



## BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

### APRIL 04, 2025

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

	Page
<b>1. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT - Mao Misty Her, Interim Superintendent</b>	
1.1 Interim Superintendent Calendar Highlights <a href="#">Interim Superintendent Calendar Highlights.docx</a>	3
<b>2. CHIEF OF STAFF - Ambra O'Connor</b>	
2.1 Council of the Great City Schools 2025 Legislative and Policy Conference <a href="#">Council of the Great City Schools 2025 Legislative and Policy Conference.docx</a>	4
<b>3. BUSINESS &amp; FINANCIAL SERVICES - Patrick Jensen, Chief Financial Officer</b>	
3.1 School Services of California Weekly Update Report for March 28, 2025 <a href="#">School Services of California Weekly Update Report for March 28, 2025.docx</a> <a href="#">School Services of California Weekly Update Report for March 28,</a>	5 - 12

4. **COMMUNICATIONS - Nikki Henry, Chief Officer**
5. **ENGAGEMENT & EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS - Wendy McCulley, Chief Officer**
6. **HUMAN RESOURCES - David Chavez, Chief Officer**
7. **INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION - Carlos Castillo, Interim Chief Academic Officer**
8. **OPERATIONAL SERVICES - Paul Idsvoog, Chief Officer**
9. **TECHNOLOGY SERVICES - Tami Lundberg, Chief Officer**

Board Communications Approved by: Interim Superintendent Mao Misty Her



Fresno Unified School District  
Board Communication

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

Date: April 04, 2025

Phone Number: 457-3884

Regarding: Interim Superintendent Calendar Highlights

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

- Held Interim Superintendent Quarterly Review with District Leaders
- Site visits to Del Mar and Gaston
- Walked six classrooms during site visits
- Participated in Board Governance Training provided by the Office of the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools
- Attending the 2025 Police Chief's Gala

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Misty Her at 457-3884

Cabinet Approval: 

Name and Title: Mao Misty Her, Interim Superintendent

Fresno Unified School District  
Board Communication

From the Office of the Superintendent  
To the Members of the Board of Education  
Prepared by: Teresa Plascencia, Executive Director

Date: April 04, 2025

Phone Number: 457-3736

Regarding: Council of the Great City Schools 2025 Legislative and Policy Conference

The purpose of this communication is to inform the Board of the notable highlights from the Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS) Conference:

- Attended the CGCS Conference in Washington, D.C. from March 20-24, 2025.
  - This annual conference is a gathering of the nation's urban school leaders, superintendents, school board members, and legislative directors. The focus is on education legislation, funding, and policies.
  - District participants included, Board Members Valerie Davis, Susan Wittrup and Government Relations Executive Director, Teresa Plascencia.
- Participated in federal legislative and policy briefings. Key topics covered a wide range of subject areas, including, but not limited to:
  - Federal K-12 Budget Proposals (Fiscal Year 2026/27)
  - Title 1 Funding
  - Medicaid
  - School Meals
- Met with U.S. Representatives staff providing them with district updates such as Special Education and Nutrition programs:
  - Fresno Unified School District's U.S. Representatives: Jim Costa, Vince Fong, and Tom McClintock.
  - Central San Joaquin Valley U.S. Representatives: Adam Gray and David Valadao.
- A copy of the conference agenda can be found at [2025 Annual Legislative/Policy Conference](#).

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Teresa Plascencia at (559) 457-3736.

Cabinet Approval:

Name and Title: Ambra O'Connor, Chief of Staff



Fresno Unified School District  
Board Communication

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

Date: April 4, 2025

Phone Number: 457-3907

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for March 28, 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 March 28, 2025 are attached and include the following articles:

- Deferral Exemptions Due April 1 – March 21, 2025
- Trump Signs Executive Order to Dismantle Department of Education – March 20, 2025
- Two Bills Targeting Trans Athletes to Be Considered in California Legislative – March 24, 2025

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

Cabinet Approval:



Name and Title: Patrick Jensen, Chief Financial Officer



1121 L Street

•  
Suite 1060

•  
Sacramento

•  
California 95814

•  
TEL: 916 . 446 . 7517

•  
FAX: 916 . 446 . 2011

•  
www.sscal.com

DATE: March 28, 2025

TO: Misty Her  
Interim Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

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

---

### **Assembly and Senate Education Committee Hearings Well Underway**

It was another busy week of policy committee hearings with the Assembly and Senate Education Committees considering nearly 30 bills on Wednesday, March 26, 2025.

The Assembly Education Committee, chaired by Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance), considered 23 bills on Wednesday, approving the following bills that would impact local educational agencies (LEAs):

- Assembly Bill (AB) 401 (Muratsuchi) would require Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG) program recipients to be granted renewal grants for a total of four years and would require the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to designate 90% of the CTEIG funds for renewal grants and 10% for new applicants; adds a cost-of-living adjustment to the CTEIG appropriation; and removes a limitation on grant awards above a specified level
- AB 419 (Connolly, D-San Rafeal) would require LEAs to post specified information about immigration enforcement actions at California schools on its website and the website of each school within the LEA in English and any additional languages that a school is required to provide translated documents
- AB 642 (Muratsuchi) would authorize the governing board of a school district or county office of education to establish a catastrophic leave program to permit employees to donate eligible leave credits to an employee when that employee is impacted by a state of emergency, in the same manner as currently established for illness or injury
- AB 857 (Gipson, D-Carson) would require the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop an online cultural competency training delivery platform and online cultural competency training curriculum for

school employees to support students of color and would require LEAs to ensure that all school employees complete the training beginning in the 2027-28 school year

- AB 862 (Castillo, R-Corona) would require the collection of, and reporting through the California School Dashboard and Local Control and Accountability Plan, the percentage of students who intend to enroll in college or specified career
- AB 887 (Berman, D-Menlo Park) would require the governing bodies of school districts and charter schools with students enrolled in grades 9-12 to, by January 1, 2027, adopt a plan to offer courses in computer science, and would require the CDE to collect data on computer science course enrollment and develop a computer science implementation guide
- AB 917 (Ávila Farías, D-Contra Costa) would delete the prohibition on counting service as an instructor, conducted at regional occupational centers or programs, toward the service required to attain permanent employee status and would require an employee of a school district of any type or class, with an average daily attendance of 250 or less, who is reelected to a third year of employment in a position requiring certification, to be classified as a permanent employee of the school district, and makes conforming changes
- AB 927 (Sharp-Collins, D-San Diego) would extend the time during which the required the inspection of schools eligible for monitoring pursuant to the settlement of *Williams v. State of California* established in the 2024-25 fiscal year conducted by the county superintendent of schools to occur from within the first four weeks of the school year to within the first eight weeks of the school year
- AB 1224 (Valencia, D-Anaheim) would authorize any holder of a credential or permit issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing that authorizes the holder to substitute teach in a general, special, or career technical education assignment to serve in a substitute teaching assignment aligned with their authorization, including for staff vacancies, for up to 60 cumulative days for any

The Senate Education Committee, chaired by Senator Sasha Renée Pérez (D-Pasadena), approved the following two bills that would impact LEAs:

- Senate Bill (SB) 389 (Ochoa Bogh, R-Yucaipa) would authorize a licensed vocational nurse to perform specialized physical health care services for individuals with exceptional needs during the school day under the supervision of a credentialed school nurse
- SB 438 (Cabaldon, D-Yolo) would reduce the 240-minute minimum school-day requirement to 180 minutes for pupils enrolled under a College and Career Access Pathways

The vast majority of these bills have cost implications so will next be heard in their house's Appropriations Committee.

*Leilani Aguinaldo*

## Deferral Exemptions Due April 1

By Brianna García  
School Services of California Inc.'s *Fiscal Report*  
March 21, 2025

As part of the 2024-25 Enacted Budget, [Senate Bill \(SB\) 153](#) included deferrals for both the 2023-24 and 2024-25 fiscal years (FYs). (See "[Deferrals in the 2024-25 State Budget](#)," in the June 2024 *Fiscal Report*). SB 153 called for \$3.6 billion to be deferred from June 2024 (FY 2023-24) to July 2024 (FY 2024-25) and \$245.6 million to be deferred from June 2025 (FY 2024-25) to July 2025 (FY 2025-26).

Deferrals cause local educational agencies (LEAs) to receive their state aid cash later than normal, which could necessitate that LEAs borrow funds to cover any cash deficits. That said, the 2024-25 deferral reflects a relatively small amount (estimated to be 5.14% of the 2024-25 Second Principal Apportionment payment) for a short period of time—a few weeks—and therefore should have minimal impacts. However, if the deferral would result in an LEA not being able to meet its financial obligations, there are exemptions available for school districts and charter schools.

Both school districts and charter schools would have to provide an estimate of the amount of additional funds necessary to meet their financial obligations in June and any subsequent month until the deferral is paid. Further, school districts must also certify that they have exhausted all internal and external borrowing sources and that if they are not exempt, they would require an emergency loan from the state.

The California Department of Education (CDE) has released the applications for exemption to the June 2025 deferral, which can be found on the CDE's [Apportionment Deferral Requests for Exemption webpage](#). Information on the process, including a list of the information and documentation required, can also be found on this webpage.

Applications are due no later than April 1, 2025. County superintendents of schools, in the case of school districts, and charter authorizers, in the case of charter schools, must certify that the deferral will result in the LEA being unable to meet its expenditure obligations. Therefore, it is important that any LEA seeking an exemption begin this process as soon as possible in order to meet the April 1 submittal deadline. Any questions regarding the deferral exemption process or application should be emailed to [DeferralExemption@cde.ca.gov](mailto:DeferralExemption@cde.ca.gov).

Lastly, it should be noted that the education omnibus trailer bill that accompanied the 2025-26 Governor's Budget proposes a minor increase to both the 2023-24 and 2024-25 deferrals—from \$3.57 billion to \$3.61 billion and from \$245.6 million to \$246.6 million, respectively.

---



*Note: California Attorney General Rob Bonta said that he is monitoring how the Executive Order directing the U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon to work toward eliminating the U.S. Department of Education will be implemented for potential litigation.*

## **Trump Signs Executive Order to Dismantle Department of Education**

By Amy DiPierro and John Fensterwald  
*EdSource*  
March 20, 2025

President Donald Trump signed an executive order Thursday directing U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon to work toward eliminating the Department of Education, pushing forward a campaign promise to dismantle an agency that has long been maligned by conservatives.

With a group of students as a prop busily working on school desks behind him, Trump said, “My administration will take all lawful steps to shut down the department.”

The order instructs Education Secretary Linda McMahon to “take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the Department of Education and return authority over education to the States and local communities while ensuring the effective and uninterrupted delivery of services, programs, and benefits on which Americans rely.”

The federal government funds less than 10% of public school budgets, though much of that money supports especially vulnerable students. The department also oversees programs that help students pay college tuition, including Pell grants for low-income students.

The White House has already taken steps to gut the Education Department by roughly halving its workforce of 4,100, but officially eliminating the Cabinet-level agency would require congressional action.

The administration has also vowed to ship other critical functions to other federal departments — services for students with disabilities and low-income students to the Department of Health and Human Services and student loans to the Treasury Department.

“Closing the Department does not mean cutting off funds from those who depend on them — we will continue to support K-12 students, students with special needs, college student borrowers, and others who rely on essential programs,” McMahon said in a statement. “We’re going to follow the law and eliminate the bureaucracy responsibly by working through Congress to ensure a lawful and orderly transition.”

Children’s advocates were skeptical. The executive order “could result in a catastrophic impact on the country’s most vulnerable students and cutting much-needed funding will specifically impact students of color, students with disabilities and students in low-income communities,” the Association of California School Administrators said in a statement.

Over the decades, Republicans have repeatedly called for shutting down the department, although doing so would require 60 votes in the Senate — unlikely because Republicans now hold only 53 seats.

Nonetheless, Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-Louisiana, chairman of the Senate education committee, said in a statement, “Since the Department can only be shut down with congressional approval, I will support the President’s goals by submitting legislation to accomplish this as soon as possible.”

House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-Louisiana, praised the order in a post on X “President Trump is keeping his promise and returning education to the states,” but didn’t pledge to bring the issue to a vote. David Cleary, who worked on education issues on Capitol Hill for two decades, indicated he wouldn’t be surprised if Johnson didn’t.

“Leaders don’t like to spend time on things they know can’t get over the finish line,” he told the Washington Post.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta, who has sued the administration over the wholesale firing of federal employees and abrupt cancelation of research contracts, said he would monitor how the executive order is carried out.

While acknowledging the obligation to go through Congress, “the Administration continues to do everything it can to destroy the department’s ability to carry out its most vital, congressionally mandated functions — with the clearly stated ‘final mission’ of shuttering the Department for good,” he said in a statement. “My office will be looking at what this executive order actually does — not what the President says it will do.”

Trump used the executive order to continue his attack on equity-focused education programs. The Secretary of Education will ensure that Department of Education funds will follow federal law and administration policy, it states, “including the requirement that any program or activity receiving Federal assistance terminate illegal discrimination obscured under the label ‘diversity, equity, and inclusion’ or similar terms and programs promoting gender ideology.”

In response, Jessie Ryan, president of the Campaign for College Opportunity, said the continued attacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion and dismantling of the department “will leave millions of students and their families vulnerable to discrimination and deny them the opportunity to succeed in school, achieve their individual potential, and prepare for the future workforce. We cannot allow this administration to steamroll students and communities to achieve its agenda.”

Guillermo Mayer, President and CEO of the nonprofit Public Advocates, attributed the executive order to the Administration’s larger aim.

“Nobody should be fooled,” he said. “While this order purports to reduce federal bureaucracy, it’s part of a longer-term plan to eliminate federal oversight in education and give states free rein to redirect billions of dollars away from public schools and towards private school vouchers. The ultimate goal is to erode the public’s trust in our system of public education.”

---

*Note: The Assembly Arts, Entertainment, Sports, and Tourism Committee will consider two bills targeting transgender athletes next week.*

## **Two Bills Targeting Trans Athletes to Be Considered in California Legislature**

By Lia Russell  
*The Sacramento Bee*  
March 24, 2025

Members of the California Assembly will consider a pair of bills targeting transgender athletes next week, a surprising development that comes weeks after Gov. Gavin Newsom called trans athletes' participation in sports "deeply unfair" on his podcast.

Two bills sponsored by Assembly members Kate Sanchez, R-Rancho Santa Margarita, and Bill Essayli, R-Corona, will be considered at an April 1 meeting in that chamber's Arts, Entertainment, Sports and Tourism committee, according to a member of the office of Assemblymember Chris Ward, a San Diego Democrat who chairs the committee and also the Legislative LGBTQ Caucus.

Sanchez's bill would require the organization that oversees public school sports and extracurricular activities to ban trans girls from playing women's sports. Essayli's bill would overturn a landmark 2013 state law enshrining the rights of students from kindergarten to 12th grade to participate on sports teams and use locker rooms that reflect their gender identity.

The two bills will likely draw more attention since Newsom broke with the majority of the Democratic Party and contradicted his previous support for the LGBTQ community in a March 6 episode of "This Is Gavin Newsom." He told conservative activist Charlie Kirk that Republicans had successfully "weaponized" increasing opposition to trans participation in sports into a winning strategy in the 2024 election.

"I completely agree with you on that. It is an issue of fairness. It's deeply unfair," Newsom said, citing his two school-aged daughters and his experience as a college athlete when Kirk asked him whether "men should compete in female sports."

There are 1.6 million transgender people 13 years and older nationwide, according to UCLA's Williams Institute. About 122,000 trans teenagers (between 13 and 17) participate in high school sports, and less than 10 trans people out of 530,000 student-athletes compete at the college level, according to the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

### **Bills face Democratic opposition**

Despite their advancement, neither Essayli nor Sanchez's bills are likely to overcome the Legislature's Democratic supermajority, which has previously killed bills with little chance of passing out of committee. Essayli, known more for generating headlines than getting bills passed, tried to force a vote on his bill during a floor session Monday afternoon.

"Very unfair to our girls!" he said after the motion failed. "Any thoughts, Gavin Newsom?"

“April 1st at 9 a.m. is when we will see whether Legislative Democrats are willing to stand with us and ensure that girls’ sports are fair and safe,” Sanchez said in a statement sent via Republican Assembly caucus spokesperson Jim Stanley. “It’s really not that complicated.”

Ward, the chair of the committee that will hear the bills, previously overhauled another controversial Essayli-sponsored bill, which would have required teachers to notify parents if their children came out as trans at school. Ward gutted and amended that bill by making it illegal to force teachers to “out” trans students, which Newsom signed into law last July.

Ward said he agreed to hear the bill because his committee had the “capacity” to do so.

By calling the hearing, “we’re hoping we can document that we’ve had this debate and put it to rest once and for all,” Ward said. “Not hearing the bill ... sends the message that we can keep festering the issue and gives another cycle to the life cycle of this issue.”

Newsom spokesperson Elana Ross declined to comment Monday when asked if the governor would support or oppose Sanchez and Essayli’s bills, saying the governor “typically does not comment on pending legislation.”

Politicians, observers and pundits across the political spectrum have speculated that Newsom’s heel-turn is a ploy to soften his reputation as a liberal California Democrat to appeal to moderate voters, should he run for president in 2028 as expected.

Newsom’s remarks shocked his supporters, who applauded him for supporting the LGBTQ community even when it put him at odds with his own political allies. As mayor of San Francisco, he ordered the city to grant marriage licenses to homosexual couples during a brief window in early 2004 before a since-nullified statewide marriage equality ban went into effect.

‘Too much, too fast’

Former Sen. Dianne Feinstein chastised him for moving “too much, too fast, too soon” and suggested that Newsom’s decision cost John Kerry the 2004 election by galvanizing conservatives to vote for President George W. Bush.

More recently, a long-simmering conflict between the Legislative LGBTQ Caucus and Newsom’s administration came to light after his podcast remarks. His chief of staff, Nathan Barankin, and legislative affairs secretary Christine Aurre discouraged caucus staff in a January meeting from introducing trans-related legislation as the governor courted President Donald Trump for disaster relief aid after the Los Angeles wildfires.

Someone with close knowledge of the January meeting said Monday that the relationship between the caucus and the governor’s office was still “tense” but both parties were committed to cooperating on future legislation.