



BOARD COMMUNICATIONS - MAY 01, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Mao Misty Her, Superintendent

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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: May 01, 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 the Fresno Unified eSports League (FUEL) High School Competition
- Spoke at the Principals' Meeting
- Met with Bullard Talent Student Leadership Team
- Spoke at the Fresno State Send Off Event
- Met with Cabinet Teams
- Held interviews for Chief Technology Officer and Executive Director Health Services
- Attended the Dr. Aldredge Field Dedication Event
- Met with the Latino Educational Roundtable
- Participated in Labor Management Partnership Meeting
- Spoke at the Strategic Planning Session with district staff and Gensler team
- Gave interview with FOX26 regarding the St. Jude's Home Giveaway

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: May 01, 2026

Phone Number: (559) 457-3907

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for April 23, 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 April 24, 2026, are attached and include the following articles:

- Senate Democrats Release State Budget Plan – April 17, 2026
- California Schools Face Budget Cuts as Enrollment Drops by 74,961 Students – April 17, 2026
- Federal Funds for Schools Will Still Flow Through Ed. Dept. System – For Now – April 21, 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: April 23, 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 Committees Meet Prior to April 24 Deadline

Tomorrow, April 24, 2026, is the deadline for any bill tagged as a fiscal measure to pass out of the first-house policy committees. Bills keyed non-fiscal have until next Friday, May 1, to clear policy committees. Because this is the second year of the 2025-26 legislative session, any bill that does not meet these deadlines will be considered dead, absent a rule waiver.

To meet the April 24 deadline, both the Senate and Assembly Education Committees, chaired by Senator Sasha Renée Pérez (D-Pasadena) and Assemblymember Dr. Darshana Patel (D-San Diego), respectively, met this week with packed agendas, considering nearly three dozen bills combined. Some of the more significant bills approved include the following:

- Assembly Bill (AB) 1644 (Muratsuchi, D-Torrance) requires the governing board of a local educational agency (LEA) to adopt a policy to prohibit the use of smartphones by its students, thereby creating a bell-to-bell ban on smartphone use.
 - The author agreed to amendments that would limit the mandate to grades TK-8, while strongly encouraging high schools to adopt a bell-to-bell ban that complies with the K-8 ban provisions.
- AB 1750 (Caloza, D-Los Angeles) requires a certificated or classified school employee who exhausts all available sick leave and continues to be absent from duties on account of illness or accident for an additional period of five months to instead receive the employee's full salary during those five months.
- AB 2635 (Sanchez, R-Rancho Santa Margarita) expands egregious misconduct to include offenses related to human trafficking, child abandonment and neglect, child abduction, and impermissible contact or

communication with a minor and prohibits a person who is dismissed for egregious misconduct from being employed by any state agency, including an LEA.

- AB 2440 (Muratsuchi) updates Proposition 28 funding rules by allowing LEAs to pool arts funding across multiple schools rather than spending it strictly at each individual site, while still requiring that each school receives its fair share.
- AB 2496 (Solanche, D-Lynwood) eliminates the requirement for LEAs to produce annual School Accountability Report Cards and instead designates the California School Dashboard as the state's primary accountability tool.
- Senate Bill (SB) 1067 (Weber Pierson, D-San Diego) creates a statewide system to screen K-2 students annually for early signs of math difficulties using state-approved tools. The State Board of Education would develop a list of appropriate screening instruments by 2028, require LEAs to adopt one, and mandate yearly screenings starting in 2028-29 (with a parent opt-out).
- SB 1128 (Stern, D-Los Angeles) prohibits LEAs from requiring a pupil in kindergarten to take home a school issued electronic device.
- SB 1147 (Ochoa Bogh, R-Yucaipa) authorizes an LEA to meet the existing personal finance course provision requirement if it elects to offer an integrated, yearlong course that is equivalent in quality and rigor to a stand-alone one-semester course and has a course scope that includes, at minimum, a specified set of topics related to personal finance.

These bills have now cleared the April 24 deadline and will next move to the first-house Appropriations Committees, where their fiscal implications will be scrutinized.

Leilani Aguinaldo

Senate Democrats Release State Budget Plan

By Megan Baier
School Services of California's *Fiscal Report*
April 17, 2026

Senate Democrats released their [Foundation for the Future: 2026-27 State Budget Plan](#) on Thursday, April 16, 2026. The plan provides a high-level overview of Senate priorities and plans to balance the State Budget but does not delve into programmatic details that will be decided via the budget subcommittee process.

Acknowledging the short-term revenue surge, in contrast to the long-term structural deficits the state is facing, the Senate proposes making greater deposits into the state's multiple reserve accounts and committing no new major ongoing program spending, rather, focusing funds on sustaining existing programs.

In the education portion of the budget, the Senate proposes to fully fund the current year's Proposition 98 minimum guarantee, rejecting Governor Gavin Newsom's \$5.6 billion settle-up proposal. Due to estimated revenue growth, in combination with the rejection of the Governor's settle-up proposal, the Senate estimates the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee will grow by \$11.6 billion in 2025-26 and \$2.0 billion in 2026-27 over the January Governor's Budget proposal.

Of the increased revenue growth, the Senate proposes to deposit \$5.9 billion in the Proposition 98 Rainy Day Fund, taking the balance to \$10.0 billion. With the remaining \$5.7 billion allocated for one-time purposes that will be determined through the budget subcommittee process.

Of note, the Senate indicates it will account for half of the increased revenue via the traditional accounting process and the other half will utilize "the Department of Finance mechanism that spreads the impact over future fiscal years to smooth the volatile impact of the settle-up payment," appearing to reference the internal cash borrowing mechanism that was utilized by the state in the 2024-25 Enacted Budget to avoid programmatic cuts on the General Fund side of the budget. For further details on the state's past accounting approach, see [Education Code Section 41206.04](#).

In addition, the Senate proposes to shift all California State Preschool Program (CSPP) costs into Proposition 98. Currently, CSPPs operated by local educational agencies (LEAs) are funded by Proposition 98, while those run by community-based organizations are funded by the General Fund. To accommodate the new CSPP costs, the Senate proposes to rebench the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee.

The Assembly has yet to release its State Budget plan. Both the Senate and Assembly will continue their budget committee hearings over the coming weeks leading up to the Governor's May Revision, where he will update revenue projections and his final State Budget proposal.

We will provide you with an in-depth look at the Governor's May Revision proposal and its impacts on LEAs at our May Revision Workshop. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

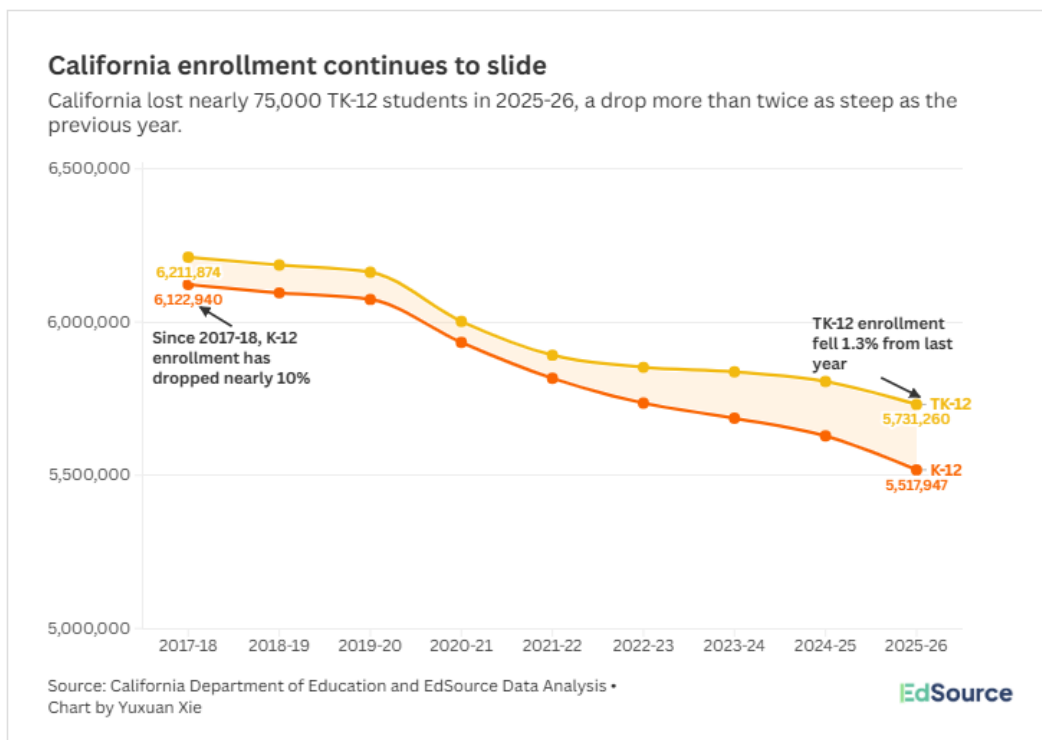
Note: Enrollment in California public schools declined by 1.3%, or by 74,961 students, according to data released by the California Department of Education.

California Schools Face Budget Cuts as Enrollment Drops by 74,961 Students

By Diana Lambert, Lasherica Thornton, John Fensterwald, and Daniel J. Willis
EdSource
April 17, 2026

Enrollment in California K-12 schools, and in schools across the country, is declining rapidly as birth rates drop and immigration rates fall. This school year, California had the largest decline in enrollment rates since 2021-22, after schools returned from the pandemic.

Enrollment in public schools declined by 1.3%, or by 74,961 students, according to data released Thursday by the California Department of Education. State public school enrollment is now at 5.7 million students.



The biggest declines were in private schools, with a 6.6% drop in enrollment, and home schools, with a 3.7% decline, according to state officials. Traditional public school enrollment dropped 1.4% and charter public school enrollment fell by 0.3%.

State officials attribute the enrollment dip to an ongoing decline in birth rates and immigration losses.

The California Department of Finance, which makes demographic projections for the state, estimated last October that enrollment would decline by only 10,000 students, or about 0.2%.

Districts are shoring up enrollment losses with cuts

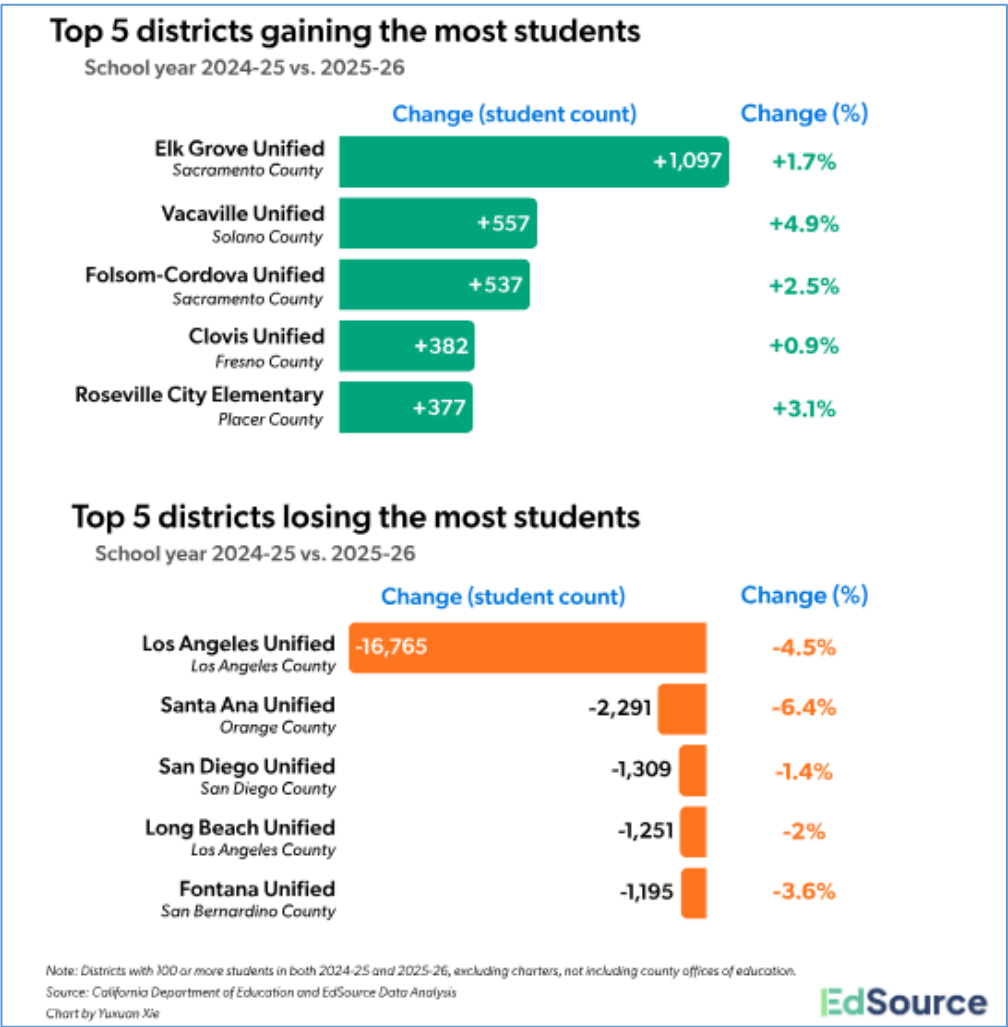
California funds schools based on average daily attendance. The new enrollment figures may not surprise district leaders, who have the staff to track births, housing projections and other factors, but smaller districts may have to redo attendance-based revenue projections for the coming years, said Kenneth Kappahn, principal fiscal analyst for the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst’s Office.

The impact on schools is real and immediate, said Kindra Britt, communications director for California County Superintendents.

“That translates directly into budget deficits, staff layoffs, program cuts, and in some cases, school closures,” Britt said.

The continuing trend of declining enrollment is a new reality the state must adapt to, said Troy Flint, chief information officer for the California School Boards Association. Even when enrollment declines, costs to operate the school remain the same, he said.

The decline in enrollment statewide will not affect overall TK-12 state funding, which will continue to be about 40% of the state’s general fund, and is projected to rise significantly in 2025-26.



Declining enrollment is a national problem

Nationwide K-12 school enrollment has declined by 2.3% or 1.18 million students over the past five years, according to the Education Commission of the States. National projections predict that the country will lose another 2.7 million students by 2031.

All 39 states that released enrollment data for this school year have experienced a decline, said Elizabeth Sanders, director of communications and public relations for the CDE. About half of the states had larger enrollment losses than California.

Half the enrollment loss in the state is in L.A. County

Los Angeles County lost 32,953 students, more than half from the Los Angeles Unified School District. The 2.6% decline in county enrollment accounted for 43% of the state’s loss.

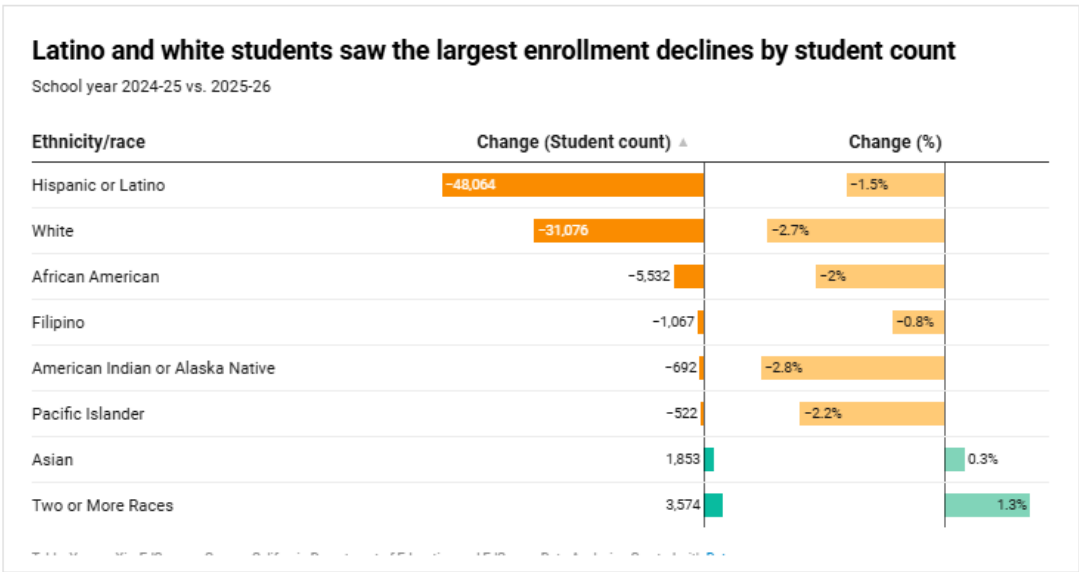
The number of newcomer students in LAUSD has dropped over the past two years after reaching a peak of 5% of the student population in 2023-24. Newcomer students are generally defined as students with limited English proficiency who have attended a U.S. school for three years or less.

LAUSD Superintendent Alberto Carvalho, who is on administrative leave, has blamed the decline on “a climate of fear and instability created by the ongoing immigration crackdowns,” according to the Los Angeles Times.

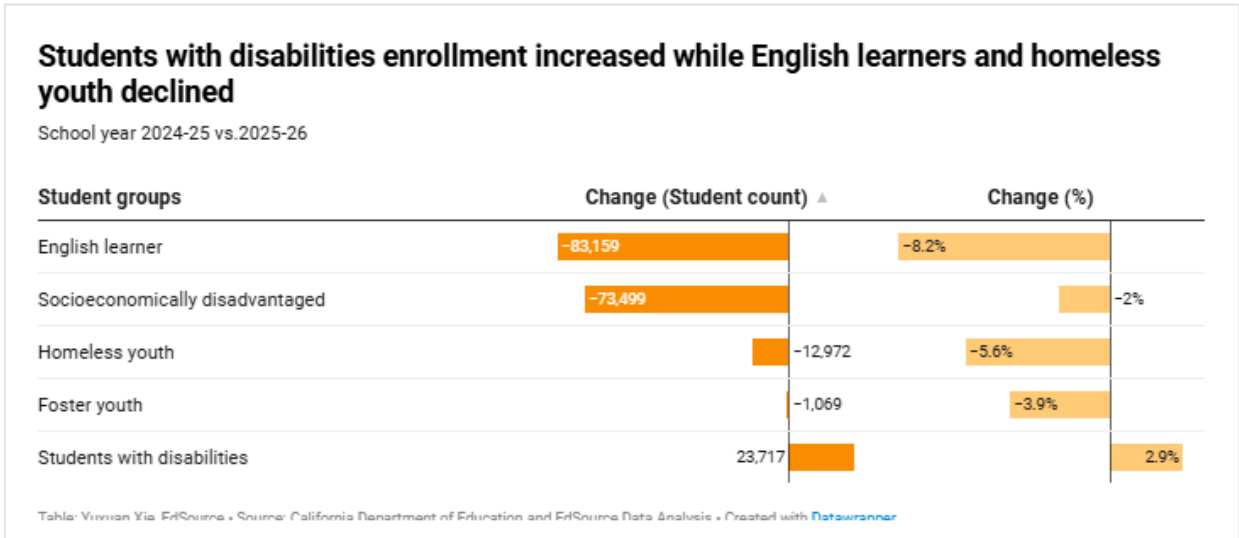
Declining enrollment was one of the main reasons for the budget deficits that led Los Angeles Unified to issue 3,200 layoff notices in February, according to district officials. The layoffs are expected to actually result in 650 job losses.

The number of Hispanic students has dropped

Hispanic students, who make up 56% of California’s student population, had the biggest loss in student enrollment, but not the largest percentage. The number of Hispanic students dropped by 48,064 or 1.48%, while the number of white students dropped by 31,076, or 2.68%.



The number of English learners also dropped by 8.2%, although the decline could be attributed, in part, to students being reclassified as proficient in English.



“We surmise that a portion of the enrollment loss is driven by current immigration enforcement activities; how long and to what extent that will continue is the crux of that question,” said H.D. Palmer, deputy director of external affairs for the California Department of Finance.

Immigrant families have been afraid to send their students to school, said Martha Hernandez, executive director of Californians Together, a coalition of 40 organizations focused on the educational success of English learners.

School staff have tried to assure families that it is safe for their children to go to school, but some families have opted to self-deport or simply leave the state or region for a safer place, she said.

Immigration losses are likely to have continued to have an impact on school enrollment. Immigration to the state declined from 312,761 to 109,278 between 2024 and 2025, according to the United States Census.

Charter school skews Sacramento numbers

Sacramento County had a 9,744 drop in enrollment in its schools overall, a decline of 3.8%; while Orange County had 7,518, Santa Clara 4,198, San Diego 4,190, San Bernardino 2,543 and Ventura County 2,345 fewer students than last year.

Despite Sacramento’s ranking as the county with the second-largest loss in enrollment, two of its districts were listed as having some of the highest enrollment gains. Elk Grove Unified grew by 1,097 students, or 1.7% — making it the district with the largest enrollment gain in the state. Folsom Cordova Unified gained 537 students, an increase of 2.5%.

The disparity in Sacramento County seems to be the result of a large enrollment dip in Twin Rivers Unified, which lost 12,300 students the same year Highlands Community Charter and Technical Schools laid off teachers and staff following a state audit that found it did not have enough teachers with the proper credentials.

Regions with lower costs grew

The counties with the largest gains in enrollment this year are in Northern California and the Central Valley.

“There are counties and regions in California where there’s actually a sharp increase in school enrollment, and we’re seeing a direct correlation there between economies that are livable for families and where students are enrolling in school,” Sanders said. “And then of the students who remain, those families are moving to areas that are more affordable for them to live.”

The seven counties with the largest increases in enrollment are San Joaquin County, 842; Placer County, 841; Sutter County, 802; Butte County, 200; San Benito County, 146; Glenn County, 82; and Yuba County, 58.

More kids are attending transitional kindergarten

The drop in enrollment was offset somewhat by a 20.1% increase in students attending transitional kindergarten, after the state fully implemented enrollment for all 4-year-old students this school year. An additional 36,000 children were enrolled in transitional kindergarten this year, bringing the total to 213,313.

There was a 16% increase in the percentage of socioeconomically disadvantaged families that enrolled their children in the state’s transitional kindergarten program. There were also almost 20% more students with disabilities and almost 11% more homeless students in transitional kindergarten this year than last year.

There were fewer English learners listed in transitional kindergarten as a result of Assembly Bill 2268, which exempted transitional kindergarten students from taking the English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC).

EdSource reporter Betty Márquez Rosales contributed to this report.

Note: Despite ongoing efforts to transition federal education programs to other agencies, billions of federal dollars for K-12 schools will continue to flow through the U.S. Department of Education’s grant portal this summer.

Federal Funds for Schools Will Still Flow Through Ed. Dept. System—For Now

State and local education leaders worried key funds, like Title I, might not arrive on time this summer

By Mark Lieberman
Education Week
April 21, 2026

Despite ongoing efforts to transition federal education programs to other agencies, billions of federal dollars for K-12 schools will continue to flow through the U.S. Department of Education’s grant portal this summer, the nation’s top K-12 official told states last week.

Programs like Title I aid for disadvantaged students and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for special education allocate funds for school districts, but by law the money flows first to states in two batches: one on July 1 and another three months later.

Kirsten Baesler, the assistant secretary of elementary and secondary education, told state education chiefs on April 17 that the department is responding to “concerns regarding the July 1 formula grant timeline” for this year by sending those funds through the traditional channel, rather than moving the funds through the U.S. Department of Labor, where most federal K-12 programs are shifting.

“This will give states, ED, and DOL more time to collaborate on procedures, processes, and training to ensure states are set up to successfully receive and draw down formula funds from DOL,” Baesler wrote in an email obtained by Education Week.

State leaders were concerned about struggling to access funds on time, which could force schools to abruptly shutter summer programming or even delay the start of school in some places, said Julia Martin, director of policy and government affairs for the Bruman Group, a law firm that represents state education agencies and schools.

“This announcement brings down the temperature somewhat,” Martin said.

It leaves some questions unanswered, though. Baesler’s email doesn’t say whether the agency plans to use Education Department systems for the Oct. 1 batch of funds—or for the K-12 formula dollars for Native American students that are slated to move to the Interior Department.

In a statement, an Education Department spokesperson said the agency is “committed to delivering formula funding by the July 1 deadline.”

“We acknowledge concerns from state chiefs following last year’s funding delay,” wrote Savannah Newhouse, the agency’s press secretary.

Last year’s delay, however, was not related to the question of which grant portal would carry the funds. That unprecedented situation—in which the administration held back nearly \$7 billion in congressionally approved funds for weeks from programs including Title II for professional development, Title III for English-learner services, and Title IV for academic enrichment programming—prompted legal challenges and bipartisan backlash. Congress in response included a provision in the budget it passed in February specifying that the education funds must go out by July 1.

Russell Vought, who leads the federal Office of Management and Budget, last week dismissed suggestions from lawmakers that the Trump administration has illegally tampered with congressional appropriations.

The Trump administration is conducting “programmatic reviews” to assess federal expenditures for “waste, fraud, and abuse,” he said. Those reviews don’t require congressional approval, he added—though legal experts disagree.

Moving programs out of the Education Department won’t happen overnight

The decision to keep using the Education Department’s grant portal reflects the uphill battle Department of Education officials under President Donald Trump face as they push to hasten the agency’s demise.

The Education Department last November signed an agreement to transfer day-to-day responsibilities for most K-12 formula funds to the Labor Department. At the time, Education Secretary Linda McMahon said the Labor Department “has a much more sophisticated system” for filling grants than the Education Department.

McMahon also has framed the agreement—and nine others the agency has signed—as a temporary measure to show skeptical lawmakers the value of closing the Education Department altogether, a point that Vought reiterated to lawmakers last week.

The Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration in recent months has advertised new education grant competitions “on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education,” and the two agencies have touted their collaboration in jointly running the competitions.

Still, most staffers overseeing those programs still work for the Department of Education. The postings announcing grant availability list Education Department email addresses under the section with contact information.

The Labor Department historically has not managed a high volume of formula grants with complex rules like the education programs have; its normal responsibilities include disbursing unemployment benefits and enforcing labor laws. More recently, the agency has taken charge of the Education Department funds that support career-technical education and adult learning—with varying levels of success.

Some states received their Oct. 1 set of funds for these programs on time last fall, while others struggled for weeks or even months to access their allocations.

Some state education agencies that manage CTE funds are already set up in the Labor system, and might not have struggled much if the K-12 dollars came through the same system.

But in states including Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, and Wisconsin, the agency that handles Perkins funding for CTE programs isn’t the same one that oversees funding for K-12 schools. Education agencies in those states likely would have to start from scratch with the Labor system.

The Labor Department has also been under scrutiny during Trump’s second administration because of allegations that Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer drank on the job and engaged in inappropriate relationships with subordinates. Separately, her husband was barred from the Labor Department headquarters amid allegations of sexual assault.

Chavez-DeRemer resigned on April 20. Keith Sonderling, her second-in-command, took over as acting secretary.

All of this has made states and schools wary of counting on federal funds to flow as expected.

Trump administration officials “have said publicly that they want to reduce reliance on the federal government as a source of funds,” Martin said. “To the extent that [school districts] are delaying spending or planning around those appropriations, they have somewhat succeeded.”

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Marie Williams, Ed.D.

Date: May 01, 2026

Phone Number: (559) 457-3754

Regarding: Out-of-State Field Trip for National Speech and Debate Association Championships

The purpose of this communication is to inform the Board about students from Bullard High School who have qualified to compete at the National Speech and Debate Association Championships.

The National Speech and Debate Association hosts the largest academic competition in the United States, with only the top two percent of teams advancing to the national level. Participation in this championship aligns with Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for Listening and Speaking, while also strengthening students' communication and critical thinking abilities. These skills are valuable across many aspects of life, including future careers, personal relationships, and active community involvement.

This year's championships will take place in Richmond, Virginia, from June 13 through June 20, 2026. Four students from Fresno Unified will attend, accompanied by three Bullard High School teachers.

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

Cabinet Approval: 
Carlos Castillo Apr 30, 2026 11:50:21 PDT

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

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

Trip Date	School	Destination	Purpose: Educational Outcome and standards being addressed	Students and Chaperones	Instructional Time off Site	Cost/Funding
06/13/2026-06/20/2026	Bullard High School	Richmond, VA	Event: National Speech and Debate Championship Group: Bullard High School Fly to Richmond, VA. Meet CA State speech/ELA standards, critical thinking, competition, resume building, and College and Career Requirement (CCR) standards.	7	0	\$14,900

Event Itinerary: (attach a separate sheet if necessary) - Times and locations of meetings, classes or tours, lunch and/or dinner. - Please list all stops in route, locations and times (inbound and outbound) - Night time supervision plan - Chaperone(s) Contact Numbers