BOARD COMMUNICATIONS - NOVEMBER 14, 2025

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

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Adela Garcia Duncan, Chief Officer

6. OFFICE OF ENGAGEMENT & EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS
Wendy McCulley, Chief Officer

7. OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES & LABOR RELATIONS
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Tami Lundberg, Chief Officer

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: November 14, 2025

Phone Number: (559) 457-3884

Regarding: Superintendent Calendar Highlights

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

- Team taught 1st grade at Mayfair Elementary School
- Met with district staff and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools regarding Student Outcome Focused Governance
- Held teacher listening sessions with the following sites: Adult Transition Program, Anthony, Jackson, Jefferson, Lowell, Tioga, Webster, and Yokomi
- Held meeting with ACSA leadership team
- Spoke at Edison High School's New CTE Building Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- Attended the Foundation for Fresno Unified Student's Board Meeting
- Attended CORE Districts Board Meeting

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 — Date: November 14, 2025
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Kim Kelstrom, Chief Executive — Phone Number: (559) 457-3907

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for November 05, 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 November 05, 2025, are attached and include the following articles:

- Will Proposition 98 Settle-Up Become a Budget Balancer? – November 03, 2025
- Proposition 50 Passed in California. Here's What You Missed – November 05, 2025
- 'Everyone Is Scrambling': School Communities Respond to SNAP Food Crisis – November 04, 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

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DATE: November 5, 2025

TO: Misty Her
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

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

Voters Approve Proposition 50

California voters have overwhelmingly approved Proposition 50 (2025) by a margin of 64% "Yes" to 36% "No," according to the latest return counts from the California Secretary of State's Office. The Secretary of State will certify the official Statement of Vote 38 days after Election Day, which is December 12, 2025.

The measure redraws California's congressional maps for the next three election cycles—2026, 2028, and 2030—and remains in effect until the next decennial redistricting in 2031, when authority returns to the independent California Citizens Redistricting Commission. It will not impact the current Assembly, State Senate, or Board of Equalization district boundaries.

Nationally, Proposition 50 is expected to influence control of the U.S. House by making several currently GOP-held California districts more favorable to Democrats—analyses suggest potential gains of up to five seats in the 2026 midterms. Early calls from major outlets framed the measure as part of a broader, partisan redistricting fight that could meaningfully shape the House majority in 2027.

Limón to Take Over as Senate Leader on November 17

On November 17, 2025, leadership of the California State Senate will officially transition from Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire (D-North Coast) to Senator Monique Limón (D-Santa Barbara). The pro Tem is the highest-ranking officer and chief leadership position of the California State Senate. The pro Tem chairs the Senate Rules Committee, which is the committee responsible for appointing committee chairs and membership as well as running the administrative functions of the state's upper chamber.

The Senate Democratic Caucus voted unanimously on June 9, 2025, to designate Limón as McGuire's successor. McGuire, who has served as pro Tem since February 2024, is terming out in 2026 and will step down as part of a

planned leadership transition. Limón, who currently represents the 19th Senate District, will have roughly three years remaining in her term before she terms out at the end of 2028.

This change in leadership is significant for the Legislature and for policy areas such as education. A new Senate pro Tem typically brings a reorganization of the Senate's internal structure, including new committee chair and membership assignments. When McGuire took over, he reshuffled much of the Senate leadership team, and a similar process is expected under Limón. That means key education-related committees—such as the Senate Education Committee and the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Education—may see new leadership and membership, potentially altering legislative priorities and the flow of legislation.

Limón's background and policy record suggest potential areas of emphasis that could influence future education and workforce legislation. She has previously served on committees focused on health, natural resources, and fiscal issues, and has championed measures related to educational equity, access, and community well-being. Her tenure as pro Tem could bring increased attention to initiatives that connect education with broader equity, environmental, and health policy goals.

The Legislature will return for the second year of the 2025-26 Legislative Session on Monday, January 5, 2026.

Government Shutdown Update

The federal government shutdown that began on October 1, 2025, is poised to become the longest in U.S. history, surpassing the previous 35-day record from 2018-19.

The U.S. Senate is expected to hold key votes this week in an effort to reach a compromise and reopen the government, but as of now, there is still no final agreement between congressional negotiators. Despite ongoing conversations between Senate leaders and the White House, funding bills remain stalled, and agencies across the federal government continue to operate with limited or no appropriations.

For TK-12 education, the longer this shutdown persists, the greater the risk of ripple effects such as delayed federal education funding and grants, slower regulatory and monitoring activity by federal agencies, and increased strain on state and local budgets if federal support is disrupted or delayed.

Leilani Aguinaldo

Will Proposition 98 Settle-Up Become a Budget Balancer?

By Patti F. Herrera, EdD, and Megan Baier
School Services of California Inc.'s *Fiscal Report*
November 3, 2025

Governor Gavin Newsom's novel approach to Proposition 98's settle-up mechanism drew much attention from the public education community since he initially unveiled it as part of his 2025-26 education budget proposal last January. Despite the scrutiny, he and the California legislature approved the budget with a built-in settle-up obligation for the 2024-25 fiscal year, totaling $1.9 billion.

As we approach the release of the Governor's 2026-27 State Budget on or before January 10, 2026—the last in his final tenure as the state's chief executive officer—the question is: *What are the Proposition 98 settle-up obligation prospects for next year's budget?*

What Is and What Governs Settle-Up

First things first: What *is* settle-up?

A Proposition 98 settle-up obligation is created when the State Budget appropriates less to TK-12 and community college agencies than the state's constitutional minimum spending requirement for public education in any fiscal year. For the 2024-25 fiscal year, while the budget assumed that the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee was $119.9 billion, it only appropriated $118.0 billion to local educational agencies, leaving nearly $2.0 billion unappropriated and unallocated for local budgeting purposes.

The reason why this treatment of settle-up under Proposition 98 drew scrutiny is because it was the first time that the state knowingly appropriated less than what it assumed its obligation to public education would be for fiscal year 2024-25. In other words, settle-up obligations historically have been determined in the rearview mirror rather than preemptively, like it was in the 2025-26 Enacted Budget.

In its recent analysis of California's current-year spending plan, the Legislative Analyst's Office characterized the budget's novel approach to settle-up as a type of "borrowing"—meaning, the state borrowed money from Proposition 98 to address its budget deficit.

Unlike other obligations under Proposition 98, there are fewer rules governing both the creation and payment of settle-up obligations. By contrast, maintenance factor—when it is created and when payments are required—is determined by the California Constitution. The rules for settle-up, on the other hand, are found mostly in the Education Code and give the state much broader discretion.

Settle-Up Prospects for the 2026-27 State Budget

What we know is that the Enacted Budget's Proposition 98 minimum guarantee assumptions were conservative. We now know that the state's projected obligation to spend $119.9 billion on public education in 2024-25 will increase when the 2024-25 minimum guarantee is certified next year. Thus, we can expect a settle-up obligation of at *least* $1.9 billion, and likely more given that state revenues for 2024-25 beat budget projections by $2.7 billion (not including any delayed tax revenues attributable to the 2024-25 fiscal year from Los Angeles County).

We also know that the 2025-26 Enacted Budget prescribed how any funding from a 2024-25 settle-up payment would be used. Specifically, the budget requires:

- The Director of the Department of Finance (DOF) to update the estimated 2024-25 settle-up obligation based on revised revenues by January 10, 2026
- Settle-up payment(s) to fund "ongoing costs of school and community college programs" and to reduce outstanding and avoid future deferrals

Beyond these requirements, California law affords policymakers discretion over when to make settle-up payments. Education Code Section 41206.03 requires the DOF Director to provide the legislature "a [written] schedule for the allocation of the outstanding balance" between what a budget act appropriated to education versus the certified minimum guarantee. The law does not prescribe a payment schedule nor set conditions for when settle-up payments must be made, unlike the constitutional provisions governing maintenance factor payments.

In addition to the novel settle-up created in fiscal year 2024-25, the state is likely to face a new settle-up obligation in 2025-26 due to current state revenue trends. As these obligations to fund public education mount amid increasing noneducation budget pressures, Proposition 98 becomes more vulnerable to budget maneuvers—some old, some new—like deferrals and borrowings. And it appears that the guarantee's settle-up mechanism could become an attractive budget balancing tool for the state.

We will get a first peek at how the state may address its funding obligations to TK-12 and community college agencies when the Governor releases his 2026-27 Budget in early January.

We will cover this matter and his other education proposals at our Governor's Budget Workshop. Click here to reserve your spot at the workshop. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Note: Supporters of Proposition 50 spent more than $120 million on Governor Gavin Newsom's committee supporting the measure while opponents raised $44 million and outside groups spent $27 million to try to sway the vote.

Proposition 50 Passed in California. Here's What You Missed

By Jeanne Kuang and Maya C. Miller
CalMatters
November 5, 2025

California voters on Tuesday overwhelmingly approved Gov. Gavin Newsom's measure that allowed the state to redraw its congressional map in favor of Democrats, pushing back against President Donald Trump's effort to hold onto a Republican-controlled Congress by urging redistricting in Texas.

Tuesday capped off a whirlwind, hyper-partisan two-and-a-half-month campaign for one of the most expensive ballot measures in state history. Supporters poured more than $120 million into Newsom's committee supporting the measure. Opponents raised just $44 million. Outside groups spent $27 million to try to sway the vote.

Here's what you missed.

Newsom declares victory

In a triumphant speech, Newsom proclaimed that Prop. 50's victory was not just a win for California, but a win for the entire country. He called on leaders in other Democratic-held states — Illinois, Virginia, Maryland and New York — to "meet the moment" and redraw their congressional districts, too.

"Instead of agonizing over the state of our nation, we organized in an unprecedented way," Newsom said. "Tonight, I'm proud. But I'm very mindful and sober of the moment we are living in. Donald Trump does not believe in fair and free elections, period and full stop."

Prop. 50's passage marked a significant victory for the governor, who took a political risk on the measure, calculating that it would give the state's Democratic voters who are frustrated with the Trump administration a way to "fight back."

Though opponents criticized him for using the measure to burnish his national profile, Newsom was joined in his effort by numerous liberal groups, who argued that helping Democrats win the House could counter the administration's aggressive immigration raids, cuts to social services and erosion of democratic norms.

Republicans vowed they will still challenge Democrats statewide, and said the election distracted from issues like the cost of living.

"Even under this new map, Republicans have clear opportunities to flip seats because Californians are fed up with Democrat chaos," National Republican Congressional Committee chairman Richard Hudson said in a statement.

What this means for incumbent Republicans

Five GOP congressmembers now face steep odds to re-election and are more likely to lose their seats after next year's midterms:

- Rocklin Rep. Kevin Kiley reaffirmed Tuesday night he'll run for re-election despite his 3rd District becoming more liberal: "Politicians can change the lines on a map, but they can't tell you how to vote."
- Chico Rep. Doug LaMalfa, whose 1st District in the vast rural northeast corner of California, will lose several conservative counties and take in liberal Santa Rosa, has also said he will run again.
- Corona Rep. Ken Calvert will have to decide whether to run in a primary against a fellow Republican after his Riverside County district moves completely. He'll instead be in the safe Republican 40th District held by Rep. Young Kim.
- Hanford Rep. David Valadao's district in the southern Central Valley will become slightly more Democratic and stretch closer to Fresno. The race could still be competitive; the Republican has held onto his seat despite a Democratic registration advantage.
- Escondido Rep. Darrell Issa's eastern San Diego County district will lose conservative pockets and gain liberal voters in the Coachella Valley. He said Tuesday night that he's "not quitting."

What this means for Democrats

Five Democratic House incumbents have seen their districts grow safer under Prop. 50:

- Rep. Josh Harder, a Stockton Democrat, was swept into Congress during the 2018 Democratic wave and he has held onto his Stockton-based seat despite being a perpetual Republican target.
- Rep. Adam Gray of Turlock had the closest 2024 House race in the country. With more Democratic voters from Stockton, it will be much easier for him to hold the seat next year.
- Rep. George Whitesides of Santa Clarita represents northern Los Angeles suburbs in the 27th District that have grown gradually more liberal. His new seat brings in more Democratic voters from the San Fernando Valley.
- Rep. Derek Tran of Cypress should have an easier time defending his seat in the heavily Asian 45th District, which straddles Orange and Los Angeles counties.
- Rep. Dave Min of Costa Mesa won his 47th District seat by fewer than three percentage points last November. The new map shifts his district away from Huntington Beach and Newport Beach.
- While numerous Democrats have been running assuming the new maps would apply, several are poised to switch districts now:
- Rep. Ami Bera in Sacramento County, will shift from the 6th District to challenge Kiley in the 3rd District.
- In turn, Dr. Richard Pan, a prominent former state senator who had already declared a challenge against Kiley, said he will now run in the 6th District.
- Two candidates challenging Calvert in his current district — Brandon Riker and Anuj Dixit — have said they will instead challenge Issa in the newly drawn 48th District.

Trump threatens 'legal and criminal' review

Trump threatened Tuesday to challenge California's mail-in ballot results, claiming without evidence that it was fraudulently conducted — even before any results were in.

The president said there would be "very serious legal and criminal review" of the state's use of universal mail ballots. White House spokesperson Karoline Leavitt later said Trump was working on an executive order to strengthen elections and assure there isn't "blatant fraud" in California's universal mail-in ballots.

About 7 million Californians had already voted by Election Day, 4.6 million of whom put their ballots in the mail. Another 2.3 million put a ballot they received in the mail at a ballot drop-off box or at an elections office. For more than a decade, the majority of voters in California elections have participated by mail. Voter fraud is extremely rare, and studies have found no evidence that voting by mail increases fraud.

Note: California schools, families, community organizations, and students have been mobilizing to help those affected by delays in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program due to the government shutdown.

'Everyone Is Scrambling': School Communities Respond to SNAP Food Crisis

By Emma Gallegos, Diana Lambert, Lasherica Thornton, Zaidee Stavely, and Mallika Seshadri
EdSource
November 4, 2025

Lilya Medvedev and 84 other students in Kinney High School's culinary arts program were given a difficult task last Wednesday: plan and prepare 50 healthy meals by Friday for families facing a food crisis due to delays in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

The students worked into the evening hours and all day Thursday, preparing spaghetti with a marinara sauce chock-full of eggplant, squash, carrots, mushrooms, green peppers and onions.

On Friday, the students and school staff distributed 49 family-sized containers. Most went to the homes of the school's students, and some went to families at another community school in the Folsom Cordova Unified School District.

"I really enjoyed it. It's great teamwork, and I'm honored to be able to help other people," said Medvedev, who is a 17-year-old senior. "People are going through tough times right now."

California schools, families, community organizations and even students like Medvedev have been mobilizing to help those affected by delays in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as food stamps. They are raising funds, soliciting food donations and coordinating with local food pantries.

"Everyone is scrambling to do as much as possible," said Adrienne Shilton, senior vice president of public policy and strategy for the California Alliance of Child and Family Services, which represents over 200 community-based organizations that support children, including many that work in schools.

SNAP was originally authorized in 1964 as the "food stamp program." This is the first time benefits have been delayed. The Trump administration planned to freeze all SNAP funds on Nov. 1, but on Friday, two federal judges ordered the administration to tap into contingency funds. The administration said Monday it would send partial benefits to SNAP recipients, though it did not offer details on when or how much aid recipients will see, according to the Associated Press.

Nearly 2 million children statewide rely on SNAP funds, known in California as CalFresh, for their meals. All K-12 students receive free breakfast and lunch on school days through California's Universal Meals Program, but that's not enough for families who rely on those benefits.

Shania Shatswell relies on CalFresh to feed her five children. Three attend Jefferson Elementary School in Bakersfield, where they receive breakfast and lunch, but she worries about her two younger ones still at home. Typically, her EBT card is reloaded on the 6th of the month, but she is preparing for indefinite delays.

"Right now I'm just hitting every food bank possible," Shatswell said. "It's scary not knowing if you can feed your kids at the end of the day."

Community groups step up

The response to the delay in SNAP benefits was a reminder of the early days of the pandemic, according to Shilton. There have been a lot of "flash fundraisers" and coordination to make sure SNAP recipients are able to take advantage of food pantries or emergency funds.

"There's been a lot of resource sharing among members," she said.

Some local governments, such as San Francisco, are offering grocery cards to CalFresh recipients for the month of November. But organizations serving school communities have also stepped up.

The Oakland Public Education Fund launched a fundraising campaign to help stock school food pantries and pay for families' groceries. The organization is a nonprofit that raises funds and organizes volunteers for all schools in the district, where 74% of students are from low-income families.

"Luckily, all of our kids can get two meals a day at school, but what happens on the weekends and what happens at dinner?" said Ali Medina, the organization's CEO. "Food insecurity already existed. This is exacerbating it."

Medina said the fundraising campaign is modeled after one the group organized during the Covid-19 pandemic that raised about $1.5 million for cash assistance and groceries for families. As of Monday morning, the organization had raised more than $15,000. She said the organization will work with the school district staff to distribute the funds to schools and families that need them most.

"We're not quite sure the scale of how bad this is going to get, and for us, it's really important that there be a rapid response," Medina said. "We know that California is going to step up, our city and county governments are going to step in, but in the meantime, we're getting some funds immediately out the door."

Community schools play a unique role

Community schools, which act as a neighborhood hub with wraparound services for families, are working rapidly to address the SNAP crisis.

Ayer Elementary, one of the 29 community schools in Fresno Unified, where nearly 9 out of 10 students come from families considered socioeconomically disadvantaged, regularly hosts a four-hour food distribution event each month, typically serving around 150 families from Ayer and neighboring schools.

At the monthly event on Friday — a day before November SNAP benefits began to lapse — 500 individuals flooded the food distribution. The school was only able to serve half of those families before running out of food, said Sal Lucatero, the community school coordinator for Ayer.

"We saw an increased need," he said. "This time, we noticed that there were families coming from other schools that were not community schools, from other regions and even from outside of our district trying to get food."

As a result, the school is planning emergency food distribution pop-ups this week for families identified by the district.

"At the end of the day, we are still just schools," Lucatero said. "Although we are community schools, our intention is to be a resource hub and a source of support for our families. We are not a food pantry. We are a school operating as an emergency food, food distribution center, pantry."

School districts respond

Many school districts are working with local community organizations and pantries to ensure that families can find the food that they need.

In addition to the meals made by Kinney High School students, Folsom Cordova Unified School District leaders have asked each school to start an emergency food bank to support families, students and staff impacted by the disruption of food benefits, said Angela Griffin Ankhelyi, chief communications officer for the district.

Some school districts are ensuring that students have access to a third meal at school during the week.

In San Francisco, the district announced Friday that due to the SNAP cuts, the district is expanding its Supper Program to offer an afternoon meal to any child or young person who was 18 or younger at the beginning of the school year, even if they are not enrolled in the district.

The Los Angeles Unified School District — home to roughly 217,000 students who receive SNAP benefits — already provides breakfast, lunch and dinner to kids who need it.

Now, the district is ramping up its efforts, adding dinner pick-up options at most campuses for all children — even those who are not students — under the age of 18.

Schools in the San Luis Coastal Unified School District in San Luis Obispo County offer a "share table" where students can contribute anything they don't plan to eat.

Erin Primer, the district's director of food and nutrition services, said they have seen an increase in the number of students taking advantage of the shared space.

Educators see the impact of poverty and hunger in their classrooms, according to a statement from United Teachers Los Angeles, which called SNAP benefits a "lifeline." The union has also called upon Gov. Gavin Newsom and local leaders, including Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent Alberto Carvalho, to declare a state of emergency.

Those Kinney High meals were so popular that the school plans to do it every Friday this month.

"We're just trying to make our families feel welcome and part of the community because we know that it's tough," said Principal Allen Sims. "We don't want them to be alone, and we want them to know that we care about them."

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

From the Office of the Superintendent — Date: November 14, 2025
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Ashlee Chiarito, Ed.D., Executive Officer — Phone Number: (559) 457-3934

Regarding: November Legislative Committee Meeting

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with information shared at the November 06, 2025, Legislative Committee Meeting.

At the regular meeting of the Legislative Committee of the Fresno Unified School District the following were present: Board of Education Members, Veva Islas and Andy Levine; Director, Governmental Relations, Leilani Aguinaldo; District Staff: Adela Duncan, Chief Information Officer, Patrick Jensen, Chief Financial Officer; Kim Kelstrom, Chief Executive, Fiscal Services; Jonie Difilippo, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources; Ashlee Chiarito, Executive Officer, State and Federal, and Teresa Plascencia, Executive Director, Constituent Services.

Budget and Economic Update
Ms. Aguinaldo provided a budget update.

The Department of Finance (DOF) released that revenues from the "Big Three" taxes, which funds the majority of state government programs, exceed Budget Act estimates for the fiscal year by $3.4 billion.

For the 2024/25 fiscal year, the budgets assumed that Proposition 98 guarantees $119.9 billion, only $118.0 billion is appropriated to local education agencies. The roughly $1.9 billion was likely unappropriated to pay deferrals from the 2023/24 fiscal year. According to the Legislative's Analyst's Office (LAO), the 'Wall of Debt' totals $21.6 billion and consists of traditional budget instruments and with novel debt features such as the $1.9 billion Proposition 98 settle-up and the $4.4 billion Medi-Cal 'maneuver' that creates future budgetary obligations extending into 2034.

The initiative to extend Proposition 30, for higher tax rates on the top income earners set to expire in 2031, was launched. This provides significant revenue to the state, between $5 to $15 billion per year.

Public advocates filed a lawsuit against the State and California and other government entities on behalf of students, families, educators, and several nonprofit organizations. This lawsuit is specific to funding provided for modernization through the School Facility Program (SFP), claiming that the SFP "provides more funding to wealthy districts based on their local wealth, enabling them to meet local funding requirements mores easily, which in turn qualifies them for more state bond matching funds."

Effective July 01, 2026, Assembly Bill (AB) 560 focuses on two areas in Special Education: equitable distribution of assessment workload among resource specialists and development of statewide recommendations for adult-to-pupil staffing rations in special education classes.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1264 will gradually phase out certain ultra processed foods (UPFs) from California public schools. By 2028 regulations will need to be adopted. Operational changes for schools, starting July 01, 2029, which include phasing out restricted foods and UPFs of concern from the school meals.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1454 requires that the State Board of Education adopt, by January 31, 2027, a new list of K-8 instructions materials in ELA/ELD that meet specific research-based criteria. The Budget includes $200 million in one-time Proposition 98 funding for professional development in evidence-based literacy instruction primarily targeting grades K-3.

Assembly Bill (AB) 495 expands who can sign a caregiver authorization affidavit to enroll a minor in school and consent to school-related medical care on behalf of the minor to address the immigration enforcement activities that may impact families.

If passed, the House of Representatives Bill 5753, the "Healthy Meals Help Kids Learn Act of 2025' will provide critical funding increases for school meal programs, increasing the federal reimbursement rate for all school lunches by 45 cents and school breakfast by 28 cents, starting November 01, 2025.

Legislative Update
Ms. Aguinaldo provided an update on the following bills that were signed into law:

AB 268 (Kalra) – Support – Adds "Diwali" to the list of state holidays and authorizes state employees to elect to take time off with pay in recognition of the holiday.

AB 1369 (Ramos) – Support – Permits a pupil to wear traditional tribal regalia or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance, as determined by the pupil's family as an adornment at school graduation ceremonies or related school events.

AB 1390 (Solache) – Support – Increases the maximum monthly compensation of the governing board members of school districts and county boards of education.

AB 382 (Berman) – Support – Beginning January 01, 2031, the speed limit will be reduced from 25 to 20 miles per hour in a school zone.

AB 419 (Connolly) – Support – Requires the governing board of a local educational agency to post the Immigration Enforcement Actions at California School Guide for Students and Families, also known as "Know Your Educational Rights".

SB 98 (Perez) –Support – Requires school safety plans to include procedures for notifying parents and school staff when immigration enforcement is confirmed on the school site.

The School Services Legislative Committee November 2025 report is attached. The next Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2025.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Ashlee Chiarito at (559) 457-3934 or Kim Kelstrom at (559) 457-3907.

Cabinet Approval:
Name and Title: Patrick Jensen, Chief Financial Officer

Fresno Unified School District

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 6, 2025

2025-2026 Legislative Session

Prepared By:

Leilani Aguinaldo
Director, Governmental Relations

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Legislative and Economic Update

School Services of California, Inc.
Legislative and Economic Update Prepared for:
Fresno Unified School District
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November 5, 2025

Legislative and Economic Update

State Revenues Continue to Outpace Projections

By: Megan Baier October 22, 2025

The Department of Finance (DOF) released its October 2025 *Finance Bulletin* today, October 22, 2025, and revenues continue to exceed the projections of the 2025-26 Enacted Budget.

Total revenues for the month of September exceeded Budget Act estimates by $2.1 billion (11.9%), largely due to personal income tax receipts. Personal income tax receipts were $2.3 billion (21.4%) above the forecast, corporation tax receipts were $46 million (-1.6%) below estimates, and sales and use taxes were also below the forecast by $45 million (-1.6%).

Revenues from the "Big Three" taxes, which fund the majority of state government programs, shown below, collectively exceed Budget Act estimates for the fiscal year by $3.4 billion.

2025-26 Fiscal Year-to-Date "Big Three" Tax Revenues
(In millions)

	Forecast	Actual	Difference
Personal Income Tax	$27,044	$30,761	$3,717
Corporation Tax	$4,397	$4,211	-$186
Sales and Use Tax	$8,322	$8,200	-$122
Total	$39,763	$43,172	$3,409

Source: DOF

The *Finance Bulletin* does not yet reflect the tax receipts of Los Angeles County residents who received a tax filing extension due to the wildfires that occurred in January. Next month's bulletin will shed light on the impact of those filings.

Second quarter U.S. real gross domestic product (GDP) grew at a 3.8% seasonally adjusted annual rate. Net exports, personal consumption, and fixed investment all contributed to boosting GDP growth.

In California, real GDP grew by 4.3% in the second quarter of 2025. Notably, the information sector's GDP grew 15.9%, making up 2.5% of the total state GDP. Since the fourth quarter of 2022, information sector growth has dramatically outpaced that of other sectors, accounting for 54.8% of the state's GDP growth, yet making up 2.9% of the state's payroll employment as of August 2025. Comparatively, the U.S. information sector has increased 20.5% since the fourth quarter of 2022 and accounts for 1.8% of U.S. payroll employment as of August 2025.

Building activity has increased by 0.8% since July 2025, but is down year over year by 5.5% compared to August 2024. The price of a median single-family home decreased 1.7% to $883,640 from August to September 2025, but is still 1.8% higher than a year ago.

The government shutdown has impacted several federal statistical agencies, so the September labor market data, as well as the consumer price inflation report, are not available at this time.

Will Proposition 98 Settle-Up Become a Budget Balancer?

By: Patti F. Herrera, EdD and Megan Baier November 3, 2025

Governor Gavin Newsom's novel approach to Proposition 98's settle-up mechanism drew much attention from the public education community since he initially unveiled it as part of his 2025-26 education budget proposal last January. Despite the scrutiny, he and the California legislature approved the budget with a built-in settle-up obligation for the 2024-25 fiscal year, totaling $1.9 billion.

As we approach the release of the Governor's 2026-27 State Budget on or before January 10, 2026—the last in his final tenure as the state's chief executive officer—the question is: *What are the Proposition 98 settle-up obligation prospects for next year's budget?*

What Is and What Governs Settle-Up

First things first: What *is* settle-up?

A Proposition 98 settle-up obligation is created when the State Budget appropriates less to TK-12 and community college agencies than the state's constitutional minimum spending requirement for public education in any fiscal year. For the 2024-25 fiscal year, while the budget assumed that the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee was $119.9 billion, it only appropriated $118.0 billion to local educational agencies, leaving nearly $2.0 billion unappropriated and unallocated for local budgeting purposes.

The reason why this treatment of settle-up under Proposition 98 drew scrutiny is because it was the first time that the state knowingly appropriated less than what it assumed its obligation to public education would be for fiscal year 2024-25. In other words, settle-up obligations historically have been determined in the rearview mirror rather than preemptively, like it was in the 2025-26 Enacted Budget.

In its recent analysis of California's current-year spending plan, the Legislative Analyst's Office characterized the budget's novel approach to settle-up as a type of "borrowing"—meaning, the state borrowed money from Proposition 98 to address its budget deficit.

Unlike other obligations under Proposition 98, there are fewer rules governing both the creation and payment of settle-up obligations. By contrast, maintenance factor—when it is created and when payments are required—is determined by the California Constitution. The rules for settle-up, on the other hand, are found mostly in the Education Code and give the state much broader discretion.

Settle-Up Prospects for the 2026-27 State Budget

What we know is that the Enacted Budget's Proposition 98 minimum guarantee assumptions were conservative. We now know that the state's projected obligation to spend $119.9 billion on public education in 2024-25 will increase when the 2024-25 minimum guarantee is certified next year.

Thus, we can expect a settle-up obligation of at *least* $1.9 billion, and likely more given that state revenues for 2024-25 beat budget projections by $2.7 billion (not including any delayed tax revenues attributable to the 2024-25 fiscal year from Los Angeles County).

We also know that the 2025-26 Enacted Budget prescribed how any funding from a 2024-25 settle-up payment would be used. Specifically, the budget requires:

- The Director of the Department of Finance (DOF) to update the estimated 2024-25 settle-up obligation based on revised revenues by January 10, 2026
- Settle-up payment(s) to fund "ongoing costs of school and community college programs" and to reduce outstanding and avoid future deferrals

Beyond these requirements, California law affords policymakers discretion over when to make settle-up payments. Education Code Section 41206.03 requires the DOF Director to provide the legislature "a [written] schedule for the allocation of the outstanding balance" between what a budget act appropriated to education versus the certified minimum guarantee. The law does not prescribe a payment schedule nor set conditions for when settle-up payments must be made, unlike the constitutional provisions governing maintenance factor payments.

In addition to the novel settle-up created in fiscal year 2024-25, the state is likely to face a new settle-up obligation in 2025-26 due to current state revenue trends. As these obligations to fund public education mount amid increasing noneducation budget pressures, Proposition 98 becomes more vulnerable to budget maneuvers—some old, some new—like deferrals and borrowings. And it appears that the guarantee's settle-up mechanism could become an attractive budget balancing tool for the state.

We will get a first peek at how the state may address its funding obligations to TK-12 and community college agencies when the Governor releases his 2026-27 Budget in early January.

We will cover this matter and his other education proposals at our Governor's Budget Workshop. Click here to reserve your spot at the workshop. We look forward to seeing you all there!

LAO: California Faces $22 Billion Wall of Debt

By: Megan Baier and Patti F. Herrera, EdD October 22, 2025

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) released its annual report of California's latest budget in which it revives a term from Governor Jerry Brown's last tenure. In the waning years of his administration, Governor Brown was laser focused on eliminating what was then an estimated $35 billion "wall of debt" the state had accumulated from deferrals and borrowings to address California's protracted budget problem stemming from the Great Recession.

Wall of Debt Revival

According to the LAO, the bricks of today's wall total $21.6 billion and consist of traditional budget instruments along with novel debt features such as the $1.9 billion Proposition 98 settle up and $4.4 billion Medi-Cal "maneuver" that creates future budgetary obligations extending into 2034. Noting that "the administration does not produce an easily accessible, public list" of the state's borrowing, the report provides a table summarizing nearly $10 billion new debt included in the 2025-26 Enacted Budget that increases California's wall of debt from $12 billion to almost $22 billion (Figure 1).

Figure 1. LAO Wall of Debt Summary (in billions)

Borrowing type	Amount
Existing	
Payroll deferral	$1.6
Proposition 98 maneuver (cash borrowing)	6.4
Special fund loans	4.0
Total	**$12.0**
Adopted in 2025-26 Budget Package	
Medi-Cal maneuver (cash borrowing)	$4.4
Settle up	1.9
Special fund loans (unallocated)	1.5
Middle Class Scholarships arrears budgeting	0.9
Special fund loans (allocated)	0.6
University payment deferrals	0.3
Total	**$9.6**
Total Outstanding Budgetary Borrowing	**$21.6**

Importantly, the state relied on new and existing borrowings as part of its multi-prong approach to address a measured $15 billion budget problem. Additionally, the budget included over $5 billion

in spending solutions (reductions and fund shifts) and a relatively modest revenue solution ($300 million) related to taxing the profits of financial institutions that operate in multiple states.

While lawmakers were able to cobble together a package enabling them to adopt a balanced budget earlier this summer, the report highlights that California faces budget deficits ranging from $15 billion to $25 billion through 2028-29. The LAO cautions that outyear state revenues are difficult to forecast, which could improve or further deteriorate the long-term budget condition. Nevertheless, the range of estimated deficits do not account for the impact of the passage of House Resolution (H.R.) 1: One Big Beautiful Bill Act that President Donald Trump signed into law on July 4, 2025. Preliminary estimates of the budgetary impact H.R. 1 will have on California total nearly $30 billion when the federal policy changes to Medicaid/Medicare and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program go into full effect.

Revised Revenue Projections

Although not included in the report, the LAO updated its projections of personal income, corporation, and sales tax revenues since the budget was passed in June. The LAO's August post now estimates that "Big Three" tax revenues could beat budget estimates by $20 billion over a three-period (2024-25, 2025-26, and 2026-27) (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Revised "Big Three" Tax Revenues
(change from 2025-26 Enacted Budget, in billions)

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Income Tax	$1.0	$10.8	$11.0
Corporation Tax	$1.6	$0.5	-$0.3
Sales Tax	-$0.3	-$1.5	-$1.7
Total	**$2.3**	**$9.8**	**$9.0**

The LAO attributes the revenue improvement to artificial intelligence and the gains that a few technology companies are reaping as a result. The companies have spent and plan to spend hundreds of billions of dollars for data warehousing while also offering lucrative pay packages to attract a skilled workforce. These actions have buoyed their stock market performance, as evidenced by the S&P 500's 50% rise over the last two years.

While unexpected revenues will help to reduce California's budget deficits, the LAO cautions that they are not enough to overcome them completely.

State Spending Limit Problem Unlikely

When the state experiences surges in revenue, those surges can lead to spending problems. The state is constitutionally limited in the amount of revenue it can spend each year—this is known as the State Appropriations Limit (SAL) or Gann Limit, with which most local governments are

familiar. The post-COVID-19 boom created a SAL problem; thus, the state found multiple ways to spend revenues that exceeded its limit, including "emergency" investments and infrastructure spending, both of which are exempt from the limit.

Despite the expected $20 billion boost in revenue over the next three years, the LAO forecasts that the state will not hit up against its spending limit in 2023-24, 2024-25, or 2025-26 as it has room to spend an additional $15 billion, $9 billion, and $35 billion in each of those years, respectively.

2025-26 TK-12 and Community College Budget

Finally, the LAO summarizes the education budget by highlighting that the state's Proposition 98 obligation increased by $3.9 billion in 2024-25 and 2025-26 over what was assumed in the 2024-25 Enacted Budget (Note: Amounts are likely to be revised upward with recent state revenue updates).

The LAO reports that the budget only funded $2.0 billion of the $3.9 billion increase, leaving an outstanding $1.9 billion settle up obligation. Initially, the LAO referred to this budget feature as a "spending delay" but now recognizes it as a form of budgetary borrowing—meaning, the state borrowed $1.9 billion in Proposition 98 funds to help address the budget deficit. The state will need to make a settle up payment at some point in the future.

In addition to this outstanding debt, the Enacted Budget relied on one-time funding to pay for ongoing education costs that exceed available Proposition 98 funding by almost $1.7 billion. As one-time solutions expire at the end of the current fiscal year, the state will need to find alternative solutions that could include replacing them with ongoing funds, spending cuts, or further one-time investments.

We will know more about Governor Gavin Newsom's fiscal solutions for education and the rest of the budget when he releases his final budget proposal in early January. We will cover this and new or proposed changes to existing education programs as part of our upcoming 2026-27 Governor's Budget Workshop.

We hope to see you all there!

Initiative to Extend Proposition 30 Analyzed by LAO

By: Megan Baier October 21, 2025

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) released its analysis of a proposed constitutional initiative that would make permanent personal income tax rates for high-income earners that are set to expire in 2031.

As we previously reported in the September 2025 *Fiscal Report* article, "Initiative Launched to Extend Proposition 30," Proposition 30 was first passed in 2012 in response to the state's worsening budget situation to stave off cuts to TK-12 and higher education programs, among others. The proposition increased tax rates on the highest income earners in the state. In 2016, voters approved Proposition 55, extending the higher income tax rates for top earners, which are scheduled to expire in 2031.

Proposition 30 provides significant revenue to the state, between $5 to $15 billion per year, depending on how the economy performs, with approximately 40% of those revenues going to education programs.

Now that the LAO has completed its analysis, the initiative will receive an official title and summary from the Attorney General's (AG) office within 15 days. Once the AG has completed the title and summary, proponents will have 180 days to collect the required 874,641 signatures (8% of votes cast for the Governor in the last gubernatorial election) from California voters in order for the initiative to appear on the November 2026 ballot.

Federal Government Shutdown Enters Fifth Week

By: Kyle Hyland October 31, 2025

The federal government shutdown is entering its fifth week after the Senate failed to advance a continuing resolution to fund operations through November 21, 2025. Despite ongoing talks between Senate leaders and the Trump Administration, no agreement was reached before adjournment, meaning the shutdown will continue into next week. Although California's TK-12 schools are primarily funded through state and local sources, the ongoing stalemate is creating uncertainty around key federal programs that support students and families, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

SNAP funding has become one of the most pressing issues during this shutdown. If a resolution is not reached soon, benefits for approximately 42 million Americans are at risk of running out, potentially as early as this weekend. This is especially concerning for families with school-age children that rely on SNAP (known as CalFresh in California) to meet their basic food needs. Reports indicate that hundreds of thousands of California families could be impacted with some already seeking assistance through school-based food pantries, backpack meal programs, and local food banks.

In response to the Trump Administration stating they cannot legally tap into the SNAP Contingency Reserve Fund to pay for SNAP benefits during the shutdown, several states sued to release those funds. Two federal judges, Indira Talwani in Massachusetts and John McConnell Jr. in Rhode Island, issued rulings ordering the Trump Administration to continue issuing SNAP benefits during the ongoing government shutdown. Judge Talwani found that the Administration's plan to suspend payments was "likely unlawful," emphasizing that Congress had already provided contingency funds that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) could legally use to sustain benefits. She instructed the USDA to decide by Monday whether to issue partial or full November payments using those funds. Meanwhile, Judge McConnell granted a temporary restraining order blocking the Administration from halting benefits, ruling that cutting them off would cause irreparable harm to millions of families and that withholding funds was "arbitrary." He ordered the USDA to tap the available $5.25 billion contingency fund and continue honoring existing SNAP work-requirement waivers.

For local educational agencies (LEAs), this situation highlights broader student basic needs and family stability concerns. We understand that numerous local educational agencies are already coordinating with local agencies such as CalFresh offices, food banks, and county social service departments, and are communicating proactively with families about available food resources, including school meal programs, weekend meal kits, and community support networks.

Looking ahead, key developments that we will be watching for include how the Trump Administration reacts to the two federal judges' decisions to provide SNAP funding in November, potential Senate efforts to advance limited "carve-out" funding bills to restore SNAP, and whether the House will reconvene to consider additional funding measures.

State Sued Over School Facility Program

By: Brianna García October 31, 2025

On October 23, 2025, Public Advocates filed a lawsuit—*Miliani R. v. State of California*—against the State of California, the California Department of Education, the State Allocation Board (SAB), the Office of Public School Construction, and the State School Building Finance Committee on behalf of students, families, educators, and several nonprofit organizations. The lawsuit is specific to the funding provided for modernization through the School Facility Program (SFP) and cites *Serrano v. Priest and Butt v. State of California*, as well as other cases, as foundational to their current claims. *Serrano v. Priest* held that California's system for funding public education failed to meet the requirements of the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, as it allowed for disparities between districts given that funding was based primarily on local property taxes. In *Butt v. State of California*, the California Supreme Court held that the California Constitution "prohibits maintenance and operation of the common public school system in a way which denies basic educational equality to the students of particular districts."

The plaintiffs are alleging that the SFP "provides more funding to wealthy districts based on their local wealth, enabling them to meet local funding requirements more easily, which in turn qualifies them for more state bond matching funds." Additionally, they contend that the SFP's methodology of providing funding on a first-come, first-served basis favors wealthier districts as they have more staff and resources, which enables them to more easily and readily submit applications for SFP funding. "As a result, the quartile of students in the lowest-wealth districts have received nearly 60% less in SFP modernization funding per student than the quartile of students in the highest-wealth districts since 1998. Students in lower-wealth districts, disproportionately populated with English learners, and Black, Latine and Indigenous students, receive significantly less state funding for modernizing facilities than their counterparts in whiter, wealthier communities."

Further, they note that higher-wealth districts are able to independently finance and complete projects to be later reimbursed by the State, while lower-wealth districts are generally only able to proceed with projects once SFP funding has been approved. And, when lower-wealth districts do secure funding for facilities projects, those funds are used for "the most essential and basic modernization projects—typically those related to health and safety." Ultimately, they argue that district wealth and not student need dictates whether students have access to safe and functional facilities.

The lawsuit also contends that even a school district's ability to qualify for hardship funding under the SFP is inadequate and "burdensome" given the application process. Hardship requires a school district meet one of three criteria—each of which is related to the district's ability to raise funds through local bonds, as well as other requirements. The plaintiffs argue that the hardship exception is "only illusory relief" and that it is not an effective solution to the hardship problem.

Four school districts are cited as examples of the disparity in the quality of school facilities across school districts—Calexico Unified School District (USD), Fall River Joint USD, Lynwood USD,

and Salinas City Elementary School District. All four districts have faced significant financial challenges in modernizing their aging facilities. One of the plaintiffs is a student in Coachella Valley USD and notes that she "has personally witnessed the inadequate facilities in her district, like classrooms temperatures reaching over 85 degrees Fahrenheit, unclean bathrooms with broken sinks, outdated and dirty water fountains, buckets in classrooms that catch rain leaking in from the roof, and ceiling tiles stained with urine from rats and other animals living in the spaces above."

Proposition 2, passed by voters in 2024, authorized $8.5 billion for K-12 facilities and made some changes to the SFP (see "SAB Begins Proposition 2 Discussion" in the December 2024 *Fiscal Report*). The changes most relevant to the lawsuit are changes to the local matching share from fixed amounts to a sliding scale determined by district specific characteristics (i.e., gross bonding capacity, unduplicated pupil percentage, and enrollment) and an increase to the maximum allowable total bonding capacity for financial hardship eligibility. The lawsuit argues that none of the adjustments made to the SFP "alone or together meaningfully alter the systemic historic inequities visited upon low-wealth districts." Proposition 2 made no changes to the first-come, first-served allocation of funds and made "only minor changes" to the local matching share methodology. Further, it states even with the changes made to the SFP as a result of Proposition 2, "low-wealth districts will continue to face barriers effectively preventing their access to State modernization funds and stymying their ability to provide equal educational opportunities to their students."

The lawsuit is seeking the revision of the current and future system of allocating SFP modernization funding.

The Supporting California's Special Educators Act: What's Next for LEA Leadership?

By: Anjanette Pelletier October 16, 2025

Effective July 1, 2026, Assembly Bill (AB) 560 (Addis, Statutes of 2025), also known as the Supporting California's Special Educators Act, initiates potential shifts for California's special education landscape. While it does not impose immediate mandates, the new law introduces policy that will influence collective bargaining, staffing models, workload management, and fiscal planning. The legislation focuses on two areas that represent a potential transformation in how California supports its most specialized educators:

- Equitable distribution of assessment workload among resource specialists
- Development of statewide recommendations for adult-to-pupil staffing ratios in special education classes

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, local educational agencies (LEAs) must provide a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment (LRE). AB 560 emphasizes that staffing adequacy and workload equity are foundational to inclusive access, not secondary operational issues.

Key Provision #1—Equitable Initial Assessment Workload for Resource Specialists (Education Code Section [EC §] 56362)

AB 560 amends the law to require:

"Local educational agencies shall take all reasonable steps to distribute the workload associated with initial assessments across all resource specialists employed by the local educational agency in an equal manner, unless otherwise collectively bargained."

Implications for LEAs and Human Resources Leadership

- Initial evaluations—often time-intensive and high-stakes—are formally recognized as workload duties separate from instructional caseload. The maximum instructional caseload of 28 remains unchanged for resource specialists.
- Because this requirement is subject to bargaining, LEAs may need to review contract language, staffing plans, and assignment practices to ensure equity and defensibility.

Key Provision #2—Statewide Staffing Recommendations (EC § 56364.3)

By July 1, 2027, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) must develop and publish a recommended maximum adult-to-pupil staffing ratio for special classes serving students ages 3 to

22, and report these recommendations to the Legislature and State Board of Education by April 1, 2027.

The SSPI must consider:

- Student support needs (mild/moderate vs. extensive)
- Age variations and instructional settings (preschool, elementary, secondary, and nonpublic)
- LEA workforce realities and facility constraints
- Models from other states and local policies and practices
- Impact on LRE, safety, supervision, and educator support for inclusion

The SSPI must consult with:

- Current special class teachers (majority representation)
- Administrators, chief business officials, and paraprofessionals
- Parents, researchers, and disability rights advocates

If recommendations trend toward smaller ratios or increased adult support, LEAs may face significant cost pressures without corresponding funding under Proposition 98. Although AB 560 does not mandate staffing changes, statewide recommendations will inevitably shape expectations held by:

- Bargaining units
- Parents and advocacy groups
- Compliance officers and complaint investigations

The California Department of Education has already projected the need for additional staffing to handle increased monitoring and complaints, anticipating that AB 560 will elevate scrutiny on staffing and service adequacy.

What Leaders Should Do Now

Leadership Action	Purpose
Audit Assessment Workload	Document and balance initial evaluation duties to mitigate grievances, due process risks, and compliance exposure.
Track SSPI Workgroup Progress	Engage through statewide associations (Association of California School Administrators, California School Boards Association, and SELPA Administrators of California) to influence ratio development.
Model Fiscal Scenarios	Begin internal cost projections for potential reductions in special class sizes or increases in support staff.
Align with Inclusion Initiatives	Integrate AB 560 planning with Multi-Tiered System of Supports, co-teaching, universal design, and workforce development efforts.

AB 560 is not merely a technical amendment—it is a potential policy inflection point. It codifies workload equity, elevates staffing as a cornerstone of inclusive education, and sets the stage for statewide expectations that could influence LEA operations for years to come. For business officials, superintendents, and special education leaders, the next 18-24 months will be critical. The question is not whether AB 560 will shape practice—but whether LEAs will lead the shaping. We will monitor the implications of the upcoming recommendation workgroup and will share findings on whether AB 560 remains a recommendation or becomes the foundation of a redefined special education workforce strategy in California.

Ultraprocessed Foods Ban Signed—What It Means for California Schools

By: Kyle Hyland October 20, 2025

On October 8, 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 1264 (Gabriel, Statutes of 2025), a landmark law that will gradually phase out certain ultraprocessed foods (UPFs) from California public schools. The law aims to promote healthier eating habits among students and align school nutrition policies with growing research linking UPFs to obesity, heart disease, and other chronic conditions.

Under the new law, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) must adopt regulations by June 1, 2028, defining "ultraprocessed foods of concern" and "restricted school foods." Those definitions must consider whether certain ingredients or additives are banned or restricted in other jurisdictions, whether they require health warning labels elsewhere, and whether credible, peer-reviewed studies link them to adverse health effects.

Beginning February 1, 2028, and annually through 2032, school food vendors will be required to report to the CDPH all products sold to schools, including whether they fall into the restricted or UPF categories. The CDPH must then compile that data and submit annual reports to the Legislature, summarizing findings and making recommendations for further state or local action.

The first major operational change for schools begins on July 1, 2029, when local educational agencies (LEAs) must start phasing out restricted foods and UPFs of concern from school meals. By July 1, 2032, vendors will be prohibited from offering those foods to schools altogether, and by July 1, 2035, LEAs will be barred from serving or selling them on campus.

AB 1264 builds on California's prior school nutrition reforms—such as limits on synthetic food dyes and flavored milk—but goes further by focusing on the degree of food processing and the presence of industrial additives like emulsifiers, stabilizers, and artificial colors or flavors. Some foods, including minimally processed agricultural products and pasteurized milk, are explicitly exempt from the UPF definition.

The long phase-in period offers time to plan, but preparation will be key. LEAs should consider reviewing menus and vendor contracts, collecting ingredient data, and developing new recipes to replace foods that may ultimately be restricted. Early planning will help ensure a smooth transition as the new nutrition standards take effect.

Governor Signs Literacy Instruction Bill

By: Kyle Hyland October 20, 2025

On October 9, 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 1454 (Rivas, Statutes of 2025) into law. AB 1454 represents a comprehensive approach to improving reading outcomes, aligning classroom materials, teacher training, and credentialing standards with the state's English Language Arts/English Language Development (ELA/ELD) Framework and the "science of reading."

AB 1454 requires the State Board of Education to adopt, by January 31, 2027, a new list of K-8 instructional materials in ELA/ELD that meet specific research-based criteria, including explicit, systematic instruction in foundational reading skills and alignment with state frameworks. Local educational agencies (LEAs) will need to ensure that the instructional materials they use meet these new criteria. If an LEA chooses materials not included on the state's list, it must certify that its selections align with the same standards.

The new law also looks to strengthen the state's educator preparation pipeline. By January 1, 2028, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) must update its program standards and teaching performance expectations for both the reading and literacy leadership specialist credential and the reading and literacy added authorization. These updates must include preparation on how to deliver and support effective literacy instruction aligned to the ELA/ELD Framework, evidence-based foundational reading practices, and the California Dyslexia Guidelines. In addition, by September 1, 2028, the CTC must ensure that preliminary administrative services credential programs include preparation on how to support teachers in delivering effective literacy instruction.

Included in the 2025-26 Enacted State Budget is funding to support the implementation of AB 1454. The Budget includes $200 million in one-time Proposition 98 funding for professional development in evidence-based literacy instruction, primarily targeting grades K-3. The state is also investing $40 million in one-time Proposition 98 funding for professional development and instrument acquisition for the implementation of the mandated screening for risk of reading difficulties that begins this school year. Additionally, $10 million in one-time Proposition 98 funding is being allocated to enhance the California Dyslexia Initiative and provide access to a free screening tool. These investments are part of the state's Golden State Literacy Plan, released in June 2025, which also includes the development of professional learning resources, approved risk of reading difficulties K-2 screening tools, and guidance for supporting multilingual learners and students with dyslexia (see "Governor Newsom Unveils Golden State Literacy Plan" in the June 2025 *Fiscal Report*).

To implement this new law with fidelity, we recommend LEAs begin reviewing their current ELA/ELD materials, assessing their alignment with forthcoming state criteria, and planning for updates or adoptions as needed.

Newsom Cites Cost, Legal Risks in Veto of Charter School Bill

By: Kyle Hyland October 22, 2025

Governor Gavin Newsom vetoed Senate Bill (SB) 414 (Ashby, D-Sacramento) on Monday, October 13, 2025, the final day to act on any legislation passed in the recently-concluded legislative session. SB 414 would have made significant changes to the oversight, auditing, and funding systems for nonclassroom-based (NCB) charter schools.

The measure would have expanded audit standards for all local educational agencies, created a new Office of the Education Inspector General to investigate fraud and financial mismanagement, reformed the NCB funding determination process, established statewide contracting and procurement rules, provided oversight grants to charter authorizers. The bill also would have extended the moratorium on new NCB charter approvals through June 30, 2026.

SB 414 was supported by the California Charter Schools Association, numerous charter advocacy groups, and individual charter schools, while state labor organizations and a coalition of charter school authorizers such as the California Teachers Association (CTA), the California School Employees Association (CSEA), the Association of California School Administrators, the California Association of School Business Officials, the California County Superintendents, and the California School Boards Association opposed the measure. CTA and CSEA instead backed Assembly Bill (AB) 84 by Assembly Education Chair Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance), which took a broader approach to NCB oversight reform. AB 84 proposed a small-district cap on authorizing NCB charters, stricter statewide contracting limits (such as banning enrollment incentives, percent-of-revenue management fees, and private-school tuition payments), and a coordinated funding-determination process for NCB "networks," along with similar audit and Inspector General provisions.

Although the authors and supporters of SB 414 and AB 84 sought a compromise near the end of session, negotiations stalled prior to the final amendment deadline. Assemblymember Muratsuchi opted to hold his bill on the Senate floor—leaving it eligible for consideration in 2026—while Senator Ashby advanced SB 414 to the Governor's desk where it was ultimately vetoed.

In his veto message, Governor Newsom called the bill's accountability and oversight goals "meaningful" but concluded that it "falls short overall," citing sections he viewed as unworkable, legally vulnerable, and prohibitively costly, with estimated implementation expenses in the hundreds of millions of dollars. He also objected to late-added provisions that, in his view, undermined prior agreements reached with education stakeholders during his first term. Emphasizing the state's fiscal constraints, Newsom underscored the need for discipline in approving bills with major unbudgeted costs and encouraged stakeholders to return next session with a more workable, fiscally sustainable proposal to strengthen oversight and prevent fraud while preserving flexibility for high-performing charter schools.

The issue is expected to resurface when lawmakers return to Sacramento in January, but at this time, it is unknown if AB 84 will be the vehicle used for those discussions.

Signed Bill Provides Broader Definition of "Relative" for Caregiver Authorization

By: Kyle Hyland and Michelle McKay Underwood October 23, 2025

On October 12, 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 495 (Rodriguez), into law. AB 495 makes numerous changes to existing law, including expanding who can sign a caregiver authorization affidavit to enroll a minor in school and consent to school-related medical care on behalf of a minor.

The bill defines "relative" for the purpose of a caregiver's authorization affidavit to mean an adult who is related to the child by blood, adoption, or affinity within the fifth degree of kinship, including all stepparents, stepsiblings, and all relatives whose status is preceded by the words "great," "great-great," or "grand," or the spouse of any of the persons specified in this definition, even after the marriage has been terminated by death or dissolution.

An earlier version of the bill was opposed by some on the grounds that too many individuals ("nonrelative extended family members") would be qualified to complete the caregiver's authorization affidavit. To address these concerns, the bill returned to the existing law relationship of a relative to complete the affidavit, but expanded the possible familial distance between the minor and caregiver to the fifth degree of kinship.

The broader scope of the bill, titled the "Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025," is to address immigration enforcement activities that may impact families. Along those lines, AB 495 requires the Attorney General, by April 1, 2026, to publish model policies limiting assistance with immigration enforcement at licensed child daycare facilities and license-exempt state preschool program facilities and requires all California state preschool programs to adopt the model policies, or equivalent policies, as soon as possible, but no later than July 1, 2026.

For local educational agencies, AB 495 means updating enrollment forms, medical consent procedures, and privacy policies. Schools should consider training staff in the new caregiver affidavit rules, protecting guardianship records, and providing families with information about caregiving options.

The bill's provisions officially go into effect on January 1, 2026.

Increase Funding for School Meals

Increase Federal Reimbursement Rates for School Meals

H.R. 5753, the "Healthy Meals Help Kids Learn Act of 2025," provides critical funding increases for school meal programs. This legislation would **permanently increase the federal reimbursement rate for all school lunches by 45 cents and school breakfast by 28 cents**, starting November 1, 2025, with annual adjustments beginning July 1, 2026.

These increases will help schools expand scratch cooking, reduce added sugar and sodium in meals, invest in staff training, upgrade kitchen equipment, and purchase more fresh and local produce. Current funding levels are hampering efforts to improve meal quality and move away from processed foods.

The School Nutrition Association's (SNA) SY 2024/25 School Nutrition Trends Report showed virtually all school nutrition directors (99.3%) reported challenges with increasing costs. SNA supports H.R. 5753 as a critical step to ensure school nutrition professionals have the necessary resources to fuel student success and promote lifelong healthy eating habits.

We need your help to urge Congress to support H.R. 5753!

Bill Report

SCHOOL SERVICES OF CALIFORNIA INC.

Legislative Report Prepared for:
Fresno Unified School District
Status as of November 4, 2025

Chaptered Bills

Bill No./ Author	*Title*	*Position*	*Status*	*Page*
College & Career				
AB 313 Ortega	Student Financial Aid: Application Deadlines: Extension	Support	Signed by the Governor, Chapter 31, Statutes of 2025	23
SB 640 Cabaldon	Public Postsecondary Education: Admission, Transfer, and Enrollment	Support	Signed by the Governor, Chapter 421, Statutes of 2025	23
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AB 268 Kalra	State Holidays: Diwali	Support	Signed by the Governor, Chapter 358, Statutes of 2025	24
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College & Career

AB 313 (Ortega)

Amended Date: 05/20/2025
Title: Student Financial Aid: Application Deadlines: Extension
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 31, Statutes of 2025
Position: Support

Summary:

Existing law requires the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to grant a postponement of an application deadline of up to 30 calendar days for any financial aid program administered by CSAC pursuant to a formal request. Existing law also authorizes CSAC to grant a postponement of an application deadline of up to an additional 30 calendar days, without submission of a formal request, if CSAC finds that a state of emergency declared by the Governor or the President of the United States has occurred. This bill additionally authorizes CSAC to grant the above-described postponement of an application deadline without submission of a formal request if CSAC finds that there was a delay in the opening of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid as declared by CSAC.

SB 640 (Cabaldon)

Amended Date: 09/02/2025
Title: Public Postsecondary Education: Admission, Transfer, and Enrollment
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 421, Statutes of 2025
Position: Support

Summary:

This bill establishes the California State University (CSU) Direct Admission Program under which a pupil graduating from a high school of a participating local educational agency is deemed eligible for enrollment into a designated CSU campus. The bill requires, upon the implementation of transcript-informed pupil accounts, the reporting available on the CaliforniaColleges.edu platform to be used to provide the data required to determine eligibility for the program. The bill requires the California College Guidance Initiative, on behalf of the CSU, to transmit a letter of direct admission to each eligible pupil that notifies the pupil that they have been directly admitted.

Governance and District Operations

AB 268 (Kalra)

Amended Date: 06/13/2025
Title: State Holidays: Diwali
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 358, Statutes of 2025
Position: Support

Summary:

Adds “Diwali” to the list of state holidays and authorizes state employees to elect to take time off with pay in recognition of the holiday. Diwali falls on the 15th day of the month of Kartik in the Hindu lunar calendar of each year. Public schools and community colleges are authorized to close on “Diwali.” Implementation of Diwali for schools is similar to Native American Day and Genocide Remembrance Day.

AB 629 (Ward)

Amended Date: 03/10/2025
Title: School Districts: Equipment Inventory
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 62, Statutes of 2025
Position: Support

Summary:

Raises the threshold amount from $500 to $1500 for the requirement of the governing board of a school district to establish and maintain a historical inventory of each item of equipment acquired by the school district that has a current market value that exceeds $1,500 per item.

AB 1369 (Ramos)

Amended Date: 06/23/2025
Title: Pupil Rights: School Graduation Ceremonies and Related Events: Adornments
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 133, Statutes of 2025
Position: Support

Summary:

This bill permits a pupil to wear traditional tribal regalia or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance, as determined by the pupil and the pupil’s family, as an adornment at school graduation ceremonies or related school events. The bill prohibits local educational agencies (LEAs) from requiring a preapproval process for the adornment and prohibits LEAs from requiring a pupil to wear a cap if it is incompatible with the adornment. The bill specifies that the measure does not limit an LEA’s discretion and authority to prohibit an item that is likely to cause a substantial disruption of, or material interference with, the ceremony.

AB 1390 (Solache)

Amended Date: 09/05/2025
Title: Public School Governance: Board Member Compensation
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 639, Statutes of 2025
Position: Support

Summary:

Increases the maximum monthly compensation for the governing board members of school districts and county boards of education. Compensation amounts are as follows:

- In a school district that is not located in a city and county, and in which the average daily attendance (ADA) for the prior school year exceeded 60,000, the governing board may prescribe, as compensation for the services of each member of the board who attends all meetings held, a sum not to exceed $4,500 in any month, increased from $1,500

- In a school district in which the ADA for the prior school year was 60,000 or less, but more than 25,000, each member of the city board of education or the governing board of the school district who attends all meetings held may receive as compensation for the member's services a sum not to exceed $3,000 in any month, increased from $750

Instruction

AB 821 (Gipson)

Amended Date: 08/28/2025
Title: Pupil Instruction: High School Graduation Requirements: Career Technical Education
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 622, Statutes of 2025
Position: Support

Summary:

Eliminates the sunset, currently July 1, 2027, on the use of a career technical education (CTE) course to fulfill a course requirement to graduate from high school. Current law requires high school students to complete one course in visual or performing arts, world languages, or CTE as part of their high school graduation requirements.

Nutrition

AB 1264 (Gabriel)

Amended Date: 09/04/2025
Title: Pupil Nutrition: Particularly Harmful Ultraprocessed Food: Prohibition
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 467, Statutes of 2025
Position: Support

Summary:

Enacts the Real Food, Healthy Kids Act to reduce the consumption of ultraprocessed foods (UPFs) by California children by defining UPFs intended to be sold or served in schools; establishing a regulatory process for the California Department of Public Health to determine which UPFs are of concern by June 1, 2028; and, requiring these UPFs of concern to be phased out of schools until they are prohibited from being offered to schools by vendors as of July 1, 2032, and prohibited from being served or sold in schools by July 1, 2035.

School Safety and Student Discipline

AB 49 (Muratsuchi)

Amended Date: 08/26/2025
Title: School Sites: Immigration Enforcement
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 122, Statutes of 2025
Position: Support

Summary:

This urgency bill prohibits a local educational agency (LEA) from allowing an immigration authority to enter a nonpublic area of a school site for any purpose without being presented with a valid judicial warrant or a court order. The bill requires school officials and employees of an LEA, to the extent practicable, to request valid identification of any immigration authority seeking to enter a nonpublic area of a school site. The bill also prohibits an LEA and its personnel from disclosing or providing, in writing, verbally, or in any other manner, the education records of or any information about a pupil, a pupil's family and household, a school employee, or a teacher to an immigration authority without a valid judicial warrant or judicial subpoena, or court order directing the LEA or its personnel to do so.

This bill requires the Attorney General, by December 1, 2025, to update existing model policies to ensure that the policies align with the above-described prohibition on school officials and employees of LEAs allowing immigration authorities to enter a nonpublic area of a school site without a valid judicial warrant or judicial subpoena, or a court order, and requirements for LEAs, as provided. The bill also requires an LEA to update its model policy by March 1, 2026, and to make the policy available to the California Department of Education upon request.

AB 382 (Berman)

Amended Date: 09/04/2025
Title: Pedestrian Safety: School Zones: Speed Limits
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 555, Statutes of 2025
Position: Support

Summary:

Beginning January 1, 2031, this bill lowers the speed limit from 25 miles per- hour to 20 miles per hour in a school zone. Further, the bill authorizes local authorities to reduce the speed limit in a school zone prior to January 1, 2031.

AB 419 (Connolly)

Amended Date: 09/04/2025
Title: Educational Equity: Immigration Enforcement
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 663, Statutes of 2025
Position: Support

Summary:

This bill requires the governing board of a local educational agency (LEA) to post the Immigration-Enforcement Actions at California Schools Guide for Students and Families, also known as "Know Your Educational Rights," developed by the Attorney General in the administrative building, on the LEA website, and at each of its school sites. The guide shall be posted in every language that the Attorney General provides.

SB 98 (Pérez)

Amended Date: 08/28/2025
Title: Elementary, Secondary, and Postsecondary Education: Immigration Enforcement: Notification
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 124, Statutes of 2025
Position: Support

Summary:

This bill, an urgency measure, requires school safety plans to include procedures for notifying parents and school staff when immigration enforcement is confirmed on the school site.

SB 580 (Durazo)

Amended Date: 09/04/2025
Title: Attorney General: Immigration Enforcement Policies
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 670, Statutes of 2025
Position: No Position

Summary:

By July 1, 2026, requires the Attorney General to publish model policies and guidance, audit criteria, and training recommendations for state and local agencies and the databases they operate relating to limiting assistance with immigration enforcement, and requires local and state agencies to adopt these policies by January 1, 2027.

Special Education

AB 560 (Addis)

Amended Date: 08/29/2025
Title: Special Education: Resource Specialists: Special Classes
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 560, Statutes of 2025
Position:

Summary:

Requires local educational agencies to "take all reasonable steps to distribute the workload associated with initial assessments across all resource specialists employed by the local educational agency in an equal manner, unless otherwise collectively bargained." The bill also requires the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to recommend, by July 1, 2027, a maximum adult-to-pupil staffing ratio for special day classes.

Student Services

AB 495 (Rodriguez, Celeste)

Amended Date: 09/05/2025
Title: Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 664, Statutes of 2025
Position: Support

Summary:

Establishes the Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025 to support families during temporary parental absences. Defines "relative" for the purpose of the caregiver's authorization affidavit to include an adult who is related to the child by blood, adoption, or affinity within the fifth degree of kinship, including all stepparents, stepsiblings, and all relatives whose status is preceded by the words "great," "great-great," or "grand," or the spouse of any of the persons specified in this definition, even after the marriage has been terminated by death or dissolution. A previous version of the bill extended the affidavit to nonrelative extended family members. Authorizes a court, in its discretion, to appoint a custodial parent and a person nominated by them as joint guardians of a minor, if the custodial parent will be temporarily unavailable due to specified circumstances, including an immigration-related administrative action. Requires schools and licensed child daycare facilities to distribute updated immigration-related guidance developed by the Attorney General.

Vetoed by the Governor

Employees

AB 1224 (Valencia)

Amended Date: 09/04/2025
Title: Teacher Credentialing: Substitute Teachers: Days of Service
Status: Vetoed by the Governor
Position: Support

Summary:

This bill would have, until January 1, 2029, authorized a holder of a credential or permit issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing that authorized 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. Before using this authorization, a local educational agency (LEA) that had not entered into a collective bargaining agreement with the employee organization that included a specific process for the assignment of substitute teachers should have done either or both of the following, as applicable:

- If the substitute will serve in a position in which the teacher on record is currently on statutory leave, employ all available and suitable substitute teachers who hold a teaching permit for statutory leave, as described in Section 80022 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations

- For assignments in vacant positions, or where the use of a teaching permit for statutory leave is not allowed under existing law, make reasonable efforts to recruit an individual for the assignment pursuant to Section 44225.7

The bill would have also required school districts and charter schools, before utilizing this authority, to do either of the following:

- If the assignment is foreseeable, obtain approval from the governing board or body at a regularly scheduled public meeting. The item shall include the school site and assignment details, the anticipated duration, and a statement that the assignment is being made under the authority of this section.

- If the assignment is unforeseeable due to urgent circumstances, the school district or charter school shall provide the information described in the first bullet as an informational item at the next regularly scheduled public meeting of the governing board or body. This informational item shall also include a brief explanation of the unforeseen circumstances that prevented advance approval pursuant to the first bullet.

Recent amendments would have required that if an LEA assigned a substitute teacher pursuant to these provisions and the substitute teacher did not have a preliminary or professional clear credential, the bill would have required the LEA, concurrently within 30 days of the assignment, to provide the substitute teacher with, among other things, access to professional development opportunities.

The Governor's veto message states in part:

> I am returning Assembly Bill 1224 without my signature.
>
> Through January I, 2029, this bill increases the time substitute teachers can serve in general education or special education classrooms to up to 60 days, doubling or tripling current caps.
>
> Research demonstrates that substitute teachers tend to serve classrooms with a disproportionate number of students with disabilities, English learners, and students from low-income families. While this bill requires local educational agencies to offer mentorship, training, and support to substitute teachers, it does not mandate their participation in these programs. As such, this bill would allow individuals to serve our highest-need students for as much as a third of a school year without minimally required training or mentorship.
>
> I recognize the author's goal of providing more continuity in challenging staffing situations. As such, I encourage the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to utilize its existing authority to engage stakeholders and expeditiously reexamine and amend its short-term staffing pathways to support continuity of instruction, and to address the minimum levels of preparation and support required.
>
> Alternatively, the author could introduce legislation that addresses the lack of required training and support for long-term substitute teachers.

Nutrition

SB 411 (Pérez)

Amended Date: 09/02/2025
Title: Stop Child Hunger Act of 2025
Status: Vetoed by the Governor
Position: Support

Summary:

This bill would have required the California Department of Education, subject to an appropriation, with support from the Department of Social Services, to develop a statewide application that is made available through a single statewide website that enables families to submit federally required information for meal eligibility.

The Governor's veto message states in part:

> This bill requires the California Department of Education (COE), with support from the California Department of Social Services (COSS), to develop and provide a statewide web application enabling families to submit federally required information, in adherence with specified requirements, to determine eligibility for school meal programs beginning with the application for summer 2028 benefits, contingent upon an appropriation.
>
> Through California's Universal School Meals program, all students, regardless of income, now have access to two free meals each school day. In addition, the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (SUN Bucks) program assists eligible families to ensure students are fed during the summer months. While I wholeheartedly support the author's intent to increase access to school meal programs, this bill imposes additional costs on the Department of Education to build, maintain, and operate a new statewide online data management system to determine eligibility. This should be considered as part of the budget process, rather than through legislation.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

State Budget, Education Finance, and LCFF

AB 1348 (Bains)

Amended Date: 08/29/2025

Title: Average Daily Attendance: Emergencies: Immigration Enforcement Activity: Independent Study Plans

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Position: Support

Summary:

This bill would, retroactive to January 1, 2025, provide the authority for local educational agencies (LEAs) to receive attendance credit for material losses of attendance or school closures due to immigration activities under specified conditions, including, but not limited to, substantiation of offering live interaction or synchronous instruction or if unable to provide offering live interaction or synchronous instruction, a description of the circumstances that prevented the provision of such services and a description of services and instruction will be provided. This bill would define immigration enforcement activity in this context and specify that any documentation related to immigration enforcement activity is exempt from Public Records Act provisions. The process for receiving attendance or instructional time credit would be similar to the current J-13A process, but with additional conditions. This bill includes a sunset provision effective July 1, 2029.

The Governor's veto message state in part:

> This bill adds immigration enforcement activity to the list of emergencies that may justify a waiver of overage daily attendance losses for school funding purposes until July l, 2029.
>
> Current law already provides opportunities for local educational agencies to utilize attendance recovery and independent study programs to recoup lost attendance-based funding, while also ensuring students receive instruction and support. AB 1348 does not include sufficient safeguards to ensure that students who miss school due to immigration enforcement activities will receive alternative instructional opportunities. Additionally, this bill creates substantial cost pressures when state law is already designed to buffer school districts' budgets from attendance fluctuations by allowing them to use a three-year rolling average of attendance when calculating school funding.
>
> In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

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College & Career

AB 335 (Gipson)
Amended: 3/20/2025
Title: The Designation of California Black-serving Institutions Grant Program
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Two-Year
Position: Support

Summary:

Establishes the Designation of California Black-Serving Institutions Grant Program as a competitive grant program to develop and implement new, or expand existing, academic resources and student support services for underserved students, including Black and African American students. The bill would designate the California State University Statewide Central Office for the Advancement of Black Excellence as the managing entity for the grant program and would require it to act as a neutral administrative body tasked with, among other duties, developing the grant application processes and processing and presenting grant applications to the governing board. The bill appropriates $75,000,000 to the program for purposes of awarding grants to California State University campuses and community college districts that apply.

AB 401 (Muratsuchi)
Amended: 2/25/2025
Title: California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program: Annual Adjustment: Renewal Grants
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Two-Year
Position: Support

Summary:

Starting in 2025-26, recipients of the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG) in the prior year shall receive a renewal grant for three additional years if the career technical education program meets specified criteria. Up to 90% of state CTEIG funds shall be designated for renewal grants and 10% shall be reserved for new applicants. Also starting in 2025-26, an annual cost-of-living adjustment shall be applied to the total state investment for CTEIG.

SB 323 (Pérez)
Amended Date: 07/10/2025
Title: Student Aid Commission: California Dream Act Application
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Two-Year
Position: Support

Summary:

By the start of the 2026-27 financial aid cycle, the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) shall amend the California Dream Act Application (CADAA), and any of its grant processing systems, to clarify and ensure that the application can be used by any student eligible for state financial aid programs, regardless of their eligibility for federal financial aid. The bill would also require CSAC to consult with California's public and private colleges and universities to effectively promote the CADAA and inform students and their families of their available financial aid application options.

SB 685 (Cortese)

Amended Date: 06/26/2025
Title: California State University: Financial Aid for Homeless Students: Pilot Program
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Two-Year
Position: Support

Summary:

Establishes the Financial Assistance for Students Experiencing Homelessness Pilot Program to provide financial assistance at four California State University campuses to California residents who (1) have been accepted for enrollment at one of those campuses, (2) were homeless at any time during high school, and (3) will be between 17 and 26 years of age upon receipt of assistance. Commencing with the 2026-27 academic year, each participating campus shall provide financial assistance for the balance of the qualifying student's cost of attendance that exceeds the financial aid the qualifying student receives during the first four years the student participates in the pilot program. The qualifying student must meet certain requirements to receive financial assistance under the pilot program.

Employees

AB 65 (Aguiar-Curry)

Title: School and Community College Employees: Paid Disability and Parental Leave
Status: Senate Education Committee—Two-Year
Position: Support

Summary:

Requires a K-14 public school employer to provide up to 14 weeks of full pay to certificated and classified employees due to pregnancy, miscarriage, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from those conditions.

AB 857 (Gipson)

Amended: 3/28/2025
Title: School Employees: Cultural Competency Training
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Two-Year
Position: No Position

Summary:

Commencing with the 2027-28 school year, requires a local educational agency (LEA) to provide a California Department of Education-developed online cultural competency to support pupils of color to all school employees. The bill would also require LEAs to provide a proof of completion to school employees that complete the training and to ensure that all school employees complete the required training on paid time during the employees' regular work hours or designated professional development hours. Recent amendments make the training an annual requirement through the 2031-32 school year.

AB 1247 (Garcia)
Title: Classified Employees: School Districts and Community College Districts: Contracting Out: Training Requirements
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Two-Year
Position: Watch

Summary:

Amends existing laws relating to contracts for personal services by school districts and community college districts by adding certain prescribed conditions:

- Contracts must guarantee contributions to any bona fide fringe benefit programs providing health care or retirement benefits to a direct hire that are equivalent to the amount that would be contributed if the contracted worker was a direct hire.

- Contracted workers must meet or exceed the minimum qualifications and standards required of direct hires who perform the same job functions, including required level of academic attainment, required years of experience, mandated reporter status, required scores on assessment exams, and ongoing performance standards.

In addition, the bill requires districts to compensate classified employees at their regular rate of pay for the time necessary to complete the required training. The required training must allow for the classified employee to ask questions and have them answered by a natural person in real time during training, and training regarding child abuse reporting, suicide prevention, sexual harassment, or discrimination must be conducted in person.

AB 1331 (Elhawary)
Amended Date: 07/17/2025
Title: Workplace Surveillance
Status: Senate Floor—Third Reading
Position: No Position

Summary:

Prohibits employers from using a workplace surveillance tool to monitor workers in the following employee-only areas: bathrooms, locker rooms, changing areas, and lactation spaces.

Facilities

AB 942 (Calderon)
Amended Date: 07/17/2025
Title: Electricity: Climate Credits
Status: Senate Rules Committee
Position: Watch

Summary:

The bill was completely rewritten on July 17, 2025, and it no longer makes changes to the net energy metering program.

Governance and District Operations

AB 235 (Arambula)

Amended: 4/21/2025
Title: Pupils: Use of Smartphones
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Two-Year
Position: Support

Summary:

A prior version of this bill required local educational agencies to adopt a schedule-based policy or full-day restriction policy to limit or prohibit the student use of smartphones while at school or under the supervision of a school employee. As amended April 21, 2025, this bill expressly authorizes the policy to be a schedule-based or full-day restriction policy. A "full-day restriction policy" would prohibit the use of smartphones during the school day, including during instructional time, lunch or free periods, and passing time. A "schedule-based restriction policy" would prohibit the use of smartphones at certain times of the school day, such as during instruction, and permits the limited use of smartphones by pupils at other times of the school day, such as during breaks or lunch periods.

AB 281 (Gallagher)

Amended Date: 03/17/2025
Title: Comprehensive Sexual Health Education and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Prevention Education: Outside Consultants
Status: Assembly Floor—Inactive File
Position: No Position

Summary:

As amended on March 17, 2025, this bill would require a school district, if it elects to provide sexual health education or HIV prevention education to be taught by outside consultants, to also provide notice of the name of the organization or affiliation of any outside consultants that teaches a class on this subject.

The original version of this measure would have also authorized parents to make copies of written educational material that will be distributed to students as part of comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention education, but that language was removed from the bill since parents already have the right to review the materials in current law.

AB 395 (Gabriel)

Amended Date: 06/26/2025
Title: Holidays
Status: Senate Judiciary Committee—Two-Year
Position: Support

Summary:

Requires public schools to consider making efforts to avoid scheduling the first day of class and high school graduation on a date for which the governing board knows, or has reason to know, that members of the public would be unable to participate or be present due to the ritual observance of a religious, cultural, or ancestral holiday.

AB 844 (Essayli)
Title: Educational Equity: Sex-Segregated School and Athletic Programs and Activities: Use of Facilities
Status: Assembly Arts, Entertainment, Sports, and Tourism Committee—Two-Year
Position: Oppose

Summary:

Existing law requires that a pupil be permitted to participate in sex-segregated school programs and activities, including athletic teams and competitions, and use facilities consistent with the pupil's gender identity, irrespective of the gender listed on the pupil's records.

This bill would require that a pupil's participation in sex-segregated school programs and activities, including athletic teams and competitions, and use of facilities, including bathrooms, locker rooms, showers, and overnight accommodations instead be based upon the pupil's sex. The bill defines sex "as determined by anatomy and genetics at the time of birth" and "means male or female."

SB 622 (Grove)
Amended: 3/26/2025
Title: Educational Equity: Sex-Segregated School Programs and Activities: Sex at Birth
Status: Senate Education Committee—Two-Year
Position: Oppose

Summary:

This bill would change existing law to require that a pupil's participation in "sex-segregated school programs and activities, including athletic teams and competitions, shall be consistent with the pupil's sex at birth."

This bill would retain existing law that allows pupils to use facilities consistent with the pupil's gender identity, irrespective of the gender listed on the pupil's records.

Instruction

AB 731 (Fong)
Amended Date: 07/01/2025
Title: Pupil Instruction: Dual Enrollment: College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Two-Year
Position: Watch

Summary:

Amends the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) program to streamline access to dual enrollment by doing the following:

- Removes the requirement for a principal's recommendation in order to participate in a CCAP dual enrollment program
- Requires CCAP agreements to authorize a student to complete a single community college application for the duration of their participation in the program
- Removes the four-course-per-term cap for CCAP students, while retaining the 15-unit maximum per term

July 1, 2025, amendments remove the bill language regarding online coursework using either synchronous or asynchronous modalities and removed the requirement for community colleges to provide comprehensive support services to high school students dually enrolled in asynchronous courses.

AB 865 (González, Mark)
Amended: 3/28/2025
Title: Dual Language Immersion Programs: Instructional Materials: Grants
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Two-Year
Position: Support

Summary:

In 2026-27, establishes the Dual Language Immersion Education Instructional Materials Grant Program and appropriates $5,000,000 to the superintendent for purposes of providing one-time grants of $100,000 to local educational agencies to increase available instructional materials in partner languages for dual language immersion programs at one or more schools.

AB 887 (Berman)
Amended Date: 07/17/2025
Title: Pupil Instruction: High Schools: Computer Science Courses: California Computer Science Demonstration Grant Program: Reporting
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Two-Year
Position: No Position

Summary:

As completely rewritten on July 7, 2025, this bill establishes the California Computer Science Demonstration Project to increase the number of public high schools offering computer science and to increase the computer science course access of low-income students and students that are underrepresented in the field of computer science. The pilot program shall be funded through contributions from nonprofit organizations or private entities. Public high schools that do not offer any computer science courses may voluntarily participate in the pilot program. Funding entities, in coordination with the California Computer Science Demonstration Project Working Group, shall select the public high schools to participate in the pilot program.

AB 1053 (Zbur)
Amended: 4/21/2025
Title: Educational Technology: Evaluation and Selection
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Two-Year
Position: No Position

Summary:

As amended April 21, 2025, this bill requires local educational agencies to provide for substantial teacher and paraprofessional involvement in the selection of educational technology they are required to use and to promote the involvement of parents and other members of the community in the selection process. The bill also requires the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop best practices and resources on the evaluation and selection of educational technology.

SB 612 (Valladares)
Amended: 4/10/2025
Title: Pupil Instruction: High School Graduation Requirements: Career Technical Education
Status: Senate Education Committee—Two-Year
Position: Oppose

Summary:

Commencing with the 2028-29 school year, this bill requires local educational agencies with students in grades 9-12 to offer a stand-alone one-semester career technical education (CTE) course. Commencing with the 2031-32 school year, this bill adds completion of a separate, stand-alone one-semester course in CTE as a high school graduation requirement. The requirements of this bill are subject to a state appropriation for this purpose.

SB 745 (Ochoa Bogh)
Amended Date: 07/07/2025
Title: American Government and Civics: Curriculum Guide: State Seal of Civic Engagement
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Two-Year
Position: No Position

Summary:

As amended May 7, 2025, this bill requires the California Department of Education to develop a curriculum guide for a one-year course in American government and civics. The bill also provides that a student's completion of the one-year course satisfies the applicable criterion for the State Seal of Civic Engagement.

Nutrition

SB 225 (McNerney)
Amended: 2/27/2025
Title: School Nutrition: Guardian Meal Reimbursement
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Two-Year
Position: Support

Summary:

Contingent upon an appropriation and to the extent authorized by federal law, requires the California Department of Education to establish a process for state reimbursement for federal summer meal program operators for meals served to guardians of eligible pupils receiving a meal pursuant to a summer meal program. A guardian of an eligible pupil must be present at the summer meal program site in order for the summer meal program operator to receive state-funded reimbursement for that meal, unless noncongregate rules are in place.

SSC Comment: In 2024, Fresno USD supported a similar bill, AB 2595 (L. Rivas), which failed to pass the Senate Appropriations Committee.

School Safety and Student Discipline

AB 68 (Gallagher)
Amended: 5/5/2025
Title: School Safety: Armed School Resource Officers
Status: Assembly Education Committee—Two-Year
Position:

Summary:

Requires school districts and charter schools to hire or contract with at least one armed school resource officer authorized to carry a loaded firearm to be present at each school during regular school hours and any other time when pupils are present on campus, in accordance with the following:

(A) On and after January 1, 2026, each school that maintains any of the grades 9 to 12, inclusive

(B) On and after January 1, 2027, each school that maintains any of the grades 6 to 8, inclusive, but no grade lower than grade 6

(C) On and after January 1, 2028, each school that maintains a kindergarten or any grads 1 to 5, inclusive

AB 327 (Ta)
Amended Date: 07/16/2025
Title: Crimes: False Reporting
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Two-Year
Position: Oppose

Summary:

Increases the punishment for a second or subsequent offense of "swatting" which results in an unnecessary emergency response, from a misdemeanor to an alternate felony-misdemeanor. However, the increased penalties for a second or subsequent offense for swatting does not apply to a person who was under 18 years of age at the time they committed the prior offense or offenses.

SSC Comment: Assembly Bill 327 is supported by various school districts and law enforcement agencies around the state, though none are in the Fresno vicinity. Among the opponents of the bill are the American Civil Liberties Union, California Action, and the California Public Defenders Association.

AB 421 (Solache)
Title: Immigration Enforcement: Prohibitions on Access, Sharing Information, and Law Enforcement Collaboration
Status: Assembly Public Safety Committee—Two-Year
Position: Support

Summary:

This bill would prohibit California law enforcement agencies from collaborating with, or providing any information to, immigration authorities regarding proposed or currently underway immigration enforcement actions when the actions take place within one mile of any childcare or daycare facility, religious institution, place of worship, hospital, or medical office.

SB 48 (Gonzalez)

Amended Date: 09/09/2025
Title: Educational Equity: Discrimination Prevention Coordinators
Status: Assembly Judiciary Committee—Two-Year
Position: Support

Summary:

This bill was amended on September 9, 2025, to be a completely new bill. As amended, SB 48 no longer deals with immigration enforcement.

SB 554 (Jones)

Amended: 4/21/2025
Title: Law Enforcement: Immigration Enforcement
Status: Senate Public Safety Committee—Two-Year
Position: Oppose

Summary:

The purpose of this bill is to eliminate the requirement that California law enforcement agencies (LEAs) comply with local law and policy on cooperating with immigration authorities, and to require LEAs to cooperate with immigration authorities in some instances in which state law gives them discretion to do so.

State Budget, Education Finance, and LCFF

AB 477 (Muratsuchi)

Amended Date: 06/23/2025
Title: Fair Pay for Educators Act: Local Control Funding Formula: Base Grants: Funding Targets
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Two-Year
Position: No Position

Summary:

This bill would establish new Local Control Funding Formula base grant targets to be reached in 2036-37 and state the intent of the Legislature to use those funds to increase school site staff salaries. Despite the "increase school site staff salaries" being intent language, the bill's title was recently amended to the "Fair Pay for Educators Act."

AB 1204 (Alvarez)

Amended: 5/5/2025
Title: Local Control Funding Formula: School Districts and Charter Schools: Pupils Experiencing Homelessness: Supplemental and Concentration Grants: Regional Adjustment Factors: Grade-Span Adequacy Adjustments
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Two-Year
Position:

Summary:

This bill makes a number of changes to the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), phasing the changes in beginning in 2025-26 and fully funding them by 2030-31 as follows:

- Provides a minimum 4% annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for the LCFF, if the calculated COLA is lower
- Requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to establish regional COLAs in addition to the statewide COLA
- Adds students experiencing homelessness to the categories of students who generate supplemental and concentration grants
- Raises the supplemental grant add-on from 20% to 35% of a local educational agency's (LEA) base grant
- Lowers the threshold for LEAs to be eligible for concentration grants from those with 55% of unduplicated students to 45% of unduplicated students
- Requires the CDE to develop recommendations by January 1, 2028, on how grade span funding levels should be adjusted to account for their unique costs

The May 5, 2025, amendments remove the provisions that would have allowed for duplicated counts of students that are low-income, foster youth, and English learner.

SB 743 (Cortese)

Amended Date: 07/07/2025
Title: Education Finance: Education Equalization Act: Equalization Reserve Account
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Two-Year
Position:

Summary:

Subject to a voter-approved constitutional amendment, this bill would require deposits into a newly established "Equalization Reserve Account" whenever the state deposits funds in the Proposition 98 rainy day fund, and funds in the "Equalization Reserve Account" would be available to increase per-pupil funding in nonbasic aid school districts in a manner prescribed by the Legislature.

Student Services

AB 673 (Jackson)
Amended: 4/1/2025
Title: Unaccompanied Homeless Pupils: Unaccompanied Youth Transitional Housing Program
Status: Assembly Education Committee—Two-Year
Position: Support

Summary:

Requires the California Department of Education to administer the Unaccompanied Youth Transitional Housing Program as a pilot program, offering five-year competitive grants to local educational agencies (LEAs) to partner with local nonprofits and to fund transitional housing projects for unaccompanied homeless youth who are 16 and 17 years of age. Funds may be used for:

- Referrals to a residential facility with single-occupant units that house minors separate from adults
- Provision of clothes, nutritious meals three times per day, and stipends for public transportation
- Educational support services and tutoring provided through an agreement with an LEA
- Case management, preemployment and employment training and skill development, independent living, and health support and services; and subsidies or rental payments for residential facilities

AB 1025 (Pellerin)
Amended: 5/1/2025
Title: Standby Caretaker Act
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Two-Year
Position: Watch

Summary:

As amended May 1, 2025, this bill authorizes a custodial parent to nominate a standby caretaker for their child who, after going through a court appointment process, may act as the child's temporary guardian while the custodial parent is unavailable. The bill would prescribe the requirements for the nomination of a standby caretaker or alternate standby caretaker, including a required statutory form.

SB 12 (Gonzalez)
Amended: 4/10/2025
Title: State Government: Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Agency: Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Two-Year
Position: Support

Summary:

Creates the Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Agency with duties that include establishing a permanent structure within the state to service immigrants and refugees and to assist other state agencies in effectively providing services to immigrants and refugees. The purpose of the agency is to enhance and reduce obstacles to immigrant and refugee inclusion into the social, cultural, economic, and civic life of the state.

SB 33 (Cortese)
Amended: 3/10/2025
Title: Homeless Pupils: California Success, Opportunity, and Academic Resilience (SOAR) Guaranteed Income Program
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Two-Year
Position: Support

Summary:

Establishes the California Success, Opportunity, and Academic Resilience (SOAR) Guaranteed Income Program, which would provide a guaranteed income of $1,000 each month from May 1, 2026, to August 1, 2026, for students in grade 12 who are homeless.

SB 552 (Cortese)
Title: Juveniles: Wards: Case Plans.
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Two-Year
Position: No Position

Summary:

Current law requires that the court hear evidence to determine the proper disposition of a minor who has been found to be a ward of the court. Specifically, the court is required to receive into evidence a "social study" of the minor which is prepared by the probation officer. This bill adds a case plan with the following information to the social study that is required for youth who are not in foster care:

- Goals and related services and activities designed to meet the minor's or nonminor's rehabilitative and accountability needs
- Input from the minor and family regarding the needs of the minor, and services and activities to enhance the minor's satisfactory completion of probation
- Assignment of the agency responsible for carrying out the planned services and activities related to each case plan objective
- The projected date of completion of the case plan objectives
- A statement about the parent/guardian and minor's participation in the development of the case plan

The bill also requires regular review of the case plan. Existing law already requires a similar framework for youth in foster care.

Note: The bill is sponsored by the California Judges Association

Transportation

AB 1111 (Soria)

Amended Date: 07/22/2025
Title: Pupil Transportation: Schoolbuses: Zero-Emission Vehicles: Scrapping
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Two-Year
Position: Support

Summary:

The bill changes the parameters of the State Air Resources Board California Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project grant program, eliminating the requirement that school districts scrap an existing bus if it is less than 25 years old and ownership of the schoolbus has been transferred to another local educational agency that either qualifies for or has been approved for an extension from the January 1, 2025, requirement to only purchase zero-emission vehicles in order to access the funds.