



BOARD COMMUNICATIONS - OCTOBER 24, 2025

TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Mao Misty Her, Superintendent

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Board Communications Approved by:
Mao Misty Her, Superintendent



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, Superintendent

Date: October 24, 2025

Phone Number: (559) 457-3884

Regarding: Superintendent Calendar Highlights

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

- Spoke at New Employee Orientation
- Met with district staff and labor leaders regarding priority schools
- Held teacher listening session at Tehipite Middle School
- Met with Special Education Teachers at Greenberg Elementary School
- Met with Cabinet teams
- Attended Bullard water polo game
- Attended the Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS) Annual Conference
- Presented a session with Board President Davis titled *Student Outcomes Focused Governance – Fresno Unified's Journey* at CGCS Annual Conference

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Misty Her at (559) 457-3884.

Cabinet Approval:



Name and Title: Mao Misty Her, Superintendent

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: October 24, 2025

Phone Number: (559) 457-3907

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for October 16, 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 October 16, 2025, are attached and include the following articles:

- Ask SSC...Proposition 50 – October 15, 2025
- Judge Blocks Trump Admin from Laying off Federal Workers During Government Shutdown – October 15, 2025
- Newsom Veto Stalls California's Push to Curb Charter School Fraud – October 15, 2025

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Kim Kelstrom at (559) 457-3907.

Cabinet Approval: 

Name and Title: Patrick Jensen, Chief Financial Officer



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DATE: October 16, 2025

TO: Misty Her
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

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

Governor Newsom Takes Final Bill Actions

Governor Gavin Newsom took final action on bills this past Monday, October 13, 2025, concluding the 2025 legislative session. In total, the Legislature sent the Governor 917 bills (913 regular session and 4 special session measures), a slightly lower volume than in prior years. Of these, he signed 794 bills into law and vetoed 123, resulting in a 13.4% veto rate, down from last year's 15.7%.

SB 147—Cleanup Budget Trailer Bill

One of the bills signed on Monday was Senate Bill (SB) 147 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Statutes of 2025), a cleanup budget trailer bill that School Services of California Inc. has been tracking since its introduction in September. SB 147 makes several adjustments to the education provisions of the 2025-26 State Budget, including:

- **Literacy Grants:** Makes technical changes to the allocation methodology for Literacy Instruction Professional Development grants and aligns reporting deadlines with expenditure deadlines
- **Program Fees:** Authorizes the California Department of Education to charge reasonable cost-covering fees to non-local educational agency (LEA) organizations that submit literacy-related professional development programs for inclusion on the statewide list
- **Student Teacher Stipends:** Increases the set-aside for the Student Teacher Stipend Program's media campaign and grants management system from \$5 million to \$6 million
- **IEP Translations:** Clarifies that the Individualized Education Program (IEP) template must be translated into the ten most commonly used languages other than English, and that these translations be uploaded to the digital site for statewide use

- **Golden State Teacher Grant:** Clarifies that non-teacher interns are eligible for the Golden State Teacher Grant Program

As a budget bill, SB 147 took effect immediately upon the Governor’s signature.

SB 414—Charter School Oversight

The Governor also vetoed SB 414 (Ashby, D-Sacramento) on Monday, which would have made significant changes to the oversight, auditing, and funding systems for nonclassroom-based (NCB) charter schools.

The bill sought to update and expand audit procedures for all LEAs, create a new Office of the Education Inspector General to investigate fraud and financial mismanagement, and revise the funding determination process for NCB charter schools. It also would have established statewide contracting requirements to prevent misuse of public funds, increased accountability for charter authorizers through technical assistance and oversight grants, and extended the existing moratorium on new NCB charter schools through June 30, 2026.

In his [veto message](#), Governor Newsom said that while SB 414’s audit and oversight provisions are “meaningful,” the bill “falls short” overall—citing sections he deemed unworkable, vulnerable to legal challenges, and costly, with estimated implementation expenses in the hundreds of millions of dollars. He also objected to late-added provisions that, in his view, undermined agreements made with interest holders during his first term. The Governor’s message emphasized the state’s fiscal constraints and the need for discipline in approving bills with significant, unbudgeted costs.

Newsom encouraged interest holders to develop a more workable proposal in the next legislative session to strengthen oversight and prevent fraud, while maintaining flexibility for high-quality charter schools to operate effectively.

Government Shutdown Update

The federal government has remained shut down since October 1, 2025, after Congress failed to reach an agreement on funding. This week saw continued gridlock in the Senate, where Democrats and Republicans remain divided over whether a deal to reopen the government should include extensions of Affordable Care Act health insurance subsidies. With no breakthrough and the Senate adjourning without action, the shutdown is expected to continue into next week.

Amid the stalemate, the Trump Administration announced plans for large-scale federal employee layoffs (reductions in force, or “RIFs”) affecting more than 10,000 workers. On Wednesday, October 15, 2025, a federal judge in San Francisco issued a temporary injunction blocking about 4,100 of those planned firings, citing concerns about political motivation and the lack of due process. The ruling protects many unionized employees across multiple agencies, including the Department of Education (ED), and temporarily halts the most severe staff cuts.

For now, key federal education programs—including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Title I, and student loan servicing—remain insulated from major disruption. However, the prolonged shutdown continues to strain ED operations, delaying grant processing, compliance reviews, and technical assistance to states and districts.

Leilani Aguinaldo

Ask SSC . . . Proposition 50

By Michelle McKay Underwood
School Services of California Inc.'s *Fiscal Report*
October 15, 2025

- Q.** I know that Proposition 50 asks California voters whether to suspend the congressional district maps drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) and instead adopt a new, Legislature-drawn map for the 2026, 2028, and 2030 U.S. House elections. What is the required voter threshold for passage? And how would the maps differ from current maps?
- A.** Proposition 50 (for more information about Proposition 50, please see our *Fiscal Report* article "[New Congressional Districts May Be on the Horizon](#)") requires only a simple majority of voters, meaning 50% plus one of those who cast a ballot must vote to approve the measure for it to pass; it is not subject to a supermajority threshold. Recent polling shows a plurality or slight majority of voters expressing support for Proposition 50. A poll conducted by co/efficient found that likely voters reported 54% in favor, 36% opposed, and 10% undecided. That same poll tested messaging effects, finding that exposure to pro- and con-Proposition 50 messages moved a similar percentage of respondents into a favor or oppose position and left few undecided voters: 57% in favor, 40% opposed, and 4% undecided. A separate [Emerson College poll](#) found 51% support, 34% opposition, and 15% undecided.

A recent Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) blog post, "[How Would the Proposition 50 Redistricting Plan Affect Racial and Geographic Representation?](#)" finds that the proposed map mirrors the CRC's map quite closely regarding racial and geographic representation (requirements of the CRC). Both maps produce 16 majority-Latino congressional districts and geographically, the maps differ only modestly—the Proposition 50 map splits one more county, while the share of cities unsplit is identical. On "compactness" (simple shapes rather than strange ones), the proposed map is slightly less compact than the CRC's.

Last week, the PPIC held an event to discuss Proposition 50 with parties on both sides of the political debate, an archive of which can be found [here](#).

The special election takes place in less than three weeks, on Tuesday, November 4, 2025.

Note: Judge Susan Illston says that the Administration is not following legal requirements for conducting reductions in force, or RIFs, and that officials have exceeded their authorities.

Judge Blocks Trump Admin from Laying Off Federal Workers During Government Shutdown

U.S. District Judge Susan Illston ruled that the administration isn't following legal requirements for conducting reductions in force.

By Hassan Ali Kanu
Politico
October 15, 2025

A federal judge on Wednesday blocked the Trump administration from laying off thousands of federal workers during the government shutdown, saying it appears to be politically motivated.

U.S. District Judge Susan Illston, a Clinton appointee based in California, ruled from the bench after an afternoon hearing, saying that the administration isn't following legal requirements for conducting reductions in force, or RIFs, and that officials have exceeded their authorities. Illston also cited public comments about the shutdown made by President Donald Trump, Vice President JD Vance and Office of Management and Budget Director Russ Vought, adding that the layoffs appear to be unlawfully targeted at Democrats.

The administration appears to have “taken advantage of the lapse in government spending and government functioning to assume that all bets are off, that the laws don't apply to them any more and that they can impose the structures that they like,” Illston said.

The judge's order blocks administration officials from “taking any action” to issue RIF notices to employees in any federal program or activity that includes workers represented by the American Federation of Government Employees, the country's largest federal employees' union. Illston also ordered the government not to take any further action on RIF notices issued to employees since Oct. 10, the date of the Trump administration's first RIFs during the government shutdown. The AFGE sued OMB and Vought last month over the layoff threats.

Justice Department attorneys repeatedly declined Illston's invitations to offer a legal justification for the Trump administration's mass layoff plans, saying instead they were only prepared to address certain procedural questions about jurisdiction. The government argued that federal workers are limited to administrative remedies — such as bringing grievances and complaints before the Merit Systems Protection Board or the Federal Labor Relations Authority — and cannot sue based on layoffs.

“You're not making any statement concerning the government's position on the merits ... whether the RIFs are legal?” Illston asked during the hearing.

“Not today, your honor,” said DOJ attorney Elizabeth Hedges.

DOJ attorneys added that the lawsuit is premature because many agencies haven't actually decided on the scope or whether to implement RIFs at all.

“Many of them may well decide not to do RIFs at all,” Hedges said.

The Trump administration has told Illston that officials issued RIF notices or fired more than 4,000 employees during the shutdown, which has now lasted 15 days, and doesn't seem to be nearing a resolution. The layoffs spanned the Departments of Commerce; Education; Energy; Health and Human Services; Housing and Urban Development; Homeland Security and Treasury.

Note: Although not mentioned in the Governor's veto message, one major cost driver for SB 414 was the creation of an Office of the Education Inspector General, envisioned as an independent agency to investigate allegations of financial misconduct. Legislative analysts estimated the office would cost about \$13.5 million annually.

Newsom Veto Stalls California's Push to Curb Charter School Fraud

By Kathryn Baron
EdSource
October 15, 2025

California's attempt to crack down on charter school fraud has hit a wall, at least for now.

Gov. Gavin Newsom's veto Monday of Senate Bill 414 leaves major oversight gaps in place for at least another year, despite bipartisan support and mounting concerns over charter school financial misconduct.

Six years after the operators of A3 charter schools were indicted for stealing more than \$400 million in public funds, lawmakers had hoped to pass sweeping reforms aimed at preventing similar schemes.

In his veto message, Newsom said the bill is too costly and overlooks some of the recommendations by a task force convened to investigate systemic weaknesses exploited by A3 and operators of other nonclassroom-based [partially or entirely online, independent study or homeschool] charters.

"I deeply appreciate the efforts of the author and the negotiating parties to develop legislation that builds on these recommendations," Newsom wrote. "However, this bill falls short."

The governor did not specify what was missing from the more than 100-page bill, which passed with two-thirds of Assembly members and 60% of senators.

"The 'falling short' language mystifies me," said Eric Premack, executive director of the Charter Schools Development Center, a nonprofit support and advocacy organization. "If anything, it goes overboard."

Newsom's office declined to elaborate, responding only that "the Governor's veto message speaks for itself," in an email to EdSource.

Premack was involved in the lengthy negotiations to combine SB 414, which was backed by charter advocates, and Assembly Bill 84, which had the support of teachers unions and other labor organizations.

Negotiators kept the governor's office abreast of the talks, said Premack, but reported back that the staff were in "listening mode" and did not provide substantial feedback or indicate the governor's position.

As the 2025 legislative deadline closed in for amending bills, negotiators said they had resolved about 90% of their differences, but the remaining issues proved intractable. When talks broke down, Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, D-Torrance, withdrew AB 84 with plans to reintroduce it in the next legislative session.

Sen. Angelique Ashby, D-Sacramento, SB 414's author, was expected to do the same, but instead sent her bill to the Assembly, where it was amended to include the items agreed to during negotiations. As one of its final votes of the 2025 session, the state Senate approved it the following day and sent it to the governor.

"Although we are disappointed in the Governor's veto, we are proud of the broad coalition that helped advance this bill and the significant progress we made together," said Myrna Castrejón, president and CEO of the California Charter Schools Association, in a statement.

Newsom also cited cost concerns for his veto, pointing to federal cuts to education, health care and social programs.

"While the oversight and auditing provisions are meaningful, other sections are unworkable, would face legal challenges, and require hundreds of millions to implement," he wrote.

Although not mentioned in the governor's veto message, one major cost driver was the creation of an Office of the Education Inspector General, envisioned as an independent agency to investigate allegations of financial misconduct. Legislative analysts estimated the office would cost about \$13.5 million annually out of the state's \$325 billion budget.

Leon Schorr, who led the A3 charter school investigation as assistant chief of the San Diego District Attorney's Special Operations Division, said California needs a dedicated education finance watchdog, either as an independent agency or housed within the state Attorney General's Office.

"No (district attorney's) offices, San Diego included, have the bandwidth to keep up with all the complaints we get," Schorr said. "There's still misuse of school money that could be uncovered and save substantial taxpayer dollars if there were more transparency and better statewide enforcement."

The California Teachers Association, which argued that even the amended version of SB 414 did not do enough to crack down on fraud in nonclassroom-based schools, urged the governor to veto it. "We are firmly committed to the critical work of addressing the need for oversight and transparency in California's nonclassroom-based charters," CTA President David Goldberg said in an email to EdSource.

Those efforts will now have to wait until lawmakers return in January 2026.

Kathryn Baron is a freelance writer.

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

From the Office of the Superintendent

Date: October 24, 2025

To the Members of the Board of Education

Prepared by: Marie Williams, Ed.D., Associate Superintendent

Phone Number: (559) 457-3750

Regarding: Out-of-State Field Trip for Sunnyside High School Future Farmers of America

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with information regarding an out-of-state field trip for some students at Sunnyside High School.

Students from Sunnyside High School's Future Farmers of America (FFA) program will attend the 2025 FFA National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. FFA is a youth organization that provides opportunities for students to learn about the science, business, and technology of plant and animal production as well as environmental and natural resources systems.

Students will attend various leadership workshops where they will participate in competitions, which provide opportunities for them to apply their learning. Students will also participate in student judging to provide feedback on projects that are being shown at the national level. This convention complies with the California Career Technical Education Model Curriculum Standards for Agriculture and Natural Resources and specifically supports the standard C1.0: Evaluate the role of agriculture in the California economy and, Anchor Standard Nine: Leadership and Teamwork. This work aligns directly with the Fresno Unified College and Career Readiness goal.

This year's convention will be held from October 29, 2025, to November 01, 2025. Fresno Unified School District will be represented by six Sunnyside High School students and two Sunnyside High School staff members.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication or require additional information, please contact Matt Ward at (559) 457-3781.

Cabinet Approval: 
Carlos Castillo (Oct 23, 2025 11:39:33 PDT)

Name and Title: Carlos Castillo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer

Out-of-State, Over-Night Field Trip Information

Trip Date	School	Destination	Purpose: Educational Outcome and standards being addressed	Students and Chaperones	Instructional Time off Site	Cost/Funding
10/29/2025-11/1/2025	Sunnyside High School	Indianapolis, Indiana	Event: Future Farmers of America National Convention Group: Sunnyside High School Purpose: Students to participate in workshop competitions and student judging at a national level. Benefit: Brings positive recognition to FUSD Students for their participation in a national convention, as well as further developing students critical thinking and leadership skills. Complies with California Career Technical Education Model Curriculum Standards for Agriculture and Natural Resources standard C1.0: Evaluate the role of agriculture in the California economy and Anchor Standard 9: Leadership and Teamwork.	6- students 2- chaperones	3 days	\$14,050

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