



BOARD COMMUNICATIONS - FEBRUARY 20, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Mao Misty Her, Superintendent

Page

1. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mao Misty Her, Superintendent

1.1 [Superintendent Calendar Highlights.docx](#) 

3

2. OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

Ben Amuku Drati, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent

3. OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF

Ambra O'Connor, Chief of Staff

4. OFFICE OF BUSINESS & FINANCIAL SERVICES

Patrick Jensen, Chief Officer

4.1 [School Services of California Weekly Update Report for February 13, 2026.docx](#) 

4 - 11

[School Services of California Weekly Update Report for February 13, 2026.pdf](#) 

4.2 [Trustee Budget Briefings.docx](#) 

12

5. OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Adela G. Duncan, Chief Officer

6. OFFICE OF ENGAGEMENT & EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS

Wendy McCulley, Chief Officer

- 7. **OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES & LABOR RELATIONS**
David Chavez, Chief Officer
- 8. **OFFICE OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION**
Carlos Castillo, Ed.D., Chief Officer
- 9. **OFFICE OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES**
Paul Idsvoog, Chief Officer
- 10. **OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**
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: February 20, 2026
Phone Number: (559) 457-3884

Regarding: Superintendent Calendar Highlights

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

- Attended a "Mission Briefing" with Duncan JROTC students
- Met with cabinet teams
- Attended Central Valley Community Foundation (CVCF) Board Meeting
- Attended the Day of Remembrance event at the Fresno Fair Grounds
- Attended United Way Board Meeting
- Visited the Mobile Museum of Tolerance at McLane High School
- Pannel member at Leadership Fresno Education Day
- Attended Excellence in Education
- Gave interview with Fox Great Day regarding the St Jude Home Giveaway Media Launch
- Site visit at Ayer Elementary School

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

Cabinet Approval:



Name and Title: Mao Misty Her, Superintendent

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

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

Date: February 20, 2026
Phone Number: (559) 457-3907

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for February 13, 2026

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 February 13, 2026, are attached and include the following articles:

- Labor Groups Endorse SSPI Candidates – February 06, 2026
- Bonta Sues to Block Trump Funding Threat Over Student 'Forced Outing' Law – February 12, 2026
- Progressive Lawmakers' New Tax Proposal Targets International Corporations – February 11, 2026

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

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



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DATE: February 13, 2026

TO: Misty Her
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

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

February 20 Bill Introduction Deadline Approaching

Next Friday, February 20, 2026, is the deadline for lawmakers to introduce legislation to be considered during the second and final year of the 2025-26 Legislative Session. As of this writing, more than 500 bills have been introduced in 2026; however, we expect legislators to introduce several hundred more bills prior to next week's deadline.

Some of the more significant education bills introduced to date include:

- Assembly Bill (AB) 1586 (Ramos, D-San Bernardino) would require local educational agencies (LEAs) to ensure that every school resource officer assigned to a school site carries an opioid overdose reversal medication on their person and completes opioid overdose recognition and response training every two years.
- AB 1590 (Ransom, D-Stockton) would require that beginning in the 2027-28 fiscal year, the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG) formula be revised to ensure that all state-appropriated CTEIG funds are allocated to applicants each year.
- AB 1631 (Muratsuchi, D-Torrance) would require, beginning with the 2028-29 school year, a child to complete one full year of kindergarten before entering first grade. An exception would apply to children who have been lawfully enrolled in kindergarten and are determined by school administrators to be ready for first-grade work.
- AB 1694 (Carrillo, D-Victorville) would require CTEIG recipients to receive renewal grants for three additional years and, beginning in 2026-27, require 90% of CTEIG funds to be designated for renewal grants and 10% for new applicants.
- AB 1721 (Muratsuchi) would require, by July 1, 2027, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to convene a statewide stakeholder workgroup to review existing comprehensive school safety plans and make

recommendations regarding the development and approval process, as well as the required elements of those plans.

- AB 1750 (Caloza, D-Los Angeles) would require employees of LEAs and community college districts who exhaust all available sick leave and continue to be absent due to illness or accident for an additional five-months to receive their full regular salary during that period.
- Senate Bill 945 (Weber Pierson, D-San Diego) would require, beginning with the 2027-28 school year, that all school districts and charter schools serving grades 9-12 provide instruction in compression-only CPR and automated external defibrillator use as a graduation requirement.

Policy bills must be in print for 30 calendar days before any action may occur, such as being amended or heard in a committee. Following the introduction deadline, bills will be assigned to policy committees, and hearings will begin in March.

We will continue to monitor significant TK-12 education bills moving through the legislative process and provide summaries and analyses in future updates.

Leilani Aguinaldo

Labor Groups Endorse SSPI Candidates

By Leilani Aguinaldo
School Services of California Inc.'s *Fiscal Report*
February 6, 2026

The race to succeed Tony Thurmond as State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) is a crowded one with eight candidates who have publicly declared their candidacy. Many labor organizations associated with public education recently announced their endorsements, which we summarize below.

The California Teachers Association recommends Richard Barrera for SSPI. Barrera was first elected to the Board of Education for San Diego Unified School District in 2008, and he currently serves as Board President. Barrera is also a Senior Policy Advisor at the California Department of Education in the SSPI's Superintendent's Initiatives Office.

The California School Employees Association and the California Federation of Teachers both endorse Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi. Assemblymember Muratsuchi is Chair of the Assembly Education Committee until March 2, 2026, and he was first elected to the California State Assembly in 2012. Prior to joining the Assembly, he also served on the Torrance Unified School District Board of Education.

Anthony Rendon is endorsed by the Service Employees International Union California and International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Rendon represented the southeastern part of Los Angeles County during his time in the Legislature, and he served as Speaker of the California State Assembly from 2016 to 2023. Prior to his time in the Assembly, Rendon also served as Executive Director of Plaza de la Raza Child Development Services.

Josh Newman is supported by the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California. Newman was elected to the California State Senate in 2016, and he represented parts of Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino counties. He was the Chair of the Senate Education Committee during his time as a state senator.

The new SSPI will begin their term on January 4, 2027. If no candidate receives a majority of votes at the primary election on June 2, 2026, then the top two candidates will face off at the General Election on November 3, 2026.

Note: California Attorney General Rob Bonta is suing the Trump Administration to preemptively block it from pulling federal funding over a state law regarding how schools notify parents about a student's gender identity.

Bonta Sues to Block Trump Funding Threat Over Student 'Forced Outing' Law

*The Trump administration contends that a state law on parental notification
of a child's gender identity violates federal law.*

By Eric He
Politico
February 12, 2026

California Attorney General Rob Bonta is suing the Trump administration in an effort to preemptively block it from pulling federal funding over a state law regarding how schools notify parents about a student's gender identity.

The lawsuit, filed Wednesday in the Northern District of California, claims the Trump administration's threat last month to withhold education funds creates an "imminent risk of irreparable harm" to the state. It also argues that the administration does not have authority to "impose new conditions" on California to receive the money.

The state receives \$4.9 billion a year for schools from the federal government, according to the filing. Bonta, who is seeking a temporary restraining order to block the threatened funding cut, said in a statement that the Department of Education is trying to "intimidate" state officials under the guise of enforcing federal law.

"If this funding were disrupted, children in California would suffer irreparable, lifelong harms to their intellectual and personal development," the lawsuit states.

At issue is a California law that aims to prevent forced outings of students by barring school districts from requiring that staff share information with parents about their child's gender identity. Last month, Secretary of Education Linda McMahon said a federal investigation determined state officials "egregiously abused" their authority and that the law had the effect of pressuring local school districts to keep quiet about transgender students. McMahon said the state could resolve the alleged violations by directing districts to make parents aware of the "gender support plans" they have for students and to clarify for district officials that the state law, AB 1955, does not override federal law.

State education officials have maintained that the state is in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, a federal law that gives parents the right to inspect their child's school records. They wrote again in a letter to school districts on Wednesday that AB 1955 "does not contradict parents' rights to request to inspect and review their student's education records under FERPA, even if they contain information related to a student's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression."

A date for a hearing on the restraining order has not been set.

Note: AB 1790 (Connolly, D-San Rafael) would require large multinational companies to pay California taxes on more of their overseas profits and would eliminate a tax option that currently lets them exclude some foreign income, likely increasing their state tax bills.

Progressive Lawmakers' New Tax Proposal Targets International Corporations

By Andrew Graham
The Sacramento Bee
February 11, 2026

After months of behind-the-scenes meetings, progressive lawmakers in the California Assembly this week introduced what is likely to be a signature revenue raising proposal for 2026 — a bill targeting large global corporations who they say have shifted profits offshore to lower their tax bills for decades.

The effort, which would rewrite tax law for multinational corporations crafted during Gov. Ronald Reagan's tenure, could raise \$3 billion to \$4 billion annually at a time when the Legislature faces a budget deficit and federal cuts threaten social service programs.

"As we see California taxpayers and small business owners continue to subsidize the record profits of these huge multinational corporations, and unprecedented tax breaks at the federal level for these same corporations," bill sponsor Assemblymember Damon Connolly, D-San Rafael, said at a Tuesday news conference, "it is time we stop the rigging of California's tax system by corporate interests."

But critics of the tax proposal said the current system was designed purposefully, after foreign governments and businesses objected to California's previous system.

"California businesses are struggling to stay afloat under the weight of chaotic federal trade policies, high taxes and increasing costs, and this legislation would throw them an anvil by reigniting a trade war with important foreign partners," California Taxpayers Association President Robert Gutierrez said in a statement. "The bipartisan water's-edge policy was carefully crafted to reform the state's old tax structure."

It remains to be seen if the bill Connolly introduced Tuesday will gain traction with more moderate Democrats. A tax-raising bill requires two-thirds of both chambers to vote in favor of the measure, and Republican lawmakers are likely to oppose it.

"The state is currently sitting on a multibillion-dollar deficit and needs to more closely examine the amount of tax dollars being wasted on fraud and other forms of waste, not inventing new ways to tax the companies that are still willing to stay and do business in California," said Assembly Republican Leader Heath Flora, R-Ripon.

On Wednesday, lawmakers heard testimony from a panel of tax experts for and against the tax at a joint meeting of the Assembly and Senate Revenue and Taxation committees. That hearing was planned before Connolly's bill introduction this week, indicating legislative interest in examining the corporate income tax system is growing.

How does water's edge taxing work?

California has taxed corporate income since 1929. But beginning in 1986, the Legislature allowed companies to choose to separate out their foreign-based corporate entities when calculating their income, according to a report from legislative staff. Corporations can choose to enact that exception and become what's called a "water's edge" filer. The change came under pressure from, among other players, the governments of the United Kingdom and Japan, who argued California was unfairly targeting their industries. Other states followed California's example, according to the report.

Advocates for reform argue corporations exploit the system by creating shell companies in low-tax countries like Ireland or the Cayman Islands to lower their tax bills in California. Opponents say that California would run into constitutional concerns if it starts to tax income derived in other countries and also stray into the federal government's role regulating foreign commerce.

Several lawmakers at Wednesday's hearing said arguments about trade stability were undercut by the Trump administration, which has roiled global trade through frequently changing tariffs.

Though reform advocates say oil and gas companies also lobbied heavily to create the water's edge system, today a range of multinationals, including some of California's tech giants, are believed to use it. The exact companies who choose to file income taxes under that system is not public knowledge, proponents said. At Wednesday's hearing, analysts estimated only 6% of corporations operating in the state may be water's edge filers but also said they're likely to be among the biggest and highest-earning players.

Billionaire tax looms outside statehouse

Connolly, whose Marin and Sonoma county district is reliably liberal leaning, was joined Tuesday for the bill's introduction by a group of progressive lawmakers including Progressive Assembly Caucus Chairman Alex Lee, D-San Jose, and Assemblymember Mia Bonta, D-Alameda, the health committee chairwoman who has called for a unified response by California policymakers to federal cuts to Medi-Cal.

All are among a group of progressives who have been meeting for months about how to raise new revenue to avoid funding cuts, Assemblymember Sade Elhawary, D-Los Angeles, said.

Momentum for some kind of tax measure aimed at the ultra-wealthy or corporations is also building among the state's powerful labor unions. Lawmakers are working in the shadow of a ballot measure, pushed by SEIU-UHW and Teamsters California, that would impose a one-time wealth tax on the state's billionaire residents.

That proposal has become a point of national political contention and drawn heated opposition from the state's wealthy as well as Gov. Gavin Newsom. But it may gain footing with voters, and in a sign of the increasing attention on the measure, Vermont senator and progressive folk hero Bernie Sanders, an independent who caucuses with Democrats, announced this week he would appear at a rally for the measure in Los Angeles next week.

Connolly stopped short of saying his bill would serve as a more politically palatable alternative to the billionaire's tax. "We felt the timing was right, under all the circumstances, to look at a common sense revenue solution," he said when asked if the billionaire tax created leverage for floating his measure.

The two proposals would raise vastly different amounts of revenue. Proponents of the billionaire tax proposal estimate it would bring in as much as \$100 billion over five years. The estimated \$3 billion from Connolly's proposal, however, would neatly fill the deficit in this year's budget proposal from Newsom. The Legislative Analyst's Office has calculated a much larger deficit for the state of more than \$18 billion.

State Democratic leaders have yet to weigh in on Connolly's proposal, but they didn't speak against it, either, on Tuesday. Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, D-Hollister, expressed a willingness to consider a variety of proposals to confront California's budget woes.

"There is real uncertainty, so it's important to understand all the tools on the table, and the speaker appreciates members putting in the work to do that," his spokesperson, Nick Miller, said Tuesday.

Two key senators, Senate President pro Tem Monique Limón, D-Santa Barbara, and Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee Chairman Jerry McNerney, D-Pleasanton, declined to comment on the legislation before it reached their chamber.

Newsom told reporters Tuesday he hadn't had any conversations about the proposal yet. But at a separate legislative committee hearing Wednesday, a member of his finance team told lawmakers the governor is not interested in any revenue increases. "If the Legislature would like to propose something we're happy to hear any ideas," Laura Ayala, an analyst with the Department of Finance, said. "But the governor has stated multiple times that he's not interested in pursuing any new taxes or revenue proposals."

The Bee Capitol Bureau's Kate Wolffe contributed to this story.

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Patrick Jensen, Chief Financial Officer

Date: February 20, 2026
Phone Number: (559) 457-6226

Regarding: Trustee Budget Briefings

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information regarding upcoming budget briefings with staff to discuss the 2026/27 Strategic Budget Development.

Beginning with the March 25, 2026, Board meeting and concluding with the June 03, 2026, Board meeting, staff would like to offer the opportunity for Trustees to meet in small groups to discuss the upcoming budget presentations. For consistency and planning, staff is recommending meetings be held prior to each Board meeting on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m., Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m., and Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. Below is the schedule:

Board Meeting

Board Briefing Dates

	Monday, 11am & 4pm	Tuesday, 5pm	Wednesday, 11am
Session 1 – March 25	03/23/2026	03/24/2026	03/25/2026
Session 2 – April 08	04/06/2026	04/07/2026	04/08/2026
Session 3 – June 03	06/01/2026	06/02/2026	06/03/2026

Trustees will receive an email the Friday prior to the Board meeting. Please respond to the email with your preferred date/time option. Currently, all meetings will be held via Microsoft Teams.

To ensure compliance with the Brown Act, meetings will be limited to three trustees per session.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Patrick Jensen at (559) 457-6226.

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