



BOARD COMMUNICATIONS - JUNE 26, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Mao Misty Her, Superintendent

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Board Communications Approved by:

Mao Misty Her, Superintendent



Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Mao Misty Her, Superintendent

Date: June 26, 2026

Phone Number: 457-3884

Regarding: Superintendent Calendar Highlights

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

- Spoke at the New Employee Orientation
- Spoke at Fresno State LaunchPad Event
- Attended retirement celebration for President Carole Goldsmith
- Met with Cabinet Teams
- Attended CART Board Meeting
- Attended Untied Way Board Meeting
- Spoke at Principal Institute
- Visited Linda Mood Bell program at Starr and Tioga
- Attended Foundation for Fresno Unified Students Board Meeting
- Attended Central Valley Community Foundation Board Meeting
- Gave interview on GVWire Unfiltered alongside Ana Bustos, Mayfair teacher, regarding the district's literacy initiatives and past year as FUSD Superintendent
- Met with Malloch parents regarding Vice Principal movement
- Spoke at the Scholastic Book Distribution Event
- Met with Laotian American Community of Fresno (LACF)
- Met with Leavenworth parents regarding Vice Principal movement

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Misty Her at 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: Ambra O'Connor, Chief of Staff

Date: June 26, 2026

Phone Number: 457-3838

Regarding: Summer Break Office Closures

The purpose of this communication is to provide information regarding summer break office closures. The Offices of the Superintendent and Board of Education will be closed June 29 through July 03, 2026.

By way of reminder, this week's Board Communications will be the final Board Communications for the 2025/2026 school year.

Board communications for the 2026/27 School Year will resume Friday, August 7, 2026.

If you have any questions about the information included in this communication or need further information, please contact Ambra O'Connor at (559) 457-3838. Thank you.

Cabinet Approval: 

Name and Title: Ambra O'Connor, Chief of Staff

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Ashlee Chiarito, Ed.D., Executive Officer

Date: June 26, 2026
Phone Number: (559) 457-3934

Regarding: June Legislative Committee Meeting

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information shared at the June 18, 2026, 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 Andy Levine, and Veva Islas; Director of Governmental Relations, Leilani Aguinaldo; District Staff: Adela Duncan, Chief Information Officer, Patrick Jensen, Chief Financial Officer; Amy Idsvoog, Human Resources; Kim Kelstrom, Chief Executive, Fiscal; Ashlee Chiarito, Executive Officer, State and Federal, and Teresa Plascencia, Executive Director, Constituent Services. In attendance online was Board of Education member Keshia Thomas.

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

California State Senate and Assembly leaders reached a two-party agreement on the 2026/27 State Budget (AB 109) to meet the June 15 deadline, with a full agreement with the Governor expected before July 1. The Legislature's plan differs from the Governor's in several areas, including shifting preschool into Proposition 98 and maintaining a \$3.9 billion settle-up gap but adding a payment schedule for districts. Funding differences include a smaller Public School System Stabilization Account (\$9.5 billion vs. the Governor's \$10.3 billion) and higher one-time education grants, such as \$5.2 billion for student support (vs. \$5.0 billion) and \$700 million for kitchen infrastructure (vs. \$100 million). The Legislature also adds \$300 million for career technical education and \$40 million each for special education cost pools, while keeping many of the Governor's proposals like a 2.87% COLA and \$757.3 million for learning recovery. After passage, the Governor will have 12 days to act, during which final negotiations will occur and be reflected in a follow-up "budget bill junior."

A proposal to permanently extend California's high-income tax for TK–14 education funding has qualified for the November ballot after far exceeding the required number of verified signatures. It will appear alongside multiple other measures, including a pending one-time billionaires' tax to fund healthcare, which is still undergoing verification but is likely to qualify. All measures must be finalized by June 25, 2026, with official proposition numbers assigned later that month.

Legislative Update – The following bill proposals were discussed:

AB 1821 (Pacheco) – Support – As amended on June 10, 2026, Assembly Bill 1821 requires an agency to designate a physical office location and email address for the submission of public records requests and may designate other reasonable methods for the submission of requests, including submission to a specified physical mailing address or through an online portal.

The School Services Legislative Committee June 2026 report is attached. The next Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for July 09, 2026.

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

Cabinet Approval: 

Name and Title: Patrick Jensen, Chief Financial Officer

Fresno Unified School District

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 18, 2026**

2025-2026 Legislative Session

Prepared By:

**Leilani Aguinaldo
Director, Governmental Relations**



Public Education's Point of Reference for Making Educated Decisions



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Legislative and Economic Update

School Services of California, Inc.
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Fresno Unified School District
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An Overview of the 2026-27 Governor's May Revision

By: SSC Team

May 14, 2026

Overview of the Governor's May Revision Proposals

On May 14, 2026, Gavin Newsom presented his final May Revision as Governor of California. If his press release and budget documents are any indication, he is hoping that the headlines today will be of a Governor eliminating a projected ongoing deficit that will benefit the state long after his final year in office while making “transformative investments in child care, schools, higher education, public safety, healthcare, housing, clean energy, new businesses, and the protection of our state’s natural resources.”

As we saw in January, his education proposals are much more about shoring up existing programs than creating new ones: one-time flexible dollars, short-term resources for specific priorities, preparing schools for a rainy day, and the largest special education investment in the state’s history. While not creating a new program per se, the Governor proposes a significant new benefit to transitional kindergarten (TK)-14 employees of paid pregnancy disability leave, which he proposes to fund through the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

While concerns will be debated regarding the long-term sustainability of the Governor’s proposals, and notwithstanding the retained—but diminished—Proposition 98 settle-up proposal, there is a fair amount to like in the Governor’s final May Revision.

The Economy and Revenues

At the release of the May Revision, Governor Newsom emphasized California’s economic strength, describing California as a tentpole of the U.S. economy and noting at the outset of his press conference that California remains the fastest-growing developed economy in the world. The Administration framed the May Revision as achieving balance across both the 2026-27 and 2027-28 fiscal years while maintaining substantial reserves and reducing projected future operating deficits by more than half compared to the Governor’s Budget.

The May Revision upgrades General Fund revenues over the three-year budget window by approximately \$16.5 billion relative to the Governor’s Budget forecast, with the detailed Revenue Estimates section reflecting a \$16.8 billion upgrade before accounting for transfers and tax policy proposals. The increase is driven primarily by stronger-than-expected personal income tax collections tied to elevated capital gains realizations. Detailed Revenue Estimates show that, excluding Pass-Through Entity Elective Tax (PTET) impacts, personal income tax revenues increase by \$15.7 billion, corporation tax revenues decline by \$1.6 billion, and sales tax revenues increase modestly by \$244 million, while PTET contributes an additional \$2.1 billion to the overall revenue upgrade.

“Big Three” Revenue Sources (In Millions)						
	2024-25		2025-26		2026-27	
	Governor’s Budget	May Revision	Governor’s Budget	May Revision	Governor’s Budget	May Revision
Personal Income Tax	\$130,178	\$131,328	\$137,840	\$146,847	\$142,202	\$145,610
Corporation Tax	\$41,338	\$41,757	\$41,702	\$43,287	\$43,528	\$44,192
Sales Tax	\$33,602	\$33,596	\$34,401	\$34,588	\$35,085	\$35,148
Total	\$205,118	\$206,681	\$213,943	\$224,722	\$220,815	\$224,950

While revenues improved relative to January projections, the Administration continues to emphasize long-term structural balance. The May Revision proposes a combination of spending reductions, fund shifts, revenue-related solutions, and General Fund offsets intended to significantly reduce projected structural deficits in 2027-28 and beyond.

The May Revision projects moderate but stable economic growth over the forecast period, with no sustained contraction in economic activity. U.S. real Gross Domestic Product growth is projected at 2.1% in both 2025 and 2026 before slowing modestly in subsequent years. The May Revision also notes that inflation has moderated from recent highs but remains an important source of economic uncertainty. The Administration’s forecast assumes inflationary pressures will continue to moderate over the forecast period, although energy prices, financial market conditions, and global events continue to present economic uncertainty.

Proposition 98 Minimum Guarantee, Settle-Up, Rainy Day Fund, and Local Reserves

The May Revision revises the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee upwards over the three-year budget window by \$6.4 billion as compared to the Governor’s January State Budget proposal. Under the revised estimates, the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee totals \$127.1 billion in 2026-27, \$125.1 billion in 2025-26, and \$124.9 billion in 2024-25.

Proposition 98 Minimum Guarantee (In Billions)								
2024-25			2025-26			2026-27		
Governor's Budget	May Revision	Difference	Governor's Budget	May Revision	Difference	Governor's Budget	May Revision	Difference
\$123.8	\$124.9	\$1.1	\$121.4	\$125.1	\$3.7	\$125.5	\$127.1	\$1.6

Across the three fiscal years, the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee continues to be determined by Test 1.

The Proposition 98 formula also requires an \$8.3 billion maintenance factor in 2024-25, which will fully retire the existing maintenance factor obligation payment resulting from the suspension of the minimum guarantee in 2023-24.

The Governor maintains his “settle-up” proposal to underfund the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee in the 2025-26 fiscal year, though the amount proposed to be withheld is decreased from \$5.6 billion to \$3.9 billion. The May Revision indicates these funds will be withheld until spring 2027, at which point if revenues estimates are the same or higher, funds will be allocated via the 2027 Budget Act. With this “settle-up” proposal, Proposition 98 is funded at \$121.2 billion in 2025-26. The May Revision fully repays the existing \$1.9 billion “settle-up” that was created in the 2025 Budget Act for the 2024-25 minimum guarantee.

The increased revenues from capital gains require greater deposits into the Public School System Stabilization Account (PSSSA) and eliminate the required withdrawal that was projected in the Governor’s January State Budget. Across the three-year budget window, \$8.7 billion is required to be deposited into the PSSSA. The May Revision proposes to make an additional discretionary \$1.6 billion deposit into the PSSSA, which brings the total balance to \$10.3 billion.

Current law caps TK-12 school district reserves at 10% in fiscal years immediately succeeding those in which the balance in the account is equal to or greater than 3% of the total TK-12 share of the Proposition 98 Guarantee. The balances noted above will trigger the local district reserve cap in 2026-27.

LCFF Entitlements, COLA, and Paid Pregnancy Disability Leave

The May Revision proposes to fully fund the statutory cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 2.87%, an increase of 0.46 percentage points from what was projected at the Governor’s Budget. In addition, the May Revision proposes an additional investment of \$926.9 million to the LCFF to help local educational agencies (LEAs) manage rising costs, offset declining enrollment impacts, and absorb the costs of a new requirement to provide employees with up to 14 weeks of paid pregnancy disability leave.

Starting in 2026-27, proposed trailer bill language would require TK-14 employers to provide a pregnancy disability leave of absence with full pay for a maximum of 14 weeks for both

certificated and classified employees. Trailer bill language provides a prorated amount for part-time employees and states there are no eligibility requirements (including minimum hours worked or length of service) before becoming eligible.

With this funding, the base grants by grade span for 2026-27 are increased over 2025-26 by a total of 4.31%.

Grade Span	2025-26 Base Grant per ADA¹	2.87% Statutory COLA	1.44% Additional LCFF Investment	2026-27 Base Grant per ADA
TK-3	\$10,256	\$294	\$148	\$10,698
4-6	\$10,411	\$299	\$150	\$10,860
7-8	\$10,719	\$308	\$154	\$11,181
9-12	\$12,423	\$357	\$179	\$12,959

¹Average daily attendance

The TK-3 base grant increase for the class-size reduction (CSR) grade span adjustment is \$1,113 per ADA in 2026-27, and the grades 9-12 base grant per ADA is increased by \$337 in recognition of the need for career technical education (CTE) courses provided to students in the secondary grades. Further, the TK add-on that funds lower student-to-staff ratios benefits solely from the statutory COLA, not from the additional LCFF investment, and is therefore \$5,704 for 2026-27.

School districts and charter schools are entitled to supplemental grant increases equal to 20% of the adjusted base grant (including CSR and CTE funding) for the percentage of enrolled students who are English learners, eligible for the free or reduced-price meals program, or in foster care. An additional 65% per-pupil increase is provided as a concentration grant for each percentage of eligible students enrolled beyond 55% of total enrollment, with 15% of the concentration grant to be used to increase the number of adults providing direct services (nurses, teachers, counselors, paraprofessionals, and others) to students.

Additionally, statutory COLA will be applied not only to the LCFF, but to other categorical programs outside of the LCFF. The May Revision proposes \$261 million ongoing for the statutory COLA for the LCFF Equity Multiplier, Special Education, Child Nutrition, Youth in Foster Care, Mandate Block Grant, Adults in Correctional Facilities Program, Charter School Facility Grant Program, American Indian Education Centers, and the American Indian Early Childhood Education Program. Note that the COLA for the California State Preschool Program is being reduced from the statutory COLA of 2.41% to 2.01% in alignment with other childcare and development programs.

Special Education

The May Revision proposes an historic 46% increase to the special education base rate from the current-year rate of \$917 to a proposed rate of \$1,340, which represents \$423 per funded ADA.

This increase surpasses the statewide equalized funding rate proposed in January, and with an additional investment of \$1.8 billion ongoing in addition to the previously proposed increase of \$509 million.

Other special education funding streams, including Assembly Bill 602 program specialist and regionalized services, low-incidence funding, out-of-home care, infant funding, state mental health, and early intervention preschool grants, are projected to increase by the statutory COLA of 2.87%.

Student Support and Professional Development Discretionary Block Grant and LREBG

The Governor provides much of the additional one-time Proposition 98 revenues to LEAs through the Student Support and Professional Development Discretionary Block Grant. The May Revision increases this investment to \$5.0 billion, up from \$2.8 billion in January. As proposed in January, use of these funds is intended to be fully discretionary and allocated on a per-ADA basis. We estimate LEAs would receive \$936.98 per ADA.

The May Revision retains the Governor’s January proposal to repay the remaining amount owed to LEAs for the Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant (LREBG).

Community Schools

The May Revision maintains \$1 billion ongoing Proposition 98 funding for community schools that was proposed in January to expand the model statewide focusing on schools serving low-income students, foster youth, and English learners (See “[Governor’s Community School Proposal Details Released](#)” in the February 2026 *Fiscal Report*). The proposal redirects \$485 million from the existing California Community Schools Partnership Program extension grants to support implementation.

The \$485 million is directed as follows:

- \$401 million for one-time planning and implementation grants including professional development, implementation of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative Fee Schedule, and implementation social and emotional learning
- \$50 million to expand middle and high school redesign efforts
- \$28 million for statewide technical assistance and accountability systems
- \$6 million for continued implementation of the “Transforming Together” initiative

In addition, a one-time increase of \$50 million is proposed for the state’s Multi-Tiered Systems of Support framework to continue support for community schools.

ELO-P

In January, Governor Newsom proposed to increase funding for the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P) to ensure that LEAs that are funded using Rate 2 receive no less

than \$1,800 per ADA. Under current law, these LEAs have an unduplicated pupil percentage less than 55% and are required to offer and provide access to their unduplicated students in grades TK-6. There are no changes to the proposal in the May Revision.

COE Universal and Targeted Assistance Funding

The Governor retains his January proposal to change the funding that county offices of education (COEs) receive to provide differentiated assistance support for LEAs. Rather than focus on differentiated assistance, the proposed funding is meant for COEs to provide support to all LEAs within the county's jurisdiction. The allocation of Universal and Targeted Assistance Funding includes a base grant of \$500,000 to each COE, an ADA grant that factors the county Operations Grant per ADA funding, and a stability grant that ensures no COE receives less than 87% of the prior year's funding. A hold harmless is included for 2026-27 only to allow for a transition to the new funding methodology. The proposed allocation stabilizes the funding COEs receive to provide support and is no longer tied to the number of LEAs in the county identified for differentiated assistance.

The Universal and Targeted Assistance Funding will enable COEs to provide more preventative and proactive support while also prioritizing the funds to support LEAs identified for differentiated assistance. The State Board of Education is required to adopt by July 15, 2026, updated criteria to identify LEAs eligible for assistance and intervention through the state system of support. Fewer LEAs are expected to be identified for differentiated assistance, and COEs will be able to provide more robust support to all LEAs in the county on improving student outcomes, developing and implementing Local Control and Accountability Plans, and coordinating partnerships and services for community schools.

Educator Investments

The May Revision includes several targeted investments to address ongoing teacher shortages and strengthen literacy instruction and educator development statewide. The proposal provides a one-time increase of \$428.8 million to extend the Literacy Coaches and Reading Specialists Grant Program through June 30, 2031, for all grantees, ensuring continued support for literacy instruction and intervention efforts.

To address ongoing teacher shortages and support educator preparation, the May Revision also includes \$30 million one-time for the statewide teacher residency technical assistance center, \$16.2 million in federal special education funds and \$1.6 million in one-time federal Title II funds to continue the Golden State Teacher Grant Program, and \$15 million one-time to expand and enhance professional learning opportunities through the 21st Century California School Leadership Academy for school leaders.

Universal Meals, Kitchen Infrastructure Program

The May Revision maintains the Administration's commitment to universal school meals as part of the broader "California for All Kids" framework for TK-12 education. The May Revision proposes an additional \$2.8 million ongoing to fully fund universal meals. The May Revision also maintains the Governor's proposal to provide \$100 million in one-time funding for an additional

round of kitchen infrastructure and training grants to support LEAs in expanding meal preparation capacity and strengthening implementation of the state’s universal meals program.

Early Childhood Education and Child Care

The May Revision decreases the COLA to childcare and development programs to 2.01%, including the California State Preschool Program. The May Revision provides \$28 million in one-time federal funds to support childcare infrastructure, targeted at communities impacted by the 2023 and 2024 natural disasters.

Closing

In all, Governor Newsom’s 2026-27 May Revision presents a notably stronger outlook for TK-12 education than the Governor’s Budget in January, which was already a solid start to 2026-27 State Budget deliberations. With substantial increases to Proposition 98 funding, a higher LCFF COLA, significant new investments in special education, and expanded one-time discretionary resources, the proposal reflects Governor Newsom’s continued commitment to stabilizing and strengthening LEAs during a period of fiscal and operational pressure. That said, concerns remain regarding the Administration’s continued reliance on the Proposition 98 settle-up proposal, which continues to create uncertainty around the minimum guarantee and remains a point of discomfort for many education interest holders.

While important implementation questions remain—particularly around new ongoing obligations such as paid pregnancy disability leave—most LEAs will likely view this May Revision as a positive and supportive budget proposal that provides both flexibility and meaningful investments in core educational priorities.

FISCAL REPORT

PUBLIC EDUCATION'S POINT OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING EDUCATED DECISIONS

Legislature Reaches Agreement on State Budget

By: Kyle Hyland

June 12, 2026

On Thursday, June 11, 2026, leaders of the California State Senate and Assembly [announced](#) that they have reached a deal on a State Budget plan. The deal contained in [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 109](#) represents a two-party agreement only and is necessary in order for the Legislature to meet its constitutional deadline of June 15 to pass a budget plan. A three-party agreement between the Senate, Assembly, and Governor Gavin Newsom is expected before the new fiscal year starts on July 1, 2026.

The table below summarizes the significant proposals of the Governor's 2026-27 State Budget proposal versus the Legislature's version.

Proposal	Governor's Proposal	Legislative Version
Non-Local Educational Agency (LEA) Preschool Shift	No proposal	Shifts non-LEA state preschool into Proposition 98 and rebenches the minimum guarantee to account for these additional costs
2025-26 Proposition 98 Minimum Guarantee (Settle-up Proposal)	Appropriates \$3.9 billion less than the calculated level	Governor's proposal, plus a "reliable schedule to pay districts"
Public School System Stabilization Account (At end of 2026-27)	\$10.3 billion	\$9.5 billion
Deferrals	Retires the deferrals included in the 2025-26 Budget Act	Governor's proposal
Statutory Cost-of-Living Adjustment	2.87%	Governor's proposal
Additional Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Investment	1.44%	Governor's proposal
Paid Pregnancy Disability Leave	Mandated with payment via additional LCFF investment	Governor's proposal

Proposal	Governor's Proposal	Legislative Version
Special Education	\$1,340 per average daily attendance (ADA) base rate	Governor's proposal, plus \$40 million each for low-incidence disability funding and extraordinary cost pools
Student Support and Professional Development Discretionary Block Grant	\$5.0 billion one-time distributed per ADA	\$5.2 billion one-time distributed per ADA, plus a required local hearing on declining enrollment and reporting requirements
Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant	\$757.3 million one-time	Governor's proposal
Expanded Learning Opportunities Program	Additional \$62.4 million ongoing to provide a guaranteed \$1,800 per pupil for Tier 2 LEAs	Governor's proposal
Community Schools	\$1.0 billion ongoing	Governor's proposal
Career Technical Education Incentive Grant	No additional funds proposed	\$300 million total one-time, available for the 2027-28 and 2028-29 funding rounds
Kitchen Infrastructure and Training Grant	\$100 million one-time	\$700 million one-time

Sources: AB 109 and budget committee summary documents, June 11

The items summarized above are not an exhaustive list of the TK-12 education provisions included in the Legislature's budget, but rather a snapshot of the most significant proposals affecting LEAs.

The Legislature is expected to consider and approve AB 109 on June 15, 2026, following the required 72-hour in-print period. Passage of the bill would allow the Legislature to meet its constitutional obligation to approve a State Budget by June 15.

Once the Legislature approves the main budget bill and it is presented to Governor Newsom, the Governor will have 12 days to sign, veto, or line item veto the bill. This 12-day period is expected to be the key window during which the Legislature and the Administration negotiate the State Budget package. Once the parties reach an agreement, it will likely be reflected in a separate measure known as the "budget bill junior," which amends the June 15 budget to reflect the final negotiated package.

FISCAL REPORT

PUBLIC EDUCATION'S POINT OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING EDUCATED DECISIONS

Proposition 30/55 Extension Qualifies for November Ballot

By: Dave Heckler

June 12, 2026

The proposal to permanently extend the income tax on high income earners to fund TK-14 education, originally enacted through Proposition 30 in 2012 and later extended by Proposition 55 in 2016, has been deemed eligible for the November general election ballot.

Proponents for the Proposition 30/55 permanent extension submitted more than 1.6 million signatures from registered voters throughout California. Through a random-sample verification process, county registrars validated nearly 1.2 million signatures, far exceeding the minimum 874,461 signatures required to qualify a constitutional amendment for the general election ballot.

This measure will not be alone on the ballot. Already, ten other measures have qualified or are deemed eligible for the ballot, with eight other initiatives still pending signature validation.

Among the measures still pending is the one-time billionaires' tax, which would place a one-time 5% on all assets above \$1 billion to support state-funded health care measures that were largely impacted by recent federal cuts. That measure is likely to be deemed eligible as well and is currently undergoing signature verification.

The deadline for the measures to be deemed eligible is June 25, 2026. A proposition number will be assigned at the end of the month, once all of the eligible measures are determined.

FISCAL REPORT

PUBLIC EDUCATION'S POINT OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING EDUCATED DECISIONS

Results of School Bond Primary Elections

By: Brianna García, Wendi McCaskill, EdD, and Carmen Thompson

June 10, 2026

As noted in the June 2026 *Fiscal Report* article, “[What Is on the 2026 Primary Ballot for California?](#),” the California primary elections held on June 2, 2026, included several federal races for the Senate and House, as well as state races in both the State Senate and State Assembly and the top jobs in California—Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Controller, Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Board of Equalization. Additionally, and more importantly to many of you and your communities, the ballot included a number of K-12 bond and parcel tax measures.

The passage rate for this election is lower than in the past. There was a total of 26 local Proposition 39 (or 55%) general obligation (GO) bond measures on ballots across California, totaling \$2.7 billion.¹ Of the 26 GO bond measures, voters passed just over half of them—53.8%, totaling \$1.1 billion.

Additionally, the election included 15 parcel tax measures, of which 7, or 46.7%, passed. (Click [here](#) to see a list of the local measures that were on the ballot.)

	Local Measures	Passed	Failed	Passage Rate	Total Dollars Passed	Total Dollars Failed	Total Dollars
					(In millions)		
55% GO Bond	26	14	12	53.8%	\$2,702.7	\$1,559.2	\$1,143.5
Parcel Taxes	15	7	8	46.7%	—	—	—

School Services of California Inc. congratulates all the school districts that passed local tax measures. And education’s collective thanks also goes to all California voters—including yourselves—who, year after year, support our students by providing needed funding both in the classroom and for the construction and modernization of those classrooms.

¹The total number of local bond measures was determined based on information obtained through publicly available sources and may not represent all local bond measures. In addition, the figures noted above represent the semi-official tally as of June 4, 2026; the final numbers will be certified within 28 days by local registrar of voters’ offices.

FISCAL REPORT

PUBLIC EDUCATION'S POINT OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING EDUCATED DECISIONS

2026 SUN Bucks Eligibility

By: Matt Phillips, CPA and Leilani Aguinaldo

May 22, 2026

Summer break is mere weeks away for many of the state's 5.7 million students and for some this means a well-deserved break from the rigors of school, but for many others, this is the beginning of a period where the guarantee of a daily breakfast and/or lunch is far from guaranteed. For those students and families, the state has launched the annual SUN Bucks program, which provides eligible families with \$120 per child in food benefits.

Local educational agencies (LEAs), beginning last summer, are required to annually determine student eligibility for SUN Bucks—other than those students who are streamlined certified—through either the collection of an annual National School Lunch Program (NSLP) application or the Universal Benefits Application (UBA), as applicable. [Education Code Section 49506.5](#) codifies this requirement and groups schools in two categories:

- Schools Participating in Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Provision 2—Collection of the UBA in years which determination of eligibility for free or reduced-price meals is not already required
- Other Schools—Collection of the NSLP application

As LEAs are collecting this information for the upcoming summer, there are some overlapping implications around the timing of the collection of the applicable forms. If the form is collected before July 1, 2026, the form can be used to support eligibility for 2026 SUN Bucks, but it cannot be used to support a student's status as an unduplicated pupil for the 2026-27 fiscal year. Whereas, forms collected between July 1, 2026, and September 2, 2026, can be used for 2026 and 2027 SUN Bucks as well as eligibility for a student's status as an unduplicated pupil for the 2026-27 fiscal year. The table below summarizes these deadlines:

Application Submission Date to LEA	Applicable Income Eligibility Guidelines	Eligible for Summer 2026 SUN Bucks?	Eligible for Summer 2027 SUN Bucks?	Eligible for 2026-27 LCFF ¹ UPC ² ?
Before 7/1/26	2025-26	Yes	No	No
7/1/26 through 9/1/26	2026-27	Yes	Yes	Yes
9/2/26 through 10/31/26	2026-27	No	Yes	Yes
11/1/26 through 6/30/27	2026-27	No	Yes	No

Application Submission Date to LEA	Applicable Income Eligibility Guidelines	Eligible for Summer 2026 SUN Bucks?	Eligible for Summer 2027 SUN Bucks?	Eligible for 2026-27 LCFF¹ UPC²?
7/1/27 through 8/31/27	2027-28	No	Yes	No, but eligible for 2027-28

¹Local Control Funding Formula

²Unduplicated pupil percentage

LEAs that are establishing a base year for CEP or Provision 2 purposes as well as LEAs that collect income forms annually should consider these cutoffs to ensure that documentation supporting UPCs is eligible in the event the supporting documentation is subject to audit procedures. LEAs must also submit students who are eligible to the Education Data Collection System.

Bill Report

SCHOOL SERVICES OF CALIFORNIA INC.

**Legislative Report Prepared for:
Fresno Unified School District
Status as of June 17, 2026**

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Accountability and Assessments

[AB 1581 \(Ramos\)](#)

Amended Date: 03/23/2026

Title: Pupils: Data Reporting: American Indian and Alaska Native Pupils

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee

Position: Watch

Summary:

Starting in 2027-28, requires local educational agencies to report in CALPADS the tribal affiliation of students who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native.

[AB 2149 \(Garcia\)](#)

Amended Date: 04/13/2026

Title: Pupil Achievement: Closing the Achievement Gap: Accountability Report

Status: Senate Education Committee

Position: Watch

Summary:

Requires the Legislative Analyst's Office to report on the state's progress in closing the achievement gap and make recommendations to meet future targets.

SSC Comment: This is one of four bills sponsored by the California School Boards Association to close the achievement gap. The other bills are Assembly Bill (AB) 2202 (Muratsuchi, D-Torrance), AB 2225 (Patel, D-San Diego), and AB 2514 (Ransom, D-Stockton).

AB 2202 (Muratsuchi)

Amended Date: 05/18/2026

Title: Pupil Achievement: Closing the Achievement Gap Commission

Status: Senate Education Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

Establishes the Closing the Achievement Gap Commission as an advisory body to the State Board of Education (SBE). The bill would require the commission to:

- Advise the SBE and the California Department of Education on policies and practices necessary to assist local educational agencies (LEAs) in closing the achievement gap
- Use the Closing the Achievement Gap Commission State Operations and Support Plan (which would be created by Assembly Bill 2225 [Patel, D-San Diego]) to guide its work
- Assess the efficacy of state support to LEAs within the State System of Supports
- Evaluate the efficacy of current law and other policies to assist in closing the achievement gap
- Review existing LEA and school accountability requirements and recommend modifications for enabling LEAs to address the achievement gap

SSC Comment: This is one of four bills sponsored by the California School Boards Association to close the achievement gap.

AB 2225 (Patel)

Amended Date: 05/18/2026

Title: Pupil Achievement: Closing the Achievement Gap State Operations and Support Plan

Status: Senate Education Committee

Position: Watch

Summary:

Establishes a working group that shall develop a plan to be known as the Closing the Achievement Gap State Operations and Support Plan that shall include:

- Specific goals for the state to support local educational agencies in closing the achievement gap
- Performance targets aimed at closing the achievement gap for the State Board of Education, California Department of Education, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, and the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence, and recommendations for appropriate remedial action if the targets are not met
- Recommendations the state can take to reduce the number of unfunded or partially funded mandates and align state-level operations and initiatives with local control
- A clear definition of high-quality technical assistance for differentiated assistance, direct technical assistance, and related support

SSC Comment: This is one of four bills sponsored by the California School Boards Association to close the achievement gap.

[AB 2303 \(Muratsuchi\)](#)

Amended Date: 04/27/2026

Title: School Accountability: Local Educational Agencies: Required Plans and Reports

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Bill Did Not Meet Deadline—No Longer Active

Position: Support

Summary:

By January 1, 2028, requires the Legislative Analyst's Office to provide recommendations to reduce conflicting or redundant reports and reporting deadlines.

[AB 2496 \(Solache\)](#)

Amended Date: 04/27/2026

Title: Local Educational Agencies: Reports: School Accountability Report Card: California School Dashboard: Local Control Accountability Plan: Local Control Funding Formula Budget Overview

Status: Senate Education Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

By March 1, 2027, requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop a crosswalk that indicates where information comparable to what is required in the School Accountability Report Card (SARC) may be found on existing CDE websites including the California School Dashboard and DataQuest. By January 1, 2029, requires the State Board of Education to certify that all data elements required in the SARC are available in a substantially similar way through the CDE website with the goal of removing the requirement for the annual SARC.

[AB 2514 \(Ransom\)](#)

Amended Date: 04/13/2026

Title: Pupil Achievement: State of the Achievement Gap Dashboard

Status: Senate Education Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

The working group established by Assembly Bill 2225 (Patel, D-San Diego) shall provide recommendations for a State of the Achievement Gap Dashboard that will assess the state in its progress towards closing student academic achievement gaps.

SSC Comment: This is one of four bills sponsored by the California School Boards Association to close the achievement gap.

Attendance or Instructional Time

[AB 1631](#) (Muratsuchi)

Amended Date: 03/23/2026

Title: Elementary Education: Kindergarten

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Bill Did Not Meet Deadline—No Longer Active

Position: Support

Summary:

As amended on March 23, 2026, phases in the requirement for a student to complete one year of kindergarten before starting first grade. For the 2028-29 school year, the requirement applies to a student who turns six years old between July 1, 2028, and September 1, 2028. For the 2029-30 school year, the requirement applies to a student who turns six years old between May 1, 2029, and September 1, 2029. For the 2030-31 school year, the requirement applies to a student who turns six years old between March 1, 2030, and September 1, 2030. For the 2031-32 school year, the requirement applies to students who turn six years old on or before September 1 of that school year.

[AB 1763](#) (Lee)

Title: Pupil Attendance: Excused Absences: Religious Observance

Status: Senate Education Committee

Position: Watch

Summary:

This bill would include observance of a holiday or ceremony of the pupil's religion as a type of required excused absence without the requirement that the absence be requested in writing by the parent or guardian and approved by the principal or a designated representative.

College and Career

[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

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 1694 \(Carrillo\)](#)

Amended Date: 06/11/2026

Title: California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program: Renewal Grants

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

This bill would require that Career Technical Education Incentive Grant recipients receive renewal grants for three additional years as long as certain criteria are met.

AB 1871 (Fong)

Title: Pupil Instruction: Dual Enrollment: College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships

Status: Senate Education Committee

Position: Watch

Summary:

This bill would revise College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) statute to make it easier for high school students to take community college courses. Specifically, the bill would do the following:

- Remove the requirement that CCAP agreements must include a principal recommendation for a high school pupil to enroll in community college courses
- Authorize a pupil to complete one application for the duration of the pupil's attendance at a community college as a special part-time student participating in a CCAP partnership agreement
- Eliminate the limit on the number of community college courses (currently capped at four per term) that a special part-time CCAP student can take, as long as they do not exceed 15 units per term
- Change annual reporting requirements so that CCAP partners report on outcomes such as the number of pupils who successfully completed at least 12 college units, earned a certificate, or completed an associate degree or transfer requirements

SSC Comment: Fresno Unified School District took a watch position on an identical bill—Assembly Bill 731 (Fong, D-Alhambra)—in 2025.

AB 2248 (Hoover)

Amended Date: 03/26/2026

Title: Pupil Services: Educational Counseling: California College Guidance Initiative

Status: Senate Floor—Third Reading

Position: Watch

Summary:

As amended March 26, 2026, requires local educational agencies to notify parents/guardians of students in grades 7-12 of the benefits of the California College Guidance Initiative and encouragement to create parent accounts.

The prior version of the bill required school districts to give notice of the advanced academic programs available and to annually hold at least one informational session.

[SB 323 \(Pérez\)](#)**Amended Date:** 07/10/2025**Title:** Student Aid Commission: California Dream Act Application**Status:** Assembly Appropriations Committee—Suspense File**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:** 06/11/2026**Title:** Special Education: Nonpublic Schools and Agencies**Status:** Assembly Education Committee**Position:** Support**Summary:**

On June 11, 2026, Senate Bill 685 was amended into a completely new bill to make a technical amendment to the definition of nonpublic schools. This bill will no longer be included in future reports.

Employees

[AB 65 \(Aguiar-Curry\)](#)**Title:** School and Community College Employees: Paid Disability and Parental Leave**Status:** Senate Education Committee**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 1331 \(Elhawary\)](#)**Amended Date:** 09/04/2025**Title:** Workplace Surveillance**Status:** Senate Floor—Inactive File**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.

[AB 1578 \(Jackson\)](#)

Amended Date: 05/22/2026

Title: State and Local Officials: Sexual Harassment Training and Education: Anti-Hate Speech Training

Status: Senate Local Government Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

Adds anti-hate speech training to sexual harassment training that is required of all elected state or local officials.

[AB 1626 \(Gabriel\)](#)

Amended Date: 06/11/2026

Title: Interscholastic Athletics: Youth Sports: Coaches: Behavioral And Mental Health Training.

Status: 06/10/2026 - S. APPR.

Position: Support

Summary:

Requires training for all school coaches, including interscholastic coaches, to include:

- Trauma-informed care and recognizing signs and symptoms of common behavioral and mental health conditions in adolescents
- Strategies for creating a positive team culture
- Appropriate communication techniques
- Procedures for referring pupil athletes to appropriate mental health resources
- Understanding of the coach's role and limitations in supporting pupil behavioral and mental health

[AB 1665 \(Pacheco\)](#)

Amended Date: 04/06/2026

Title: School Athletics: Coaches: Youth Athletics Behavioral and Mental Health Training

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

As amended, starting with the 2027-28 school year, requires a local educational agency that offers an athletic program to ensure that coaches complete an initial training, and subsequent training every two years, that covers sudden cardiac arrest and behavioral and mental health training.

[AB 1750 \(Caloza\)](#)

Amended Date: 04/13/2026

Title: School Employees: Absences Due to Illness or Accident

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Bill Did Not Meet Deadline—No Longer Active

Position: Oppose

Summary:

Existing law provides that certificated and classified employees of local educational agencies and academic and classified employees of community college districts who exhaust all available sick leave and remain absent due to illness or injury for up to five additional school months receive either the difference between their regular salary and the amount paid to a substitute, or at least 50% of their regular salary.

This bill would instead require those employees who exhaust all available sick leave and continue to be absent due to illness or accident for an additional five-month period to receive their full regular salary during those five months. Recent amendments removed community colleges from the bill.

[AB 1803 \(Lowenthal\)](#)

Amended Date: 04/09/2026

Title: Employment: Sexual Harassment Training and Education: Anti-Hate Speech Training

Status: Senate Judiciary Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

Adds anti-hate speech training to sexual harassment training that employers are required to provide to their employees.

[AB 1896 \(González, Mark\)](#)

Amended Date: 04/14/2026

Title: Public Employment: Disqualifications

Status: Senate Public Safety Committee

Position: Watch

Summary:

This bill would make a person ineligible for public employment if they were previously employed by an entity that engages in immigration enforcement between January 20, 2025, and January 20, 2029.

[AB 1898 \(Schultz\)](#)

Amended Date: 03/20/2026

Title: Workplace Artificial Intelligence Tools

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Bill Did Not Meet Deadline—No Longer Active

Position: Watch

Summary:

Requires an employer to provide written notice to an affected worker and the bargaining representative that a workplace artificial intelligence tool was used to assist the employer in making employment-related decisions or to surveil the workplace.

[AB 2148 \(Muratsuchi\)](#)

Amended Date: 04/13/2026

Title: Elementary and Secondary Education: Public School Employees: Contractors: Natural Persons

Status: Senate Floor—Consent

Position: Watch

Summary:

The prior version of this bill allowed K-12 and public college educators to refuse to use any form of educational technology and prohibited local educational agencies from disciplining an educator based on information acquired or produced via artificial intelligence. As amended April 13, 2026, this bill defines a public school employee as a natural person.

[AB 2325 \(Alvarez\)](#)

Amended Date: 06/15/2026

Title: Teachers: Bilingual Teachers: Pathways to Bilingual Teaching Program

Status: Senate Education Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

As amended, establishes the Pathways to Bilingual Teaching Program that would provide competitive grants to consortia of local educational agencies and higher education institutions to establish or expand pathways to bilingual teaching to enable bilingual students to earn a teaching credential with a bilingual authorization. The prior version of the bill established the Bilingual Clinical Placement Registry to connect the preparation, credentialing, and long-term retention of bilingual and multilingual teachers.

AB 2365 (Sanchez)

Amended Date: 04/27/2026

Title: Education-Related Positions: Egregious Misconduct: Previous Employment Disclosures

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Bill Did Not Meet Deadline—No Longer Active

Position: Support

Summary:

As amended April 27, 2026, this bill would expand the definition of “egregious misconduct” to include additional offenses such as those relating to human trafficking, child abandonment and neglect, and impermissible contact or communication with a minor. The bill also requires the state to add a section to its educator misconduct database showing whether any complaints have been filed against a teacher or credential applicant.

In addition, current law requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to inquire with all previous LEAs that employed a certificated applicant whether the applicant was the subject of any credible complaints, substantiated investigations, or discipline for egregious misconduct. This bill would instead require LEAs to first check the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) database and then inquire with previous LEA employers that filed complaints with the CTC. LEAs would still be allowed to inquire with all previous LEA employers for complaint history.

Previously, the bill also included language that prohibited a certificated person who is dismissed for egregious misconduct from being employed in any education-related position by any state agency, the California State University, the University of California, any local agency, or any LEA. This provision is no longer in the bill.

AB 2490 (Valencia)

Amended Date: 06/15/2026

Title: Teacher Credentialing: Emergency Career Substitute Teaching Permit: Alternative Qualifications

Status: Senate Education Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

As amended, this bill amends the requirements for an emergency career substitute teaching permit. Existing law requires applicants for an emergency career substitute teaching permit to verify 90 days of substitute teaching in each of the prior three years. This bill would allow, as an alternative, verification that the applicant has completed at least five hours of professional development, an orientation, and a mentoring program. The bill would authorize permit holders who qualify through this alternative pathway to serve up to 60 cumulative days in a single classroom, including in career technical education, general education, and special education. The bill would also require 30 hours of professional development upon the first renewal of the permit and provide that permits issued or renewed under these provisions are valid for 12 months.

SSC Comment: Fresno Unified School District supported a similar bill, Assembly Bill 1224 (Valencia, D-Anaheim), in 2025 that was vetoed.

English Learners

[AB 2555 \(Patel\)](#)

Amended Date: 06/10/2026

Title: English Learners: Reclassification

Status: Senate Education Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

As amended on June 10, 2026, Assembly Bill 1821 requires an agency to designate a physical office location and email address for the submission of public records requests, and may designate other reasonable methods for the submission of requests, including submission to a specified physical mailing address or through an online portal. A request shall be deemed properly requested only if the request was submitted through a method of submission designated by the agency. An agency must post any changes to the method of submission on its website.

If an agency determines that a request is for commercial use, the requester shall submit a payment of fees to cover the cost of the search and review time for the request. Requests by educational institutions, government agencies, or news media are not for commercial use.

An agency may petition the superior court for a determination that a requester submitted a request with malicious intent, including for the purpose of delaying the agency. If the court determines that the request was submitted with malicious intent, the agency may impose on the requester, in addition to any other applicable fees, a payment of fees to cover the search and review time for the request.

Existing law requires a public agency, within 10 days of a request for a copy of records, to determine whether the request seeks copies of disclosable public records in possession of the agency and to promptly notify the person of the determination and the reasons therefor. Existing law authorizes that time limit to be extended by no more than 14 days under unusual circumstances. This bill also clarifies that the time period is 10 business days and 14 business days, respectively.

Facilities

[AB 1822 \(Muratsuchi\)](#)

Amended Date: 03/23/2026

Title: School Facilities: Project Priorities: Extreme Heat and Climate Change

Status: Senate Education Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

Existing law authorizes the State Allocation Board, by adoption of rules, to establish priorities for the construction and leasing of projects to schools districts whose pupils will benefit most.

This bill would authorize the board to include, as priorities for projects, an efficient response to extreme heat and climate change.

Governance and District Operations

[AB 395 \(Gabriel\)](#)

Amended Date: 06/26/2025

Title: Holidays

Status: Senate Judiciary Committee

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 1644 \(Muratsuchi\)](#)

Amended Date: 04/28/2026

Title: Pupils: Use of Smartphones: Prohibition: Report

Status: Senate Education Committee

Position: Oppose

Summary:

A prior version of this bill required local educational agencies (LEAs) by July 1, 2027, to adopt and update every five years, a policy that prohibits students from using smartphones while on campus or while under the supervision of a school employee. Current law requires LEAs to adopt a policy to limit or prohibit the use of smartphones.

As amended on April 28, 2027, the current law requirement for a local policy to limit or prohibit the use of smartphones shall apply only to students in grades 9-12. By July 1, 2027, LEAs must adopt a policy for students in grades TK-8 that prohibits the use of smartphones while at school or under the supervision of a school employee. The bill also prohibits instruction for students in grades TK-8 from requiring the use of a smartphone by a student, and the adopted policy shall include a method for parents/guardians to contact their students while smartphones are prohibited.

Finally, this bill would require the California Department of Education to survey at least 30 LEAs to learn the interest holder input process, enforcement, and challenges and successes since policy enactment, and provide recommendations for best practices for future LEA policies.

[AB 1821 \(Pacheco\)](#)

Amended Date: 06/10/2026

Title: California Public Records Act: Methods of Submission, Fees, and Agency Response Time

Status: Senate Judiciary Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

Existing law requires a public agency, within 10 days of a request for a copy of records, to determine whether the request seeks copies of disclosable public records in possession of the agency and to promptly notify the person of the determination and the reasons therefor. Existing law authorizes that time limit to be extended by no more than 14 days under unusual circumstances. This bill clarifies that the time period is 10 business days and 14 business days, respectively.

[AB 2726 \(Fong\)](#)

Amended Date: 04/13/2026

Title: School Facilities: Disposal of Surplus Technology Property

Status: To Enrollment

Position: Support

Summary:

Authorizes a school district to declare technology to be surplus technology property that can be disposed of if authorized by a policy adopted by the governing board. The methods for disposing of surplus technology property are the following:

- Sale by public auction
- Sale by sealed bid
- Sale or transfer through a structured trade-in or buyback program with a third-party purchaser
- Negotiated sale to a public agency, nonprofit organization, or private entity, if the governing board of the school district determines that the negotiated sale is in the best interest of the school district and is reasonably calculated to yield fair market value under the circumstances
- Donation to a public agency or nonprofit corporation

[SB 1017 \(Reyes\)](#)

Title: Pupils: Foster Youth: Access to Pupil Records

Status: Assembly Education Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

Existing law limits access to student records by requiring written parental consent or a judicial order, unless otherwise authorized by law. Students 14 years or older who are both homeless and unaccompanied can access their own relevant educational records. The bill extends this access to foster youth aged 14 or older.

[SB 1187 \(Durazo\)](#)

Title: Open Meetings: Majority

Status: Assembly Local Government Committee

Position: Watch

Summary:

For the Brown Act, defines “majority” to mean the number of members equaling more than half of the total number of seats on the legislative body. If a seat is vacant, that seat is still to be counted as a seat on the legislative body.

Instruction

[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

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 2071 \(Hoover\)](#)

Amended Date: 05/20/2026

Title: Pupil Instruction: Digital Wellness

Status: Senate Education Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

As amended, this bill requires the California Department of Education to develop a plan by January 1, 2028, to expand digital wellness instruction in California public schools. A previous version of the bill would have required health education to also include digital wellness instruction, but this provision was amended out of the bill.

[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

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.

[SB 1048 \(Becker\)](#)

Amended Date: 04/06/2026

Title: State Seal of Climate Literacy

Status: Assembly Education Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

As amended on April 6, 2026, this bill establishes the voluntary State Seal of Climate Literacy and requires the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) to recommend criteria under which participating local educational agencies may award the seal to qualified students. The SSPI shall consider requiring successful completion of two courses in climate literacy and a presentation of a climate literacy final experiential learning project.

[SB 1133 \(Strickland\)](#)

Amended Date: 03/23/2026

Title: Pupil Instruction: Preventative Health Instruction

Status: Assembly Education Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

When the "Health Education Framework for California Public Schools" is next revised, on or after January 1, 2027, requires the Instructional Quality Commission to consider including information on evidence-based preventative health instruction, including information on nutrition, food literacy, sleep, movement, stress management, and digital balance.

Miscellaneous

[AB 2008 \(Patel\)](#)

Amended Date: 06/08/2026

Title: Local Educational Agencies: Planning and Reporting Requirements: Template: Repealer

Status: Senate Education Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

A bill that requires a local educational agency to complete a plan or report with an undefined end date shall include a provision that repeals the reporting requirement within four years of operation. As amended April 27, 2026, the bill also requires the California Department of Education to provide a standardized template for programmatic or expenditure reports.

[AB 2117 \(Alvarez\)](#)

Amended Date: 04/28/2026

Title: State Board of Education: Superintendent of Public Instruction: Education Commissioner

Status: Senate Education Committee

Position: Watch

Summary:

This bill deletes the provision in existing law that establishes the Superintendent as the ex officio Director of Education and vests all executive and administrative functions of the department in an Education Commissioner to be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction would be added to the State Board of Education, and four existing positions appointed by the Governor would be replaced by two members appointed by the Senate President pro Tempore and two members appointed by the Speaker.

[SB 492 \(Menjivar\)](#)

Amended Date: 01/22/2026

Title: Youth Housing Bond Act of 2026

Status: Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

Would put on the November 2026 ballot the Youth Housing Bond Act of 2026, which, if adopted, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$1,000,000,000 to finance the Youth Housing Program. The program would require the Department of Housing and Community Development to make awards to local agencies, nonprofit organizations, and joint ventures to purchase equipment and acquire, renovate, or construct youth centers or youth housing. Youth housing is defined as a facility that provides a variety of services to current or former foster youth, homeless youth, or youth at risk of homelessness to assist them with their immediate basic needs and to help reunite them with their parents or find a suitable home.

Nutrition

[AB 1731 \(Wilson\)](#)

Amended Date: 05/18/2026

Title: Office of Farm to Fork: California Healthy Food Procurement Fund Program

Status: Senate Agriculture Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

If funding is provided for this purpose, the Office of Farm to Fork shall establish the California Healthy Food Procurement Fund Program for purposes of cultivating equity, nurturing students, building climate resilience, supporting California agriculture, and creating scalable and sustainable change in the school food system. To the extent that funding is available, the program shall fund approved vendors to procure foods that are whole or are minimally processed and are grown or produced in California using climate-smart agriculture practices and climate-smart agriculture production systems, so that the approved vendors can contract with institutions serving pupils in K-12 to deliver procured foods at no cost. If funding is available, the program shall also develop an approved list of vendors that source and develop food products that meet the above criteria.

School Safety and Student Discipline

[AB 327 \(Ta\)](#)

Amended Date: 07/16/2025

Title: Crimes: False Reporting

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee

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 1872 \(Ta\)](#)

Title: False Reporting

Status: Senate Public Safety Committee

Position: No Position

Summary:

Increases the punishment for a second or subsequent offense of “swatting” 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: Fresno Unified School District (USD) opposed a similar bill in 2025—Assembly Bill (AB) 327 (Ta, R-Westminster). As with AB 327, AB 1872 is supported by approximately 20 school districts including Ceres USD, Golden Valley USD, Madera USD, Capistrano USD, and law enforcement organizations included the California State Sheriffs’ Association. Opponents include the American Civil Liberties Union California Action and the California Public Defenders Association.

[AB 2230 \(Ávila Farías\)](#)

Amended Date: 06/11/2026

Title: Immigration Enforcement: Child Daycare Facilities

Status: Senate Human Services Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

Prohibits a licensed child daycare facility from allowing immigration enforcement to enter a nonpublic area without a judicial warrant or subpoena or court order. As amended June 11, 2026, this bill no longer prohibits federal law enforcement from being stationed in the immediate vicinity of a polling place.

[AB 2242 \(Davies\)](#)

Amended Date: 06/11/2026

Title: Pupil Safety: Sextortion Informational Poster

Status: Senate Education Committee

Position: Watch

Summary:

Before the 2027-28 school year, requires schools to display in at least one student men’s restroom, one student women’s restroom, and one student all-gender restroom a poster that contains specified information relating to sextortion.

[SB 1181 \(Hurtado\)](#)

Amended Date: 06/10/2026

Title: Central Valley School Safety Coordination Pilot Program

Status: Assembly Emergency Management Committee

Position: Watch

Summary:

Requires the Office of Emergency Services to establish the Central Valley School Safety Coordination Pilot Program to study and evaluate improved communication pathways between local educational agencies and state and local law enforcement agencies regarding credible safety threats affecting school communities, with a focus on addressing chronic absenteeism, youth mental health, and emerging digital or hybrid threats in Senate District 16 and similar regions. The pilot program shall be implemented in selected counties within the Central Valley, including, but not limited to, the counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Tulare, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus, prioritizing areas with high chronic absenteeism and mental health challenges as identified in district-specific data.

There is currently no support indicated for the bill.

State Budget and Education Finance

[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

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 Date: 05/05/2025

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: Senate Appropriations Committee—Suspense File

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 who are low-income, foster youth, and English learners.

AB 2509 (Schultz)

Amended Date: 04/20/2026

Title: Education Finance: Average Daily Attendance: Apportionments

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Suspense File—Bill Did Not Meet Deadline—No Longer Active

Position: Support

Summary:

This bill, for purposes of the Local Control Funding Formula, would require a school district's fiscal year average daily attendance to be computed using the average of the five most recent prior fiscal years, if that average is greater than the current fiscal year, prior fiscal year, or average of the three most recent fiscal years. A prior version of the bill also authorized a school district to exclude the five days with the lowest recorded attendance from the current fiscal year and the prior fiscal year, but this provision was removed from the bill.

[AB 2526 \(Muratsuchi\)](#)

Amended Date: 04/21/2026

Title: Special Education Local Plan Areas: Apportionments: Alternate Assessments

Status: Senate Education Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

As completely rewritten, Assembly Bill (AB) 2526 no longer would add funding within the Local Control Funding Formula based on students with severe disabilities. Instead, if there is a State Budget appropriation for this new eligibility, the entitlement of the low incidence disability fund that currently goes to SELPAs would be based on the sum of the number of pupils with low incidence disabilities (Fall 1 CALPADS of prior fiscal year) and the number of pupils eligible to take the California Alternate Assessments (CAAs) multiplied by a per-pupil amount. As in current law, the per-pupil amount of AB 2526 would be determined by State Budget language.

A student with a low incidence disability who qualifies for the CAAs would be counted twice and generate funding accordingly, reflecting a student with greater needs. Funding would be used to provide special education and related services as required under the Individualized Education Program of the eligible pupils, and no additional requirements for the funds are defined.

SSC Comment: This version of AB 2526 addresses concerns of incentivizing overidentification of students with “severe disabilities” as the CAAs are based on need, not disability category, and eligibility is capped at 1% of the student population taking assessments per local educational agency.

[SB 743 \(Cortese\)](#)

Amended Date: 07/07/2025

Title: Education Finance: Education Equalization Act: Equalization Reserve Account

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Suspense File

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 non-basic-aid school districts in a manner prescribed by the Legislature.

Student Health

[AB 2460](#) (Rodriguez, Celeste)

Amended Date: 04/06/2026

Title: Pupil Health: Mental Health: Model Referral Protocols

Status: Senate Education Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

Existing law requires a local educational agency (LEA) governing board to adopt a policy on referral protocols for addressing pupil behavioral health concerns in grades 7 to 12. This bill would require governing boards to adopt an update to that policy to include guidance on providing equity-centered mental health supports in case of a local emergency related to immigration enforcement activities or deportations of pupils or their family members. The California Department of Education shall develop guidance that LEAs may use for this purpose.

Student Services

[AB 673](#) (Jackson)

Amended Date: 06/08/2026

Title: Unaccompanied Homeless Pupils: Unaccompanied Youth Support Grant Program

Status: Senate Education Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

Establishes the Unaccompanied Youth Support Grant Program, a pilot program to provide formula grants to local educational agencies for the purpose of providing supports to improve school attendance, pupil engagement, pupil graduation rates, and pupil wellbeing for unaccompanied youth who are 16 and 17 years of age, including connecting youth with resources to find stable housing.

[AB 1899](#) (Caloza)

Amended Date: 05/18/2026

Title: Office of Youth Homelessness Prevention

Status: Senate Housing Committee

Position: Watch

Summary:

Creates the Office of Youth Homelessness Prevention (Office) in the California Agency on Housing and Homelessness with a mission to reduce youth homelessness in the state to functional zero. The Office shall lead the coordination of funding, policy, and practice to prevent youth homelessness across federal and state agencies and departments focused on all of the following:

- Sufficient stable housing
- Economic and employment support
- Education
- Prevention of youth homelessness
- Health and mental health
- Services to assist youth to establish and maintain connections with supportive adults and peers

[AB 2107](#) (Pellerin)

Amended Date: 05/26/2026

Title: Expanded Learning Opportunities Program: Offering Access: Unduplicated Pupils

Status: Senate Floor—Third Reading

Position:

Summary:

For Expanded Learning Opportunities Programs, this bill requires school districts and charter schools that have an unduplicated pupil percentage of 55% or higher (rate 1) to prioritize offering access to students in kindergarten through grade 6 who are low-income, English language learners, or foster youth. The prioritization for offering access may include, but is not limited to, specialized outreach to parents and guardians of unduplicated students and providing assistance with enrollment.

[AB 2430 \(Muratsuchi\)](#)

Amended Date: 04/21/2026

Title: Expanded Learning Programs: High School Pupils: After School Education and Safety Program Act of 2002

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Suspense File

Position:

Summary:

Among other things, establishes the High School After School Education and Safety (High School ASES) program and redirects funding within the After School Education and Safety (ASES) program to the program serving high school students. This bill proposes to redirect funding appropriated to the ASES program serving students in grades K-9, beyond the original minimum of \$550 million that established the program and have not already been awarded, to be redirected to the High School ASES program at a daily rate of \$13.81 per pupil. High School ASES funds shall be prioritized for existing 21st Century High School After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens grantees to increase the daily rate to \$13.81 per pupil and to new high school programs serving the highest percentage of low-income students. In addition, starting in 2027-28, ASES grants shall not be renewed for any school with a less than 55% of free or reduced price meals-eligible students.

There are currently no school districts listed in support of the bill.

Transportation

[AB 1111 \(Soria\)](#)

Amended Date: 07/22/2025

Title: Pupil Transportation: School Buses: Zero-Emission Vehicles: Scrapping

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee—Suspense File

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 school bus 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.

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: June 26, 2026

Phone Number: 457-3907

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for June 11 & 18, 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 June 11 & 18, 2026 are attached and include the following articles:

June 11:

- Results of School Bond Primary Elections – June 10, 2026
- Shaw and Barrera Offer Starkly Different Visions for California Schools – June 10, 2026
- What are the Fault Lines in Billionaires' Tax Ballot Fight? Strategists Weigh In – June 11, 2026

June 18:

- Legislature Reaches Agreement on State Budget – June 12, 2026
- California Legislature Passes Budget, Talks with Newsom to Continue – June 16, 2026
- California School Districts Battle for \$3.9 Billion They Argue Is Due Now, Not Later – June 12, 2026

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



500 Capitol Mall

•
Suite 1700

•
Sacramento

•
California 95814

•
TEL: 916 . 446 . 7517

•
FAX: 916 . 446 . 2011

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www.sscal.com

DATE: June 11, 2026

TO: Misty Her
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

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

2026-27 State Budget Update

In last week's *Sacramento Update*, we summarized the budget priorities unveiled by the Senate and Assembly. As of this writing, a budget agreement has not yet been publicly announced between the two houses. However, to comply with the constitutional 72-hour public review requirement, the Legislature must publish the main State Budget bill by Friday, June 12, 2026, and vote on the measure by June 15 to meet the constitutional deadline for passing a State Budget.

While the June 15 budget bill will reflect an agreement between the Senate and Assembly, it is widely expected to serve as a placeholder budget rather than the final spending plan. Negotiations between the Legislature and the Newsom Administration are expected to continue in the coming weeks as the parties work to finalize the full 2026-27 State Budget package, including education funding and policy provisions that will be enacted through subsequent budget trailer bills and related legislation.

Once the Legislature approves the main budget bill and it is presented to Governor Gavin Newsom, the Governor will have 12 days to sign, veto, or line-item veto the bill. This 12-day period is expected to be the key window during which the Legislature and the Administration negotiate the remaining components of the broader State Budget package. Once the parties reach an agreement, it will likely be reflected in a separate measure known as the "budget bill junior," which amends the main State Budget bill to reflect the final negotiated package.

Policy Committee Hearings

The Senate Education Committee, chaired by Senator Sasha Renée Pérez (D-Pasadena), met for the second week in a row this past Wednesday morning to consider 20 bills. The Assembly Education Committee, chaired by Assemblymember Dr. Darshana Patel (D-San Diego), will meet for the first time since the house of origin deadline next Wednesday, June 17, 2026, to consider 16 bills.

Some of the noteworthy education measures approved by the Senate Education Committee this week include:

- Assembly Bill (AB) 1159 (Addis, D-Morro Bay) creates, beginning July 1, 2027, the Higher Education Student Information Protection Act to regulate how educational technology operators collect, use, share, retain, and protect postsecondary student data.
- AB 1569 (Davies, R-Laguna Niguel) requires the California Department of Education (CDE), in consultation with the Department of the California Highway Patrol, to develop a standardized electric bicycle safety and training program for students in grades 7-12.
- AB 1581 (Ramos, D-Highland) requires, beginning with the 2027-28 school year, the CDE and local educational agencies (LEAs) to collect and report tribal affiliation data in California Longitudinal Pupil Data System for students who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native.
- AB 1590 (Ransom, D-Stockton) requires the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG) formula to be revised to ensure that all funds appropriated by the state for CTEIG are allocated to applicants each year.
- AB 1626 (Gabriel, D-Encino) establishes behavioral and mental health training requirements for coaches of school and youth athletic programs and requires the CDE to, by September 1, 2027, identify or develop a model training for youth sports coaches.
- AB 1694 (Carrillo, D-Palmdale) requires that CTEIG recipients receive renewal grants for at least three additional years as long as certain criteria are met.
- AB 1809 (Fong, D-Alhambra) extends TK-14 districts' authority to use job order contracting for public works projects from January 1, 2027, to January 1, 2037.
- AB 2191 (Quirk-Silva, D-Fullerton) requires the CDE and the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence, subject to funding, to establish a statewide resource to help LEAs develop alternative diploma pathways for students with exceptional needs.
- AB 2503 (Wallis, R-Palm Springs) requires the California Interscholastic Federation, by July 1, 2027, to annually review and update heat illness prevention and management guidelines for athletes, with consideration for high-temperature regions of the state.

The deadline for bills to clear second house policy committees is Thursday, July 2, 2026. Consequently, this is the same day that the Legislature is scheduled to leave for its monthlong summer recess, upon adjournment of session.

Leilani Aguinaldo

Results of School Bond Primary Elections

By Brianna García, Wendi McCaskill, EdD, and Carmen Thompson
School Services of California’s Fiscal Report
June 10, 2026

As noted in the June 2026 *Fiscal Report* article, “[What Is on the 2026 Primary Ballot for California?](#),” the California primary elections held on June 2, 2026, included several federal races for the Senate and House, as well as state races in both the State Senate and State Assembly and the top jobs in California—Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Controller, Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Board of Equalization. Additionally, and more importantly to many of you and your communities, the ballot included a number of K-12 bond and parcel tax measures.

The passage rate for this election is lower than in the past. There was a total of 26 local Proposition 39 (or 55%) general obligation (GO) bond measures on ballots across California, totaling \$2.7 billion.¹ Of the 26 GO bond measures, voters passed just over half of them—53.8%, totaling \$1.1 billion.

Additionally, the election included 15 parcel tax measures, of which 7, or 46.7%, passed. (Click [here](#) to see a list of the local measures that were on the ballot.)

	Local Measures	Passed	Failed	Passage Rate	Total Dollars Passed	Total Dollars Failed	Total Dollars
					(In millions)		
55% GO Bond	26	14	12	53.8%	\$2,702.7	\$1,559.2	\$1,143.5
Parcel Taxes	15	7	8	46.7%	—	—	—

School Services of California Inc. congratulates all the school districts that passed local tax measures. And education’s collective thanks also goes to all California voters—including yourselves—who, year after year, support our students by providing needed funding both in the classroom and for the construction and modernization of those classrooms.

¹The total number of local bond measures was determined based on information obtained through publicly available sources and may not represent all local bond measures. In addition, the figures noted above represent the semi-official tally as of June 4, 2026; the final numbers will be certified within 28 days by local registrar of voters’ offices.

Note: Sonja Shaw and Richard Barrera emerged as the two leading candidates for California Superintendent of Public Instruction in the 2026 primary election and advanced to the November runoff, setting up a contest between sharply different visions for California public education.

Shaw and Barrera Offer Starkly Different Visions for California Schools

By Diana Lambert
EdSource
June 10, 2026

A mother with two daughters, a father with two sons, both board presidents of high-performing school districts — at first glance, Sonja Shaw and Richard Barrera seem to have a lot in common. But the two candidates for state superintendent of public instruction have very different ideas about what is best for California's schools.

Shaw, the president of the Chino Valley Unified school board, has been a vocal opponent of California policies that allow transgender students to participate in girls sports and prohibit school districts from requiring teachers to tell parents if they believe a child identifies as LGBTQ+. She doesn't think California should spend more money on education, but wants more of it to make it to classrooms.

Barrera, the president of the San Diego Unified board, supports the state policies on transgender and LGBTQ+ students, and wants more funding for the state's schools.

Democratic consultant Andrew Acosta said he expects the Nov. 3 general election for the nonpartisan seat to be "super partisan," with Democrats voting for Democrats and Republicans voting for Republicans.

"This isn't like the old days when it was charter schools versus teachers," Acosta said.

School board members trounce state lawmakers

With an estimated 1.4 million ballots still to be tabulated as of noon Tuesday, Shaw had received more than 1.5 million votes and Barrera more than 1.3 million votes, advancing past eight other candidates in the primary election, including three veteran Democratic state legislators.

Not since the election of Bill Honig in 1982 have California voters selected a superintendent of public instruction who was not a state legislator.

"I think voters are not wanting top-down solutions," Barrera said. "I think they're recognizing that the solutions have to be grounded in the realities of what educators are working with at the school level. So, yeah, I think that came across pretty clearly in the election results."

If Shaw were to win the seat, she would be the first Republican to hold the seat since Max Rafferty, who served from 1963 to 1971.

Acosta said it's unlikely that Shaw could win in California, where 45% of registered voters are Democrats and 25% are Republicans.

"It's hard to see a path in California for a sort of MAGA conservative school board superintendent of public instruction candidate," Acosta said.

Shaw doesn't agree.

"They can outspend us, but if I get across and outwork them like I have, they will not win this," she said. "I just need people to pay attention and trust me. I'm going to put in the work to make people pay attention."

Candidates clash over culture

If elected, Shaw said she will continue to advocate for policies that bar transgender students from competing in sports and for parental notification policies related to a student's sexual orientation or gender identity.

"I will never back down from trying to make sure California's on the right side of history when it comes to that," Shaw said. "And Richard has made it very clear that he's OK with our daughters having to change in their cars and feeling uncomfortable in their locker rooms, and having scholarships ripped away from them."

Barrera said that, if elected superintendent, he would work to protect the civil rights of LGBTQ+ students in all school districts, including Chino Valley Unified.

"I do believe that what we've seen out of Sonya Shaw is an attempt to violate the basic civil rights of certain groups of students. And I will hold those districts accountable, absolutely," Barrera said.

Despite the attention the issue has received, transgender athletes make up a tiny fraction of California's student population. Fewer than 10 transgender athletes participated in K-12 school sports last year among nearly 6 million students statewide, according to Gov. Gavin Newsom's office.

The candidates also differ on ethnic studies. Barrera has been a strong proponent of ethnic studies, leading efforts in San Diego Unified to mandate the subject be taught in high school and to hire more bilingual teachers.

Shaw calls ethnic studies divisive.

"You see a lot of ideologies being pushed through that class and it's not even funded," Shaw said. "It's not a required class for a reason, but again I want accurate, truthful history. I would love civics. That's definitely something we need to focus on instead of all these other classes that obviously are driving the failure here in California."

Shaw says the differences between the candidates allow voters to make a clear choice.

"You have two clear options and California can decide which way they want to direct our California education system," she said.

San Diego vs. Chino Valley

Barrera was first elected to the San Diego Unified school board in 2008. He presides over a school district that has an enrollment of 103,000 students and that will operate on a \$2.9 billion budget next school year.

Shaw was elected to the Chino Valley Unified school board in 2022. She leads a district of 26,500 students with a budget of about \$446 million next school year.

Both candidates point to their districts' academic gains as evidence that their approaches work. In recent years, students in both districts have improved their scores on standardized tests at a faster rate than state averages. Both candidates point to their districts' successes as proof that their methods are successful.

In Chino Valley Unified, the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced in English Language Arts rose from 58.91% in 2022 to 62.12% in 2025, the most recent year that data is available. The percentage of students with proficient or advanced scores in math increased from 44.58% to 49.79%

In San Diego Unified, the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced in English language arts improved from 53.13% in 2022 to 56.17% in 2025, while math proficiency increased from 41.10% in 2022 to 45.3% in 2025.

The districts also had higher than average graduation rates in 2025, with 90.3% at San Diego Unified and 95.5% at Chino Valley Unified. The state average was 87.5% in 2025.

Improving the education of California students

Both candidates agree that California's schools need to make significant improvements. A recent study ranked the state 34th in the nation for education.

"California should have the best public school system in the world," Barrera said. "We have one of the strongest economies in the world. So, it's not that we lack the resources that our students and educators need. We just need to get those resources to the classroom."

Unlike Barrera, Shaw doesn't believe California needs to spend more on education. Instead, she said the state should do a better job directing more resources to the classroom.

"I believe that the state should be providing tools to districts instead of us having to pull out of our general fund to do things that are best for kids," Shaw said.

If elected, Shaw said she would focus on improving reading, writing and math achievement; preparing students for success after high school; increasing parental involvement in schools; and preventing transgender students from participating in girls sports or using girls' locker rooms.

Barrera said he would focus on bringing parents, educators, superintendents, school board members and community leaders together to establish shared goals for California schools and hold both schools and state leaders accountable for meeting them.

According to Barrera, schools that make the strongest academic gains tend to have collaborative, supportive environments that focus on implementing strategies that improve student outcomes.

"That's the secret sauce," he said.

Consensus building is key to running the CDE

Jack O'Connell, who served as California superintendent of public instruction from 2003 to 2011, says he knows what it takes to run the California Department of Education.

He said both candidates have a strong background in local education policy, but believes Barrera would be a better fit to lead the department.

“With his knowledge of the department, background with labor, his ability to be more collaborative and consensus building, that’s how you get things done,” O’Connell said. “Instead of being a lightning rod and such a polarizing figure on Fox News.”

CTA members will campaign for Barrera

The race for state superintendent of public instruction drew a surge of late spending, including \$5 million in contributions to Barrera from the California Teachers Association’s independent expenditure committee. No candidate has won the office in the past 44 years without the CTA’s backing.

CTA President David Goldberg said the union is prepared to invest whatever resources are required to ensure Barrera wins.

“His vision around public education aligns with ours around so many things — community schools, investing deeply in educators and students and pushing back on this kind of austerity mindset that we’ve all been living with for so long,” Goldberg said.

Goldberg said the union’s greatest resource is its 300,000-plus members, who will be actively talking with voters in their communities about electing Barrera.

“We’re in every community across the state talking about what our candidate Barrera really stands for,” Goldberg said. “We feel very confident that it’s going to resonate with people. We feel very good about it. We have a great candidate, and we’re going to really try to build some capacity to pull him over the finish line.”

Barrera also received an endorsement from the California Charter Schools Association, which has often backed candidates opposing CTA-supported candidates. The charter school association spent \$40,000 on TV and online advertising supporting his campaign.

Shaw, by comparison, raised \$165,000 for her campaign since the beginning of the year, including \$10,000 from the conservative Reform Local Government PAC, according to the California Secretary of State’s office. Representatives of Reform Local Government did not respond to emails from EdSource requesting comment.

“In comparison to the over \$6 million spent by special interest groups and the unions, we didn’t even get close to that money, and we have an overwhelming amount of people who voted in favor of the change on this side,” Shaw said.

Acosta said the general election will require Shaw to raise more funds.

“It didn’t take her much money to make sure that her team knew that she was part of their team,” Acosta said. “It’ll take a lot more money if she wants to get everyone else. Now we’re in the OK, now it gets real phase, right?”

Note: The billionaire tax proposal would impose a one-time 5% tax on the net worth of California residents with at least \$1 billion in assets, with revenues dedicated primarily to healthcare programs and, to a lesser extent, education and food assistance programs.

What are the Fault Lines in Billionaires' Tax Ballot Fight? Strategists Weigh In

By Lia Russell
The Sacramento Bee
June 11, 2026

The “master strategist” behind an anti-Tom Steyer Super PAC laid out his theory for how a coalition of labor, business, and medical industry interests that helped sink the billionaire’s gubernatorial campaign would succeed in defeating a wealth tax that could appear on the November ballot.

Jim DeBoo, who led the California Is Not For Sale independent expenditure boosting Steyer rival Xavier Becerra, gave wide-ranging remarks on the governor’s race and upcoming ballot measures during a Wednesday panel at a California Chamber of Commerce conference.

He spoke with ballot measure strategist Brandon Castillo, both of whom CalChamber President Jennifer Barrera jokingly referred to as “master strategists.”

The Associated Press said Tuesday that Becerra and Republican contender Steve Hilton had cinched enough votes in last week’s primary to proceed to the November general election. Steyer, who broke state records by self-funding his campaign with \$215 million, conceded and endorsed Becerra.

Steyer held himself out as a progressive who would have heavily taxed his fellow business moguls. It was a message DeBoo said was complicated by organized labor’s split over a related billionaires’ tax spearheaded by SEIU-United Health Care Workers President Dave Regan.

The proposal, which the Secretary of State’s Office is reviewing for inclusion on the November ballot, would levy a one-time 5% tax on billionaire and funnel 90% of revenues towards hospitals and healthcare costs affected by federal budget cuts. A handful of billionaires are supporting competing measures to undermine the wealth tax, which Newsom and middle-of-the-road Democrats oppose, along with the State Building and Construction Trades Council and the California Teachers Association, which is supporting a separate measure to renew a tax funding public education.

“It’s a unique time in California politics where one person (Regan) has managed to align the business community, the medical community, the billionaire community, all against one entity,” DeBoo said.

Proponents of the tax say it would stave off hospital closures and other drastic measures by forcing the state’s wealthiest residents to share their largesse as inflation and inequity surge.

SEIU-UHW Vice President Debru Carthan said in a statement that the union was confident voters would support the tax by “double-digit margins,” and dismissed DeBoo’s remarks as the concerns of a “few political insiders focused on protecting 200 billionaires.”

“California is in crisis: Our hospitals are closing, our ERs are overwhelmed and families are being forced to choose between paying for their healthcare or keeping a roof over their heads — while billionaires pay lower

tax rates than working people,” Carthan said. “Californians understand what’s at stake: If we don’t act, the bill for this healthcare crisis will fall on us.”

A Legislature veteran, DeBoo is one of Newsom’s closest political advisers and served as his chief of staff from 2020 to 2022. His firm has represented clients like PG&E and the California Medical Association. And he led last year’s successful Yes on Proposition 50 campaign that voters passed to redraw California’s congressional districts.

The anti-Steyer super PAC teamed up with some of those corporate clients to boost Becerra — an effort DeBoo likened to a military order in the TV series “Game of Thrones” — trying to sway voters from approving a measure that opponents say could have the unintended consequence of driving away the state’s biggest taxpayers.

“We called ourselves the Night’s Watch,” he said, “Because, Game of Thrones people, we were trying to get the walker away from the wall.”

Castillo represents the California Hospital Association and dialysis clinics who oppose some SEIU-UHW proposals, but said he does not have a role in the billionaires’ tax debate.

He predicted a “30% chance” of Newsom and other Democratic leaders succeeding in negotiating the wealth tax off the ballot. The Legislature has until June 25 to withdraw a ballot initiative, per a 2014 state law.

“I can’t remember a time where we’ve had so many interests going to war, head to head,” Castillo said. “Where groups are saying, ‘You know what? I’m going to take your initiative and one-up you an initiative’ so it makes it really intriguing.”

Castillo and DeBoo predicted that if the billionaires’ tax succeeded in making it to the November ballot, it would create a cacophonous media environment like the one leading up to the June primary, a scenario DeBoo referred to as “Steyer on steroids.”

“It’s going to be really difficult to break through. I think the billionaires tax is going to create the opposition that is going to create hundreds of millions of dollars of advertising with, ‘you can’t trust government, you’re paying too high of taxes,’” Castillo said. “The voter climate is gonna be really difficult this election cycle, and voters are gonna get fatigued if we even have 12 or 15 measures on the ballot.”



500 Capitol Mall

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Suite 1700

•
Sacramento

•
California 95814

•
TEL: 916 . 446 . 7517

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FAX: 916 . 446 . 2011

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www.sscal.com

DATE: June 18, 2026

TO: Misty Her
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

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

2026-27 State Budget Update

Last Thursday, June 11, 2026, legislative leaders announced that they had reached an agreement on a 2026-27 State Budget package.

In the article below, we provide School Services of California Inc.'s analysis comparing the 2026-27 Governor's Budget proposal with the Legislature's budget plan as reflected in Assembly Bill (AB) 109 (Gabriel, D-Encino).

On Monday, June 15, 2026, the Assembly and Senate approved AB 109 and sent the measure to Governor Gavin Newsom shortly before 11:00 p.m., officially beginning the 12-day period during which the Governor may sign or veto the bill. This period is generally viewed as the final phase of negotiations between the Governor and legislative leadership to reach agreement on the State Budget package.

While AB 109 reflects the Legislature's proposal, it does not yet represent a final agreement between the Legislature and Governor Newsom. Recent history suggests that the parties will reach a three-party agreement in the coming days to finalize the 2026-27 spending plan.

Once an agreement is reached, the Legislature is expected to approve another budget bill that will revise AB 109 to reflect the final agreement, along with approximately a dozen trailer bills containing the implementing details of the State Budget package. Following the Governor's signature, these measures will collectively constitute the 2026-27 Enacted Budget.

We will continue to provide updates on State Budget negotiations in subsequent updates.

Policy Committee Hearings

The Senate Education Committee, chaired by Senator Sasha Renée Pérez (D Pasadena), met for the third week in a row this past Wednesday morning to consider 31 bills. The Assembly Education Committee, chaired by

Assemblymember Dr. Darshana Patel (D-San Diego), met Wednesday afternoon for the first time since the house of origin deadline to consider 15 measures.

Some of the noteworthy education measures approved by the Senate and Assembly Education Committee this week include:

- AB 65 (Aguiar-Curry, D-Winters) requires local educational agencies (LEAs) and community college districts to provide up to 14 weeks of fully paid pregnancy disability leave to employees who are unable to work due to pregnancy-related recovery.
- AB 1871 (Fong, D-Alhambra) changes the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) statute by removing the requirement that participating students obtain a principal recommendation, requiring CCAP agreements to permit students to complete a single community college application for the duration of their participation, and eliminating the existing limit of four college courses per term while retaining the 15-unit cap.
- AB 2440 (Muratsuchi, D-Torrance) makes various changes to Proposition 28 by authorizing LEAs to pool allocated funds across school sites, establishing a statutory methodology for demonstrating compliance with the supplement-not-supplant requirement, expanding reporting and transparency requirements, and revising the definition of arts education programs and allowable expenditures.
- Senate Bill (SB) 608 (Menjivar, D-San Fernando Valley) prohibits public schools serving grades 7-12 from preventing a school-based health center from making condoms available and easily accessible to students and requires these public schools to allow condoms to be made available during specified educational or public health programs.
- SB 845 (Pérez) expands work-based learning and youth apprenticeship opportunities by broadening eligible activities, allowing LEAs to provide Workers' Compensation coverage and award credit starting in grade 10, strengthening apprenticeship and career technical education (CTE) program requirements, and permitting certain CTE, WorkAbility, and dual enrollment funds to support work-based learning.
- SB 959 (Grayson, D-Concord) authorizes 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 998 (Gonzalez, D-Long Beach) establishes duties and responsibilities for discrimination prevention coordinators within the Office of Civil Rights and establishes a Disability Discrimination Prevention Coordinator.

The deadline for bills to clear second-house policy committees is Thursday, July 2, 2026, the same day the Legislature is scheduled to adjourn for its monthlong summer recess.

Leilani Aguinaldo

Legislature Reaches Agreement on State Budget

By Kyle Hyland
School Services of California's *Fiscal Report*
June 12, 2026

On Thursday, June 11, 2026, leaders of the California State Senate and Assembly [announced](#) that they have reached a deal on a State Budget plan. The deal contained in [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 109](#) represents a two-party agreement only and is necessary in order for the Legislature to meet its constitutional deadline of June 15 to pass a budget plan. A three-party agreement between the Senate, Assembly, and Governor Gavin Newsom is expected before the new fiscal year starts on July 1, 2026.

The table below summarizes the significant proposals of the Governor's 2026-27 State Budget proposal versus the Legislature's version.

Proposal	Governor's Proposal	Legislative Version
Non-Local Educational Agency (LEA) Preschool Shift	No proposal	Shifts non-LEA state preschool into Proposition 98 and rebenchs the minimum guarantee to account for these additional costs
2025-26 Proposition 98 Minimum Guarantee (Settle-up Proposal)	Appropriates \$3.9 billion less than the calculated level	Governor's proposal, plus a "reliable schedule to pay districts"
Public School System Stabilization Account (At end of 2026-27)	\$10.3 billion	\$9.5 billion
Deferrals	Retires the deferrals included in the 2025-26 Budget Act	Governor's proposal
Statutory Cost-of-Living Adjustment	2.87%	Governor's proposal
Additional Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Investment	1.44%	Governor's proposal
Paid Pregnancy Disability Leave	Mandated with payment via additional LCFF investment	Governor's proposal
Special Education	\$1,340 per average daily attendance (ADA) base rate	Governor's proposal, plus \$40 million each for low-incidence disability funding and extraordinary cost pools

Student Support and Professional Development Discretionary Block Grant	\$5.0 billion one-time distributed per ADA	\$5.2 billion one-time distributed per ADA, plus a required local hearing on declining enrollment and reporting requirements
Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant	\$757.3 million one-time	Governor's proposal
Expanded Learning Opportunities Program	Additional \$62.4 million ongoing to provide a guaranteed \$1,800 per pupil for Tier 2 LEAs	Governor's proposal
Community Schools	\$1.0 billion ongoing	Governor's proposal
Career Technical Education Incentive Grant	No additional funds proposed	\$300 million total one-time, available for the 2027-28 and 2028-29 funding rounds
Kitchen Infrastructure and Training Grant	\$100 million one-time	\$700 million one-time

Sources: AB 109 and budget committee summary documents, June 11

The items summarized above are not an exhaustive list of the TK-12 education provisions included in the Legislature's budget, but rather a snapshot of the most significant proposals affecting LEAs.

The Legislature is expected to consider and approve AB 109 on June 15, 2026, following the required 72-hour in-print period. Passage of the bill would allow the Legislature to meet its constitutional obligation to approve a State Budget by June 15.

Once the Legislature approves the main budget bill and it is presented to Governor Newsom, the Governor will have 12 days to sign, veto, or line item veto the bill. This 12-day period is expected to be the key window during which the Legislature and the Administration negotiate the State Budget package. Once the parties reach an agreement, it will likely be reflected in a separate measure known as the "budget bill junior," which amends the June 15 budget to reflect the final negotiated package.

Note: The budget approved by legislators has even rosier predictions for state revenue than what the Newsom Administration predicted in its May Revision.

California Legislature Passes Budget, Talks with Newsom to Continue

By Stephen Hobbs and Andrew Graham
The Sacramento Bee
June 16, 2026

The California Legislature on Monday passed the first draft of a budget for the upcoming fiscal year, but the debate over what the state's final spending plan will look like is unresolved.

The almost \$356 billion deal was driven by Democrats who showed broad support for the placeholder agreement, which was struck by leaders in both the Assembly and Senate and announced last week.

“We made some responsible decisions as we move forward to ensure that Californians don’t feel and bear the brunt of what’s already coming to us from the federal government,” said Senate President pro Tem Monique Limón, D-Santa Barbara.

The approval Monday was the product of a state constitutional deadline that requires legislators to pass a spending plan by June 15 or forgo their pay until they do. But it also a formal rejection of healthcare cuts proposed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in response to changes forced on California by President Donald Trump and concerns over the state’s future deficits.

Unlike in Newsom’s proposed budget, the deal approved by lawmakers Monday will push off a decision of whether to increase premiums for undocumented immigrants using the state’s Medicaid coverage, called Medi-Cal. It also delayed an imposition of asset limits on Medi-Cal coverage and cuts to dental care and rejected a cut to in-home supportive service care.

Those choices and others by the legislative Democrats were celebrated by advocates, but negotiations with the Governor’s Office will continue this month. It is possible that the lawmakers may not ultimately get all that they want.

The approval Monday was met with united criticism by Republicans, who not only disagreed with the budget’s policies, but also said the deal did not placate concerns about the state’s financial health. Despite a surge in tax revenues from a soaring stock market, California is still spending more than it is bringing in, a concern that has been repeatedly raised by the Legislative Analyst’s Office, which advises the Legislature on fiscal matters.

“The way that we have built this budget is so irresponsible,” said Assembly Budget Committee Vice Chair David Tangipa, R-Clovis. “It will collapse — there’s no way around it — when there is a correction in the market.”

The budget approved by legislators has even rosier predictions for state revenue than what the Newsom administration predicted just last month.

The approved budget did not include tax increases pushed by Newsom on digital software sales, private health insurance companies and certain businesses. But Senate and Assembly leaders said they would accept those proposals in a final budget when they announced their deal last week.

Senate Budget Committee Vice Chair Roger Niello, R-Fair Oaks, said Democrats should not be raising taxes, but instead be taking a critical look at state programs that were created or increased in recent years to ensure that they are achieving what they were intended to.

“That,” he said, “would provide a blueprint of where we can bring expenditures back in line with existing revenue trends.”

Some Democrats were not enthusiastically behind the deal and said they wanted to see the state spend more on education and to protect people from losing Medi-Cal coverage.

That said, Democratic leaders emphasized that the state had effectively responded to the sweeping healthcare and social service cuts pushed by President Donald Trump and Congress while balancing the state's other needs.

"We have done the work to protect those programs and services that middle class families, that working families, that our most vulnerable rely upon," said Assembly Budget Chair Jesse Gabriel, D-Encino.

Note: Education advocacy groups—including unions, school boards, administrators, charter schools, business officers, and parents—have united in opposition to the Governor's settle-up proposal where he would withhold \$3.9 billion in Proposition 98 funding in 2025-26.

California School Districts Battle for \$3.9 Billion They Argue Is Due Now, Not Later

By John Fensterwald
EdSource
June 12, 2026

In coming days, school districts will find out whether their pressure campaign worked to persuade Gov. Gavin Newsom to turn over the \$3.9 billion he planned to withhold, for now, from next year's state funding for schools and community colleges.

By midnight Monday, June 15, the state Legislature must pass a balanced state budget; legislators and the governor have been negotiating how big it will be and what's in it.

The \$3.9 billion in question is about \$684 per student, depending on how it's distributed; at a time of declining enrollment and rising expenses, districts say they need the money now, not later.

Newsom says districts will get it after projected revenue turns into actual cash in hand by early next year, after more revenue is collected. Until then, it's wise to be cautious, Department of Finance officials warn.

At issue is how much funding will increase under Proposition 98, the 1988 formula guaranteeing that schools and community colleges receive about 40% of revenue from the state's general fund. Newsom is projecting that the 2026-27 Prop. 98 guarantee would be a record \$127.1 billion.

But state budget forecasters and the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office are also hedging their bets, saying that the projection could come up short, and growth may slow or even recede. The question is not if the current boom cycle fueled by AI investments will slow, but when, they say.

Education advocacy groups disagree with the governor's approach. With rare unanimity, a coalition of school employee unions and groups representing school boards, school administrators, business officers, charter schools and parents have reacted with anger and indignation, and their members flooded the halls of the Legislature last month to lobby legislators to insert the \$3.9 billion into the final budget.

"It's not just \$3.9 billion, even though that's a tremendous amount of money, what we're confronting is an existential threat to the way that we fund public schools here in California," Troy Flint, chief information

officer of the California School Boards Association, said during a press conference outside the Statehouse on May 21.

“That is resources that our kids won’t have, and those are opportunities they will never receive. A dollar delayed is a dollar denied.”

Tatia Davenport, CEO of the California Association of School Business Officials, said, “Proposition 98 was passed in California by our voters to ensure that education funding could not be traded away during difficult budget years. Prop. 98 is unambiguous. It is a guarantee. It is the law. It is not a suggestion.”

And Erika Jones, an elementary school teacher who is secretary-treasurer of the California Teachers Association (CTA), added, “Prop. 98 is a minimum guarantee. As the fourth-largest economy in the world, California leadership should be striving to give students more than the bare minimum, let alone dipping into that minimum to cover budget shortfalls.”

“If state leadership cares about the future of California, they must stop diverting constitutionally guaranteed funding away from public schools, from fully funding,” she said.

The remarks are compelling but also somewhat misleading. As with much of the arcane details of state financing and especially Prop. 98, it’s always more complicated.

The unknowns behind the estimates

The revenues on which a state budget is based every June are tied to a multi-year forecast that can be substantially off. In the last several years, the forecasts have significantly underestimated the revenues. Newsom’s first pass in January at the budget for 2026-27 fiscal year starting July 1 included \$21.7 billion more for Prop. 98 than the Legislature had budgeted for 2025-26 in June a year ago. All of this excess money will roll forward to 2026-27.

Then, in the May budget revision, with revenues for 2025-26 continuing to pour in, he upped the Prop. 98 forecast again. Newsom, who had proposed in January to withhold \$5.6 billion, reduced it to \$3.9 billion and used the difference to help fund a higher cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), add to the rainy day fund and increase money for special education.

A primary reason for soaring revenues is that, over the past few years, AI has been the state’s ATM. Unanticipated income and capital gains tax receipts from the state’s wealthiest taxpayers’ investments in artificial intelligence-related corporations are propelling state tax revenues.

And yet a lot is still unknown. Some corporate and individual taxpayers didn’t pay their 2025 taxes by April 15. Their late payments and previous estimated taxes may be substantially less than anticipated.

Lessons from the floods of ‘23

What Newsom wants to avoid is overcommitting to Prop. 98. That happened three years ago, following massive winter storms and flooding in late December 2022 and January 2023. In pushing back the filing date for 2022 taxes from April 15 to Nov. 16, 2023, for almost all counties, Newsom and the Legislature were left guessing at revenues when they passed the 2023-24 budget the previous June.

They guessed wrong and appropriated \$8 billion more than Prop. 98 was entitled to. Rather than short schools and community colleges midway through the school year, Newsom and the Legislature, in effect, took out a short-term loan against the non-Prop. 98 side of the general fund, the portion of the state budget that covers private childcare, CSU and UC. It also includes areas, such as Medi-Cal, with the fastest rising rate of spending that are driving forecasts of budget deficits.

The Legislature is not likely to bail out schools again using this strategy if there's another Prop. 98 shortfall.

The Legislative Analyst's Office has studied how close the Legislature comes to annually estimating state revenue, and found it ran between 4% over or under projections, said Ken Kappahn, LAO senior fiscal and policy analyst. Holding back \$3.9 billion on a \$127 billion Prop. 98 guarantee falls in that range.

No lock-solid timing of the settle-up

In his budget message, Newsom said that he would take another look at revenues early next year (actually, his successor will) and settle up the revenues then, as statutes require.

But there's a catch: State law doesn't state when the money must be repaid — in one year or over several. When education advocates use "gimmick" and "theft" of Prop. 98, they're implying that Newsom and future governors might use Prop. 98 obligations as a piggy bank to shore up other parts of the budget.

Michael Fine, the CEO of the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistant Team, the state agency that oversees financially troubled school districts, says he understands all the arguments.

"This is a difficult topic as I agree with both sides," he wrote in an email. "I understand the risk the administration is hedging against and agree the risk is real, and I recognize the constraints placed in recent years on how to handle over-appropriations of Proposition 98 are problematic. I also fully understand and appreciate the argument around the intent of Proposition 98 being made by advocates."

Since the May revision, three blockbuster AI corporations — SpaceX, Anthropic and OpenAI — announced they will go public with stock offerings in coming months, signaling billions more in taxable earnings in a frenzy of stock sales — or not, if they're a bust. Unstable oil prices and rising inflation also complicate revenue projections.

The Ed Coalition can count on the Democratic majorities in the Senate and in the Assembly. Both have gone on record supporting restoring full funding in the final budget.

In their alternative proposal, Senate leaders would build back the \$3.9 billion, and specify how to spend it:

- Raise the discretionary block grant by \$1.5 billion
- Add to the rainy day fund by \$1.2 billion
- Raise the grant program for career/technical education by \$300 million
- Fund schools' kitchen infrastructure by \$900 million

Democratic leaders in the Assembly are vague about how to fund the \$3.9 billion, but in the Assembly's budget outline, they make their priority clear: "The Governor's January proposal shortchanged schools by billions. The state constitution requires those dollars to flow — and they will."

Under the state constitution, the Legislature must pass a state budget by June 15. If not then, certainly by June 30, there will be an answer to the \$3.9 billion question.

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Jennifer Stacy-Alcantara, Associate Superintendent
Regarding: Health Services Staffing Framework

Date: June 26, 2026

Phone Number: (559) 457-3809

The purpose of this communication is to outline the district's staffing model for school health services, including Registered Nurses (RN) and Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN). This includes both the baseline staffing approach and the additional criteria used to allocate staff to ensure equitable care for all students across school sites.

The district utilizes an enrollment-based baseline model that accounts for both general education and special education students to ensure consistent and equitable foundational staffing. Baseline staffing by school level is as follows:

- Elementary and specialty sites with fewer than 750 students – 0.5 health staff (RN or LVN)
- Elementary and specialty sites with 750 or more students – 1.0 health staff (RN or LVN)
- Middle schools – 1.0 health staff (RN or LVN)
- Comprehensive high schools – 3.0 health staff (RN or LVN)

Special education sites receive increased staffing due to the intensity and complexity of student medical needs. Current allocations are as follows:

- Addicott School – 7 health staff (RN or LVN)
- Rata School – 7 health staff (RN or LVN)
- Adult Transition Program (ATP) – 5 health staff (RN or LVN)

After baseline staffing is established, additional adjustments are made based on site-specific needs. The following factors are used to determine further staffing support (which usually results in daily coverage):

- Specialized Medical Procedures – Frequency and complexity of procedures such as tracheostomy care, feeding tube support, diabetes management, and seizure response
- One-on-one medical support – Students requiring one-on-one medical support from a licensed care professional
- 504 Plans/Health Related Action Plans – Number of students requiring health-related accommodations and ongoing monitoring
- Behavioral and Risk Assessments – Students requiring increased supervision or health office support due to medical or behavioral needs
- Absenteeism – sites with a high rate of chronic absenteeism as indicated on the California Dashboard
- Health Office Utilization – Analysis of student visits based on previous school year data to identify high-demand sites

Under the current staffing model, all sites are guaranteed health staff coverage to ensure that the medical needs of students are safely and consistently met.

If you have any questions about the information included in this communication or need further information, please contact Jennifer Stacy-Alcantara at (559) 457-3809.

Cabinet Approval: 

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

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Paul Idsvoog, Chief Operations and
Classified Labor Management Officer

Date: June 26, 2026

Phone Number: 457-3134

Regarding: 2026/27 Choice School Hub Transportation Model

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information that the beginning of Fall 2026 Choice and Magnet middle and high school routes will utilize a Hub Transportation Model. This is a targeted operational improvement that preserves student access to magnet programs while making service more reliable, safer, and efficient.

Students at Ahwahnee, Baird, Bullard Talent, Cooper Academy, Computech, Roosevelt, and Edison will board at their home middle and high schools rather than scattered neighborhood stops. Elementary routes are completely unaffected. No student will be required to transfer buses. The model is already working successfully today at Patiño, Duncan, and Summer School.

The community was engaged before decisions were made. Rather than issuing a survey, staff met individually with principals at every affected school, held three Community Listening Sessions, and partnered with the Communications Department throughout. Concerns were heard, documented, and addressed. This model is community informed.

The same operational efficiencies that make the Hub Model possible are also creating capacity to extend service where it is needed most. Beginning this fall, transportation will be added to serve students residing at the Crossroads transitional housing site attending Del Mar Elementary, a population where 78% of the Project ACCESS students attending Del Mar are currently chronically absent, and where lack of transportation along a busy corridor with no personal vehicles is a primary barrier. This is what efficient transportation operations make possible.

Last school year, Choice and Magnet pickups overlapped with elementary drop-off, adding buses to school zones during peak traffic. The Hub Model removes that conflict. Forty-two elementary sites will see immediate morning congestion relief, with 74 fewer buses in elementary zones daily. This directly alleviates the highest risk moment in student transportation, loading and unloading, and addresses longstanding concerns from drivers and parents.

Bus stop locations will be finalized using summer registration data, with flexibility to add stops where ridership warrants.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Paul Rosencrans at 457-3103.

Cabinet Approval:



Name and Title: Paul Idsvoog, Chief Operations and Classified Labor Management Officer