Leave Administrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oversees leave program</li> <li>Workers’ Compensation administration</li> <li>Denial/approval of employee leave</li> <li>Legal compliance officer</li> <li>Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act program oversight</li> <li>Employee discipline—poor attendance</li> <li>Approval of docks in pay</li> </ul>
Analytical Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application of leave type to absence</li> <li>Communicates leave policies to employees</li> <li>High level of analysis applied to absence tracking</li> <li>Documentation of leave transactions</li> </ul>
Technical Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance tracking in absence tracking system</li> <li>Documentation of leave</li> <li>Data entry of leave entitlements</li> </ul>

Now to answer your question about where the responsibility resides. Our operational advice is that HR is assigned responsibility for managing employee leaves. However, there are numerous points of

interaction with business services in leave processes, and Figure 2 illustrates a sample what the division of responsibility may look like.

**Figure 2: Employee Leave Responsibilities**

HR	Business Services	School Sites/Departments
Oversees leave program and tracks daily attendance and long-term leave  Communicates leave entitlements to employees  Authorizes leave requests and submits for approval to the Superintendent and Board of Trustees  Verifies reported leave in employee attendance tracking system and data entry of leave deductions  Generates communication regarding docks in pay to payroll	Receives documentation from HR and processes docks in pay and unpaid leave  Ensures employee health benefits are managed in coordination with leave	Ensures site/department personnel are recording absences pursuant to district policy  Enters absence data in absence tracking system  Validates absence reports and routes information to HR

Administering employee leaves is complicated, difficult, and requires LEAs to carefully track eligibility for leave under federal and state laws, a local collective bargaining agreement, board policies, and local practice. These challenges are amplified without the appropriate assignment of responsibility and staffing configurations that support accountability. Assigning responsibility of employee leave is the first step in ensuring effective leave management practices. Our upcoming webinar series, [Employee Leave](#), will cover staffing configurations in addition to understanding and administering statutory leaves with state and federal leave entitlements. This two-part webinar series is presented from the practitioner perspective and the intended audience is HR and business services staff who are involved in leave processes.

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*Note: California Attorney General Rob Bonta said that the Trump Administration's freeze order could cut \$3 trillion in federal funding from programs that help the homeless, veterans, seniors, disaster victims, and school children nationwide.*

## **California Leaders Still Uncertain About Impact of Potential Federal Funding Freeze**

*Federal judge in Washington, D.C., temporarily halts Trump administration order*

By Diana Lambert  
*EdSource*  
January 28, 2025

State leaders spent much of Tuesday trying to determine the potential impact of a White House freeze on federal grants and loans that could potentially affect millions of California students and their families.

A White House memo released Monday from the Office of Management and Budget called for the freeze to begin Tuesday at 2 p.m. PST. But, just minutes before 2 p.m., U.S. District Judge Loren AliKhan in Washington, D.C., blocked the order until next Monday at 2 p.m. PST to give courts more time to consider its impact, according to Politico.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta said Tuesday that the freeze could cut \$3 trillion in federal funding from programs that help the homeless, veterans, seniors, disaster victims and school children nationwide.

The order has thrown state programs into chaos and created uncertainty around their administration, said a media release from Bonta's office.

"I will not stand by while the president attempts to disrupt vital programs that feed our kids, provide medical care to our families, and support housing and education in our communities," Bonta said in a statement. "Instead of learning from the defeats of his first administration, President Trump is once again plowing ahead with a damaging — and most importantly, unlawful — agenda."

Bonta joined 22 other state attorneys general to file a lawsuit calling for a temporary halt to implementation of the memo. The White House directive called for advancing the Trump administration's policies and called "the use of Federal resources to advance Marxist equity, transgenderism and green new deal social engineering policies a waste of taxpayer dollars."

California Gov. Gavin Newsom's office called the White House memo a violation of federal law. "We are confident funding will be restored," officials there said in an email to EdSource.

California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond said the White House action is misguided. "(It) serves nothing more than to hurt the most vulnerable students and people in our nation," he said.

Early Tuesday, state education leaders expressed concern that student loans, special education, Head Start, and Title 1 programs could be impacted by the freeze.

But by late Tuesday afternoon, conflicting information from the White House's Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Department of Education made it unclear which programs would be affected, according



to a letter from the California Department of Education to county and district superintendents scheduled to be sent Tuesday night.

According to the letter, the U.S. Department of Education assured state departments of education that Title 1 programs for low-income schools, special education and other formula grants will not be frozen. But, officials at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) said these programs will be subject to the same scrutiny as others regarding compliance with the Trump administration's executive orders.

"We hope to gain more clarity on affected programs before Feb. 3 and plan to communicate this information to the field as soon as possible in case the OMB directive becomes effective," said the California Department of Education guidance signed by David Schapira, chief deputy superintendent.

Officials in the U.S. Department of Education said only discretionary grants would be affected and not formula grants, according to Troy Flint, spokesperson for the California School Boards Association.

A list of discretionary grants on the U.S. Department of Education website includes grants for educator development, charter school programs, early learning programs, school and community improvement programs, as well as grants for arts and literacy education.

California School Boards Association officials will be watching to see how the issue is resolved in the courts, Flint said. "This is a fluid and fast-moving topic, and we don't think we have heard the end of it."

University leaders are also waiting to see what the freeze could mean for them. University of California staff and lawyers are "working diligently to clarify the potential impacts" on the university, said President Michael Drake in a statement.

He noted that the White House has said federal student loans and Pell Grants would not be impacted.

"We are in contact with key policymakers in Congress and at federal agencies, as well as association partners and other higher education institutions. We are evaluating what actions we are able to take and will keep you informed," Drake added in a message to the UC community.

*EdSource reporters Emma Gallegos, Michael Burke, Mallika Seshadri, Betty Márquez Rosales, Amy DiPierro, Vani Sanganeria contributed to this story.*

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*Note: The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on Thursday issued a temporary injunction blocking a California law requiring social media platforms to provide a chronological feed, in lieu of an algorithmic feed, to minor users and limiting notifications to those users during school hours.*

## **Ninth Circuit Temporarily Blocks California Social Media Law Aimed at Protecting Minors**

*By Andrew Sheeler*  
*The Sacramento Bee*  
January 30, 2025

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on Thursday issued a temporary injunction blocking a California law requiring social media platforms to provide a chronological feed – in lieu of an algorithmic feed – to minor users and limiting notifications to those users during school hours and overnight.

The law has been on pause since earlier this month, after a U.S. District Court judge for the Northern District of California agreed to the plaintiff NetChoice’s request to halt it.

NetChoice argues that the law “tramples over free speech” by requiring California residents to hand over sensitive, personal data to verify their age in exchange for accessing protected online speech. They also argue that the law requires mandatory surveillance of online users to verify when a minor is accessing the platforms.

“This is a backdoor requirement for online surveillance by California’s government,” the group contends.

The law will remain unenforced while it is litigated.

The California Attorney General’s Office, which is defending the law, did not immediately respond to The Bee’s request for comment.

Holly Grosshans, speaking on behalf of Common Sense Media, a sponsor of the law that was signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom last year, said in a statement that the ruling “will not deter our commitment to protecting children from social media’s addictive design features that prioritize engagement over wellbeing.”

“The facts haven’t changed since this law was passed with overwhelming bipartisan support,” Grosshans added.

She said that the plaintiff NetChoice, which represents social media companies including Meta and X, is not fighting for free speech.


“They are fighting to preserve their ability to deploy design features scientifically engineered to keep young people scrolling endlessly on their platforms,” Grosshans said.

Paul Taske, speaking on behalf of NetChoice, said in a statement that the organization was grateful for the Ninth Circuit decision.

“This law has serious implications for Californians’ First Amendment and digital privacy rights. NetChoice looks forward to stopping yet another online censorship regime from California’s government,” he said.

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: 

Date: February 07, 2025

Phone Number: 457-3885

Regarding: Monthly Update - January

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

In partnership with DARO, The Foundation held its first Technology Convening on January 28, 2025, at Farber High School. Over 40 community and industry leaders came together to review the results of our landscape analysis and collaborate on effective next steps to ensure students in the Central Valley receive the digital skills they need to become the tech leaders of tomorrow.

Our third annual Suit Drive will be kicking off on February 07, 2025, at Neighborhood Thrift in the Tower District from 10:00-11:00 AM. Last year, we collected 5,000 pieces of professional attire—this year, we're aiming for 7,000. From February 10 through 21, 2025, donate lightly used business clothing and accessories at Anthropologie, J.Crew Factory, Neighborhood Thrift, and Black Marketplace. FUSD employees will have internal drive locations available at the Ed Center and the E Street Leadership Development Building.

Tickets are now available for our annual Spill the Tea event, being held at The Palomino in Downtown Fresno on March 6, 2025, from 11:00-1:00 PM. This high tea event focuses on raising the voices of women in leadership and includes a panel discussion from industry leaders as well as current FUSD students. Details are available on our website events page: [www.foundation4fUSD.org/foundation-events/](http://www.foundation4fUSD.org/foundation-events/).

The Foundation is awarding its first-ever grant to support early literacy by becoming a Literacy Advocate Partner in the creation of a Dolly Parton's Imagination Library branch in Fresno. Partnering with the Lighthouse for Children, we are committed to increasing children's access to books and educational materials. This project was developed to support students in ZIP Codes 93702, 93706, 93722, 93726, and 93727, including Burroughs, King, Figarden, Manchester GATE, Bakman, and more.

Finally, we are proud to announce that our President and CEO, Wendy McCulley, recently received the GO Public Schools Champion Award in recognition of her outstanding efforts in supporting students and her school community through her fearless leadership and advocacy.

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


Approved by Interim Superintendent

Mao Misty Her 

Date: 02/07/25

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: February 07, 2025

Phone Number: 457-3750

Carlos Castillo (Feb 6, 2025 12:33 PST)

Regarding: February 2025 Community Advisory Committee Meeting

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with information regarding a procedural change for the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting on February 11, 2025. This change highlights efforts to foster inclusivity and strengthen engagement with our entire community.

The CAC, which meets ten times each year, serves as a vital forum for discussing topics important to families of students receiving special education services. These meetings promote collaboration and transparency, ensuring that families have the resources and support needed to navigate the educational system. To eliminate barriers to participation, translation services in Spanish and Hmong are consistently offered at every meeting.

For the first time, the February 2025 CAC meeting will be conducted entirely in Spanish. This initiative, developed collaboratively by the CAC Executive Committee and Fresno Unified School District's Special Education Department, reflects our commitment to inclusivity and true partnership with all members of our community.

Real-time translation services will be available for all attendees who are not proficient in Spanish to ensure all attendees can participate and contribute to the meeting's discussions.

We hope this change in procedure will support strengthening trust and relationships with all members of our community, demonstrating Fresno Unified's dedication to removing linguistic and cultural barriers, and enhancing the CAC's capacity to represent and advocate for all families within our community. If successful, this approach may serve as a model for future CAC meetings conducted in other languages within our community, such as Hmong, further extending our reach and impact.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication or require additional information, please contact Tangee Pinheiro, Ed.D., at 457-3226.


Approved by Interim Superintendent

Mao Misty Her 

Date: 02/07/25

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: 

Date: February 07, 2025  
Phone Number: 457-3750

Carlos Castillo (Feb 6, 2025 12:33 PST)

Regarding: Ratify Grant Applications for the After School Education and Safety Program Renewal

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with information regarding a request to ratify grant applications for the After School Education and Safety Program (ASES) that will be presented to the Board on February 12, 2025. The Expanded Learning Department applied for the ASES grant renewal funding for 70 sites (\$15,429,435.42) and the ASES Universal grant for eleven sites (\$1,847,059.20). This site-based initiative aims to create a safe and enriching educational environment that provides academic support and experiences to students through programming during out-of-school time. Attached to this communication is the backup that includes the list of sites included in the grant applications

Board item C-16 is being submitted as a request for ratification as grant applications were due and submitted to the California Department of Education (CDE) in January 2025.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication or require additional information, please contact Jeremy Ward at (559) 248-7465.

Approved by Interim Superintendent

Mao Misty Her 

Date: 02/07/25

Ratify Expanded Learning Department's Grant Applications for the After  
School Education and Safety (ASES) Program

<b>Sites</b>
Addams Elementary
Ahwahnee Middle School
Anthony Elementary
Ayer Elementary
Aynesworth Elementary
Baird Middle School
Bakman Elementary
Balderas Elementary
Birney Elementary
Bullard Talent K-8
Burroughs Elementary
Calwa Elementary
Centennial Elementary
Columbia Elementary
Computech Middle School
Cooper Academy
Del Mar Elementary
Easterby Elementary
Eaton Elementary
Ericson Elementary
Ewing Elementary
Figarden Elementary
Fort Miller Middle School
Fremont Elementary
Gaston Middle School
Gibson Elementary
Greenberg Elementary
Hamilton K-8
Heaton Elementary
Herrera Elementary
Hidalgo Elementary
Holland Elementary
Homan Elementary
Jackson Elementary
Jefferson Elementary
King Elementary
Kings Canyon Middle School

Ratify Expanded Learning Department's Grant Applications for the After  
School Education and Safety (ASES) Program

Kirk Elementary
Kratt Elementary
Lane Elementary
Lawless Elementary
Leavenworth Elementary
Lincoln Elementary
Lowell Elementary
Malloch Elementary
Manchester GATE Elementary
Mayfair Elementary
McCardle Elementary
Muir Elementary
Norseman Elementary
Olmos Elementary
Powers-Ginsburg Elementary
Pyle Elementary
Robinson Elementary
Roeding Elementary
Rowell Elementary
Scandinavian Middle School
Sequoia Middle School
Slater Elementary
Starr Elementary
Storey Elementary
Sunset Elementary
Tatarian Elementary
Tehipite Middle School
Tenaya Middle School
Terronez Middle
Thomas Elementary
Tioga Middle School
Turner Elementary
Vang Pao Elementary
Viking Elementary
Vinland Elementary
Wawona K-8
Webster Elementary
Williams Elementary

Ratify Expanded Learning Department's Grant Applications for the After  
School Education and Safety (ASES) Program

Wilson Elementary
Winchell Elementary
Wishon Elementary
Wolters Elementary
Yokomi Elementary
Yosemite Middle School