



BOARD COMMUNICATIONS - APRIL 10, 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 March 26, 2026.docx](#) 
[School Services of California Weekly Update Report for March 26, 2026.pdf](#) 

4

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

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- 8. **OFFICE OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION**
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- 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mao Misty Her', is positioned below the text of the Superintendent's approval.

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: April 10, 2026

Phone Number: (559) 457-3884

Regarding: Superintendent Calendar Highlights

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

- Participated in a Student Outcomes Focused Governance meeting with The Council of the Great City Schools, and superintendents from Oklahoma City School District I-89, and Pittsburg Public Schools
- Met with Executive Cabinet
- Met with Assembly Member Arambula regarding AB 2220
- Held Teacher Listening Session at Bullard Talent
- Attended Dailey Board Meeting
- Attended Future Leaders of the Valley Celebration
- Held Principal interviews
- Participated in a Superintendent's Panel for first-year doctoral candidates in the Doctor of Education Leadership (EdLD) Program at Harvard

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: April 10, 2026

Phone Number: (559) 457-3907

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for March 26, 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 March 26, 2026, are attached and include the following articles:

- After Analyst's Report, California May Leave School Funding Formula Unchanged – March 24, 2026
- Legislative Analyst Sees Merit in Gov. Newsom's Plan for Realigning California's School Bureaucracy – March 21, 2026
- State Revenues Exceed Projections Amid Moderating Economic Trends – March 23, 2026

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

Cabinet Approval:



Name and Title: Patrick Jensen, Chief Financial Officer



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DATE: March 26, 2026

TO: Misty Her
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

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

Assembly and Senate Education Committee Hearings Continue

The Senate and Assembly Education Committees, chaired by Senator Sasha Renée Pérez (D-Pasadena) and Assemblymember Dr. Darshana Patel (D-San Diego), respectively, both held committee hearings to consider education related legislation on Wednesday, March 25, 2026.

The Senate Education agenda included five bills, three of which pertain to TK-12 education. While the Assembly Education agenda considered 14 bills regarding TK-12 education. Collectively, the committees approved 17 bills that would impact local educational agencies (LEAs), including the following:

- Senate Bill (SB) 959 (Grayson, D-Concord), an urgency measure, would authorize a local fire agency to determine the imminence of a major safety hazard for purposes of holding an LEA's average daily attendance harmless for state funding purposes.
- SB 1058 (McNerney, D-Pleasanton) would make clarifying changes to align statutes relating to procurement bid solicitations and awards for school districts operating approved federal child nutrition programs with federal procurement standards, including removing a reference to price being the primary consideration for procurement bid solicitations and awards.
- SB 1140 (Ashby, D-Sacramento) would require school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to add plans to exclude unauthorized individuals from school property during construction, facilities maintenance, and repair projects to their Comprehensive School Safety Plans.
- Assembly Bill (AB) 1572 (Alanis, R-Modesto) would require California Interscholastic Federation game officials to undergo a background check process.

- AB 1665 (Pacheco, D-Downey) would require athletic coaches in both public and private schools to complete a training in student mental health every two years.
- AB 1871 (Fong, D-Alhambra) would remove the requirement for a recommendation by the principal for a student to participate in a College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnership, require CCAP partnership agreement protocols to authorize a student to complete one application for the duration of the student's attendance at a community college, and updates required data collection.
- AB 2003 (Berman, D-Menlo Park) would require the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, in consultation with the California Department of Education (CDE) and the California Department of Public Health, to develop an evidence-based online suicide prevention training program for staff, students, and parents as part of an LEA's suicide prevention program and requires an LEA that conducts suicide risk screenings to report specified screening data to the CDE.
- AB 2056 (Alvarez, D-San Diego) would authorize, through regulations adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE), J-1 visa sponsors designated by the United States Department of State to work directly with LEAs, instead of through the CDE, to sponsor teachers from other countries for placement in California LEAs to promote cultural exchange and assist LEAs in meeting their bilingual education needs.
- AB 2067 (Patel, D-San Diego) would extend the authority for school districts to utilize lease-leaseback contracts for school construction projects based on a competitive, best value solicitation process, which would otherwise expire on July 1, 2027, until July 1, 2032.
- AB 2107 (Pellerin, D-Santa Cruz) would require LEAs to prioritize offering access to the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program to students who are low income, English learners, or in foster care.
- AB 2191 (Quirk-Silva, D-Fullerton), subject to an appropriation, would create a statewide special education resource project on establishing alternate pathways to a diploma for students with disabilities.
- AB 2242 (Davies, R-Laguna Niguel) would require LEAs that serve students in grades 7 to 12 to display a poster that contains age-appropriate information and resources related to the prevention of sextortion.
- AB 2248 (Hoover, R-Folsom) would require the governing board of each school district and the governing body of each charter school serving students in grades 9 to 12 to ensure that all students and their parents or guardians receive a notice of advanced academic programs available to them and requires the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) to issue guidance to facilitate compliance with these requirements.
- AB 2316 (Hoover) would authorize the State Allocation Board to reduce the 50% local share matching obligation or lease payments for Charter School Facilities Program grant applications and increase the state grant amount, as necessary, for the charter school to reach a reasonable level of debt service.
- AB 2332 (González, M., D-Los Angeles) would require the CDE to designate a Dual Language Immersion Coordinator by July 1, 2027, to coordinate resources and knowledge of dual language immersion programs amongst LEAs.

- AB 2455 (Haney, D-San Francisco) would designate May 17 of each year as Bruce Lee Day and encourage public schools to recognize it as a day of special significance.
- House Resolution (HR) 87 (Muratsuchi, D-Torrance) would declare that LEA reporting requirements have become excessive and divert resources away from students and classroom services and urges lawmakers to consider specified questions to determine the value of enacting new reporting requirements.

Measures approved by the respective committees will move forward in the legislative process. Both committees will hold additional hearings in the coming weeks ahead of the first house policy committee deadlines of April 24 (for fiscal bills) and May 1 (for nonfiscal bills).

In addition to the policy committee hearings in both houses, the Assembly Education Committee also held an informational hearing to examine and discuss the Governor's proposal to reconfigure state-level education governance, putting the CDE under the purview of an education commissioner that reports to the Governor and the SBE. Legislators heard from panelists that included the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), the SSPI, the SBE, researchers, and advocates from various organizations, who offered their perspectives on the opportunities and tradeoffs of reconfiguring state-level education governance. No decisions were made in the hearing, and the Legislature will continue to debate the merits of the proposal as they negotiate the State Budget with the Governor over the next few months.

The legislative spring recess commences Thursday, March 26, upon the adjournment of session and will reconvene on Monday, April 6. We will provide our next *Sacramento Update* when the Legislature reconvenes in April.

Leilani Aguinaldo

Note: The LAO report found that switching to an enrollment-based school funding model could worsen student attendance. California lawmakers are now focusing on efforts to reduce chronic absenteeism.

After Analyst's Report, California May Leave School Funding Formula Unchanged

State lawmakers have argued switching to an enrollment-based formula could boost funding for about 90% of school districts

By Molly Gibbs
The Mercury News
March 24, 2026

Despite one lawmaker's assertion that it could boost funding for 90% of districts in the state, California appears to have pivoted away from an effort to fundamentally change the way it funds schools, after a report found the shift could have unexpected consequences.

Although schools plan their budgets based on the number of students enrolled in their district, California is one of seven states that fund schools based on actual daily attendance. So under the current formula, when students aren't in school, regardless of the reason, districts lose money. Chronic student absences, meaning students miss 10% or more of the academic year, can result in a significant loss of funding.

With student enrollment declining as expenses soar, schools throughout the state have turned to budget cuts, layoffs or school closures to repair budget deficits ranging from \$6 million to over \$100 million. And some California lawmakers have called for changes to the way schools are funded.

But a bill introduced by Senator Anthony Portantino, a Democrat representing Burbank, took efforts one step further and directed the state to evaluate the tradeoffs of switching to an enrollment-based funding formula.

Portantino's bill, SB 98, argued switching to an enrollment-based formula could boost funding for about 90% of school districts in the state, with the biggest boost going to districts with more low-income students, as those districts tend to have a larger percentage of chronically absent students.

The bill, signed by Newsom in 2024, directed the Legislative Analyst's Office to submit a report to lawmakers analyzing the effects of changing the funding formula to rely on student enrollment instead of attendance.

But that report, released in January, found that while an enrollment-based formula would increase funding by more than \$5 billion and primarily benefit districts that have lower attendance rates and serve a greater percentage of socioeconomically disadvantaged students, it would likely reduce student attendance in the long run and could further exacerbate student learning loss.

The LAO concluded that instead, the state should pour those additional dollars into the current funding formula to boost all school funding or specifically increase funding for schools serving a greater number of foster youth, English language learners and low-income students.

Rather than pursuing a change to its school funding mechanism, the state seems to seek to improve its current model by taking steps to reduce chronic absenteeism — pledging to halve chronic absence rates in the next

five years and passing two bills to protect students from immigration enforcement, which has been found to cause a spike in student absences, especially in elementary schools.

Note: The LAO endorsed the Governor's proposal to shift control of California's education system to a governor-appointed education commissioner, arguing it would reduce confusion and improve oversight, despite opposition from the current SSPI.

Legislative Analyst Sees Merit in Gov. Newsom's Plan for Realigning California's School Bureaucracy

By John Fensterwald
EdSource
March 21, 2026

Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposal to shift the operation of the California Department of Education has received a key endorsement from the Legislative Analyst's Office.

The nonpartisan LAO said last week that moving control of the department from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to a new education commissioner under the governor's authority would clarify confusion over who should manage the state's TK-12 education system. The roles "are clear in theory but often murky in practice," said the LAO, which evaluates state policies for the Legislature.

This lack of clarity can mar the rollout of major programs like transitional kindergarten and leave districts unsure of where to turn to for guidance. According to the LAO, overlapping roles among the Department of Education, the State Board of Education and other agencies create confusion about who is in charge. The change that Newsom is proposing "could result in clearer direction and support for school districts," the LAO said.

Under Newsom's plan, the state superintendent would continue to be elected every four years, as required by the California Constitution, but with diminished power and a small staff with a minimum budget. While the state superintendent would have limited authority under the governor's proposal, the LAO suggests that the state superintendent could become an independent evaluator of public schools as well as the chief advocate for K-12 education.

Newsom proposed the major restructuring of the TK-12 bureaucracy in January as part of his 2026-27 budget. The plan would take effect in January 2027, coinciding with the start of the next governor's and next state superintendent's term of office. Newsom disclosed his plan one month after the university-based research organization Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE) revived the idea in an in-depth report.

Associations representing school boards, school administrators, county superintendents and the state PTA, as well as a number of student advocacy organizations, including Children Now and Education Trust-West, announced their support. Tony Thurmond, the current state superintendent, opposed the proposal, stating it is unclear how the changes would improve student performance. The California Teachers Association, which has succeeded in electing state superintendents aligned with labor, has been silent on the proposal.

The reorganization is not a new idea. As the LAO noted, the challenges of a "two-headed" system of school oversight have been debated for a century. PACE's report was the sixth extensive study by a research

organization or government commission in 30 years that recommended placing the Department of Education under the governor, and the LAO's is now the seventh.

California is one of only nine states that elect a state superintendent. In 14 states, the governor appoints both a state board of education and the chief education officer. In 10 states, the governor appoints a state board of education, and the board appoints the state school officer; in seven states, an elected state board of education appoints the chief education officer.

Each of the half-dozen California studies differed on key aspects of what a new governance system should look like. The LAO offered its own take, too.

Newsom's plan recommends that the next superintendent be named a voting member of additional state education boards and commissions, including the community college system's Board of Governors, but doesn't add other responsibilities.

Redefine the state superintendent's roles

The LAO envisions a more influential role for the state superintendent. It also said the Legislature should play a stronger role in monitoring and controlling the restructuring, recommending that the Legislature:

- Vet and confirm the new education commissioner. An assumption behind the realignment is that the appointee would be an experienced manager with knowledge of California's education system. The last four state superintendents had been legislators without a management background.
- Require the governor to present a spending plan that ensures the total funding for the Department of Education, the state superintendent and the state board doesn't exceed what the state spends now. The plan should identify savings by eliminating redundancy in the current system.
- Write into law the roles of future state superintendents. The LAO recommends that they should advocate for the main issues they campaigned on, evaluate the effectiveness of state education programs and identify areas of improvement.

To date, none of the commissions' and researchers' reports have gained traction in the Legislature, and three times voters have rejected initiatives to eliminate the state superintendent's position. Whether Newsom's call for action and the inclusion of the proposal in his budget will make a difference may become clearer when the Assembly Education Committee holds an extensive informational hearing on March 25 at 2 p.m. Thurmond will be on one of four panels of presenters. [Here is the agenda.](#)

State Revenues Exceed Projections Amid Moderating Economic Trends

By Megan Baier and Wendi McCaskill, EdD
School Services of California's *Fiscal Report*
March 23, 2026

In its March 2026 issue of the monthly *Finance Bulletin*, the Department of Finance reports that General Fund revenues for February came in slightly above the Governor's Budget projections, while fiscal year-to-date (YTD) revenues continue to show strong performance. February receipts exceeded projections by \$154

million (1.4%), and YTD revenues are higher than expected by \$7.0 billion (5.1%), largely driven by continued strength in personal income tax and corporation tax collections.

Revenue Trends

Revenue performance in February was mixed across the major tax categories. Personal income tax receipts fell short of projections for the month by \$395 million (6.8%), primarily due to higher-than-anticipated refunds. Despite this monthly shortfall, personal income tax collections remain strong on a year-to-date basis, exceeding projections by \$4.3 billion (4.8%).

Corporation tax receipts continued to outperform expectations. February revenues exceeded projections by \$362 million, and YTD collections are higher by \$1.8 billion (9.3%). This strength is largely attributable to higher pass-through entity tax payments and lower refund activity.

Sales and use tax receipts came in modestly above projections for February by \$180 million (4.2%) and are essentially on target for the fiscal year, exceeding projections by only \$1 million.

“Big Three” Taxes In millions						
	February 2026			2025-26 Year to Date		
	Forecast	March <i>Finance Bulletin</i>	Difference	Forecast	March <i>Finance Bulletin</i>	Difference
Personal Income Tax	\$5,772	\$5,377	\$(395)	\$89,263	\$93,577	\$4,314
Corporation Tax	\$175	\$537	\$362	\$19,564	\$21,391	\$1,827
Sales and Use Tax	\$4,323	\$4,503	\$180	\$23,439	\$23,440	\$1
Total	\$10,270	\$10,417	\$147¹	\$132,266	\$138,408	\$6,142¹

¹Total revenues in the table are limited to “Big Three” taxes and do not include all state revenues reported in the Finance Bulletin.

Economic Conditions

Recent national indicators point to continued economic expansion at a moderating pace. In March, the Federal Reserve maintained the federal funds rate target range at 3.5% to 3.75%, signaling a continued data-dependent approach to future policy adjustments. U.S. headline and core inflation remained unchanged in February, with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increasing 2.4% and core CPI, which excludes food and energy increasing 2.5% over the past 12 months, while personal income and consumer spending continue to reflect steady household demand. According to the *Finance Bulletin*, economic growth slowed in late 2025, with U.S. real gross domestic product increasing at a 0.7% annualized rate in the fourth quarter, a notable deceleration from earlier in the year.

At the state level, economic conditions in California generally reflect similar trends, though with some continued differences in magnitude. Labor market conditions in California remain relatively stable but

continue to lag slightly behind national trends. The *Finance Bulletin* notes that employment gains have been modest and uneven across sectors, with some industries experiencing job losses that offset gains in others.

Housing activity in California shows mixed signals. The *Finance Bulletin* indicates that building activity and permits remain below prior levels, reflecting continued constraints in housing supply, although conditions have shown some stabilization relative to earlier periods.

Inflationary pressures in California, while easing, continue to be influenced by components such as housing, which remain a key driver of overall price levels.

Outlook

Overall, the state's revenue picture through February remains favorable, supported by strong year-to-date performance in personal income and corporation taxes. At the same time, moderating economic growth, stable but uneven labor market conditions, and ongoing housing constraints suggest a more measured economic environment moving forward.

Updated U.S. and state economic conditions, along with state revenue estimates and their implications for Proposition 98, will be reflected in the Governor's May Revision. We will continue to monitor these developments and provide additional analysis as new information becomes available. For more information about and to register for our live webinar—the May Revision Workshop—click [here](#).