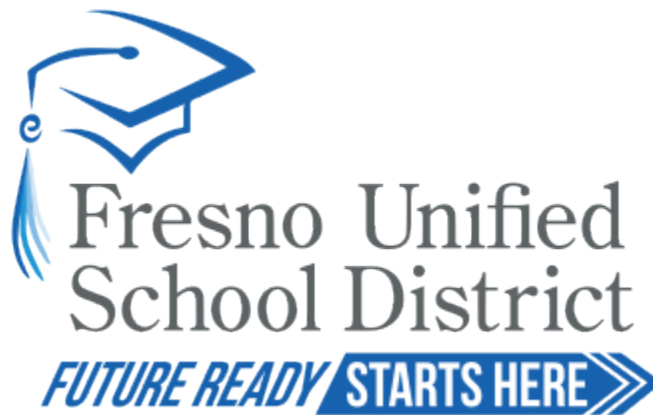




BOARD COMMUNICATIONS - AUGUST 21, 2026

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

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9. OFFICE OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

Paul Idsvoog, Chief Officer

10. OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Paoze Lee, Chief Officer

Board Communications Approved by:

Mao Misty Her, Superintendent



Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

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

Date: August 21, 2026

Phone Number: (559) 457-3884

Regarding: Superintendent Calendar Highlights

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

- Gave interview with Danyelle Burke North, ABC30, regarding start of school year
- Site visits at: Addams, Addicott, Adult Transition Program, Ahwahnee, Aynesworth, Baird, Balderas, Bullard, Bullard Talent, CART, Calwa, Columbia, Computech, Cooper, Del Mar, Edison, Ericson, Ewing, Fort Miller, Fremont, Fresno High, Fulton, Gaston, Gibson, Hamilton, Heaton, Holland, Hoover, King, Kirk, Lane, Lincoln, Mayfair, McLane, Patiño, Phoenix Elementary, Powers-Ginsburg, Pyle, Rata, Rowell, Scandinavian, Sequoia, Starr, Tehipite, Tenaya, Tioga, Vang Pao, Vinland, Wawona, Wilson, Winchell, Wishon, Wolters, and Yosemite
- Gave interview with Diego Vargas, Fresno Bee, regarding start of the school year
- Attended the Central Valley Community Foundation Board Meeting
- Held interviews for Human Resources Director
- Attended United Way Board Meeting

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

Cabinet Approval:



Name and Title: Mao Misty Her, Superintendent

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Debbie Hawkins, Campus Culture Manager

Date: August 21, 2026

Phone Number: (559) 457-3674

Regarding: Fresno Unified School District 2027 Graduation Schedule

The purpose of this communication is to share the Fresno Unified School District 2027 Graduation Schedule.

If you have any questions about the information included in this communication or need further information, please contact Debbie Hawkins at (559) 457-3674. Thank you.

Cabinet Approval:



Name and Title: Ben A. Drati, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent

2027 High School Graduations

Day	Date	Grad Time	Practice	School	Location
Monday	May 24	6:30 PM	8:30 AM	Design Science	FCC – OAB
Friday	May 28	11:00 AM		Rata	Rata multi-Purpose
Wednesday	June 2	7:30 PM	8:30 AM	McLane HS	McLane Stadium
Thursday	June 3	8:00 PM	8:00 AM	Duncan HS	McLane Stadium
Monday	June 7	11:00 AM	10:00 AM	Fresno Adult H.S. & GED	Saroyan Theater
Monday	June 7	3:30 PM	2:00 PM	DeWolf	Saroyan Theater
Monday	June 7	5:30 PM	8:00 AM	Patiño	Saroyan Theater
Monday	June 7	<i>*Practice Only</i>	1:00 PM	Farber HS	Save Mart Center
Monday	June 7	4:00 PM	8:00 AM	Hoover HS	Save Mart Center
Monday	June 7	8:00 PM	10:30 AM	Sunnyside HS	Save Mart Center
Tuesday	June 8	1:00 PM	<i>*Graduation Day</i>	Farber HS	Save Mart Center
Tuesday	June 8	4:00 PM	8:00 AM	Roosevelt HS	Save Mart Center
Tuesday	June 8	8:00 PM	10:30 AM	Bullard HS	Save Mart Center
Tuesday	June 8	9:30 AM	-----	Adult Transition Program	ATP Courtyard
Wednesday	June 9	4:00 PM	8:00 AM	Fresno HS	Save Mart Center
Wednesday	June 9	8:00 PM	10:30 AM	Edison HS	Save Mart Center
Thursday	July 15	9:00 AM	7/14 @ 3:00 PM	Summer School	Royce Hall

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: August 21, 2026

Phone Number: (559) 457-3907

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

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board a copy of School Services of California's (SSC) Weekly Updates. Each week SSC provides an update and commentary on different educational fiscal issues. In addition, they include different articles related to education issues. The SSC Weekly Updates for August 13, 2026, are attached and include the following articles:

- Governor Newsom Signs Four Education Bills into Law – August 07, 2026
- Proposed Overhaul Could Fundamentally Change Head Start. Here's How – August 13, 2026
- California Could Soon Put Limits on Youth Social Media. Is it the Right Approach? – August 13, 2026

If you have any questions about the information included in this communication, or need further information, please contact Kim Kelstrom at (559) 457-3907. Thank you.

Cabinet Approval:



Name and Title: Patrick Jensen, Chief Financial Officer

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Suite 1700

•
Sacramento

•
California 95814

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TEL: 916 . 446 . 7517

•
FAX: 916 . 446 . 2011

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www.sscal.com

DATE: August 13, 2026

TO: Misty Her
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

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

Second House Appropriations Committee Deadline

Today, Thursday, August 13, 2026, the Assembly and Senate Appropriations Committees took up their respective suspense files.

In a sense, the suspense file is legislative purgatory, where measures that are deemed to have a fiscal impact of a certain magnitude are placed until all those measures can be dealt with at once. Many of the bills on the committees' suspense files will not move forward, which means that they are effectively killed without legislators having to cast a vote. Since it is the second year of the 2025-26 legislative session, any bill that does not survive this deadline will be considered dead, absent any rule waivers.

Of the bills that do pass the Appropriations Committees, hundreds are amended to address cost concerns or any issues that would make them potentially less successful in seeking Governor Gavin Newsom's signature. The bills moving on will get a full floor vote in the second house and, if they have been amended during their time there, will go back to their house of origin for a concurrence vote on amendments, and then it is off to Governor Newsom's desk.

We will provide an update of the noteworthy education bills that survived the committee as well as the significant bills that were held by the committee in next week's *Sacramento Update*.

Schools Struggle to Spend Proposition 28 Funding

Some California schools are returning Proposition 28 arts education funding to the state amid ongoing questions about how the money can be spent and challenges hiring enough arts teachers. Approved by voters in 2022, Proposition 28 provides ongoing funding for arts and music education equal to 1% of the prior year's K-12 share of the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee. While the amount fluctuates from year to year, the program generally provides about \$1 billion annually for arts education in California public schools.

Under Proposition 28, local educational agencies (LEAs) with 500 or more students generally must spend at least 80% of funds expended on certificated or classified employees who provide arts education instruction, unless they receive a waiver from the California Department of Education. The remaining expenditures may be used for purposes including training, supplies and materials, and arts education partnerships. According to an August 13 CalMatters [article](#), some schools have struggled to spend their allocations because of difficulties finding arts teachers and uncertainty about the rules governing the funding. LEAs generally have up to three fiscal years to spend each allocation, after which unspent funds must be returned to the state for reallocation.

Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) has authored Assembly Bill (AB) 2440, which is intended to clarify some of Proposition 28's requirements, including how LEAs demonstrate that the funding supplements rather than replaces existing arts education spending. AB 2440 would also provide greater clarity regarding the ability for LEAs to pool Proposition 28 resources across school sites while maintaining requirements tied to each site's allocation.

Supporters argue the changes would provide LEAs with greater certainty about how to comply with Proposition 28 and make it easier to put the funding to use. However, former Los Angeles Unified Superintendent Austin Beutner, who spearheaded Proposition 28, argues that AB 2440 would provide districts too much flexibility and could undermine the measure's intent to expand arts education at individual schools.

AB 2440 is on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file, and we will know its fate as well as the fate of more than 850 other bills after the suspense file hearings today.

Leilani Aguinaldo

Governor Newsom Signs Four Education Bills into Law

By Kyle Hyland
School Services of California's *Fiscal Report*
August 7, 2026

Last month, Governor Gavin Newsom signed several education-related bills into law, including [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1653](#) (Lackey, Statutes of 2026), [AB 2003](#) (Berman, Statutes of 2026), [AB 2324](#) (Gonzalez, Statutes of 2026), and [AB 2652](#) (Sharp-Collins, Statutes of 2026). These measures address topics ranging from student health and suicide prevention to career technical education (CTE) and curriculum guidance.

AB 1653 requires the Instructional Quality Commission, during the next revision of the Health Framework for California Public Schools, to consider recommending the inclusion of age-appropriate content on heat illness prevention, recognition, and response. In developing these recommendations, the commission is directed to consider guidance from the California Department of Public Health and policies adopted by the California Interscholastic Federation. The bill takes effect on January 1, 2027.

AB 2003 revises California's pupil suicide prevention requirements by requiring the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, rather than the California Department of Education (CDE), to develop and maintain a free, evidence-based online suicide prevention training program. The training must be available to school staff, students 13 years of age and older, and parents, guardians, and caregivers to support local educational agencies' (LEA) suicide prevention policies. The bill also requires LEAs that elect to conduct suicide risk screenings to annually report aggregate screening data to the CDE, which must compile and publish statewide data. Since AB 2003 is an urgency measure, it took effect immediately upon the Governor's signature on July 16, 2026.

AB 2324 requires the CDE, during the next revision of the California CTE Model Curriculum Standards, to consider incorporating content on the role of youth caregivers within the Personal Care and Services career pathway. By July 1, 2028, the CDE is required to develop implementation guidance that may include caregiving skills, training for direct support professions, consideration of supports for youth caregivers, work-based learning opportunities for youth caregivers, and the potential for students to earn work experience education credit for providing care to eligible family members. The bill takes effect on January 1, 2027.

AB 2652 expands pathways for earning a world language teaching credential or bilingual authorization by allowing candidates to demonstrate language proficiency through a comparable postsecondary language proficiency assessment when the Commission on Teacher Credentialing does not offer a subject matter examination for that language, such as assessments offered by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. The bill takes effect on January 1, 2027.

We will continue to monitor the Governor's actions and provide updates on additional education legislation affecting LEAs. The deadline for the Legislature to complete its business for the 2025-26 legislative session is August 31.

Note: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing major changes to the federal Head Start Program Performance Standards, including replacing current standards with a streamlined regulatory framework that reduces federal requirements while adding or revising requirements in areas including English language instruction, nutrition, and enrollment documentation.

Proposed Overhaul Could Fundamentally Change Head Start. Here's How

By Betty Márquez Rosales
EdSource
August 13, 2026

On a recent Thursday morning, 12 preschoolers at Bright Starts Center in south Los Angeles moved between Spanish and English as they cleaned up after painting and playing with blocks. They stretched before outdoor play and reviewed how to stay safe on the slide, at the water station and while riding bikes.

A teacher and assistant stayed with the children throughout the morning. A third adult prepared meals in the kitchen — mini banana loaf with apple, homestyle cheese pizza with mixed veggies, and apple chips with a colby jack cheese stick.

The routines at Bright Starts illustrate the holistic approach toward educating children while caring for them that has defined Head Start for more than six decades. Federal rules set standards for staffing, nutrition, physical activity and services for children who are learning English, among other areas, with the goal of providing low-income children and their families with education as well as behavioral screenings, parent engagement opportunities and other support.

Now, the Trump administration seeks to dramatically reduce those federal regulations with a shorter set of rules, and give states and local programs more authority over how Head Start operates.

The proposal's critics say it would cut down present regulations, over 100 pages long, to about 10 pages, and fundamentally change Head Start as it's known now. The changes, if approved, would eliminate regulatory requirements governing classroom ratios, group sizes and services for children who speak languages other than English. It would also require English-only instruction.

The changes could theoretically add, according to federal officials, over 200,000 slots for children nationwide while reducing administrative costs. Federal officials say the changes would reduce administrative burdens, give programs greater flexibility and could allow Head Start to serve more children. Critics say the proposed changes could lead to lower quality and considerable variation from program to program, even within states.

"Head Start would still exist, but it would not be Head Start as we know it and love it today," said Melanee Cottrill, executive director of Head Start California.

Federal officials disagree. The Head Start Act legally requires certain standards be maintained, including health screenings, support for children learning English and support for children with disabilities, among others. Those will continue to be enforced, said a spokesperson for the Administration for Families and Children said in a statement to EdSource.

“The proposed rule removes regulatory provisions that are either duplicative of the statute or impose prescriptive requirements beyond what the Head Start Act requires. This refocuses federal oversight on core statutory priorities: preparing America’s most vulnerable children for success. By removing hyper-specific directives on how to meet these requirements gives recipients more flexibility to design comprehensive services best suited to their community’s needs,” the spokesperson wrote in an email.

The proposed changes are subject to a 60-day public comment period. Hundreds of comments have already been submitted, and the administration must review public feedback before deciding whether to finalize the changes.

Critics say Head Start would fundamentally change

Federal officials have said that lower administrative burden and greater flexibility for local programs are, in part, why the regulatory changes must be made.

Luis Bautista, executive director of the Head Start and Early Learning Division at the Los Angeles County Office of Education, said reducing some administrative requirements could allow programs to spend more resources on children and families — but only if they do not risk quality.

“I think all of us who are in the program will welcome the opportunity to reduce any unnecessary administrative burden, especially when those changes allow us to spend more time serving children and families,” Bautista said. “But flexibility should never come at the expense of quality or safety or equitable access. And some of these proposed changes are going to actually impact all of those things.”

The L.A. County education office is the state’s largest Head Start grantee — teaching thousands of babies, toddlers and young children — and works with the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation, the nonprofit that oversees the Bright Starts Center.

While federal officials say the changes would give local programs flexibility, critics question how much discretion programs would have in practice if federal funding does not increase.

Head Start programs receive federal grants, and their budgets are tied to the number of children they are funded to serve, and the requirements attached to those grants. Cottrill, of Head Start California, said that could limit how much flexibility programs actually have.

“When we ask for that grant, we have to justify it. We can pay that many teachers because we’re required to. While the Office of Head Start is saying ‘you’ll have flexibility,’ they still have the ultimate say on those grants,” she said.

Cottrill said she fears that if the federal office requests local programs to serve more children without increased funding, the proposed changes could lead to reduced staffing or services to accommodate the additional enrollment.

“How do you do that? Well, you hire people who are less qualified. You give them more children. You cut services like toothbrushing and monitors on buses and all those wraparound things that make Head Start such a unique program that really creates positive results for those kids,” said Cottrill.

Lizbeth Casco White, director of the federal Office of Head Start has said federal regulations are not what solely drive early education services like Head Start.

“Federal regulations establish minimum requirements. They do not define the ceiling of excellence,” she said in announcing the proposed regulatory changes.

The proposed changes come after months of uncertainty for Head Start, including a federal budget proposal that called for eliminating funding altogether. After opposition from Head Start’s advocates, Congress ultimately restored funding to roughly its previous level. Some local Head Start programs temporarily shut down because furloughed federal staff were not able to process grants during last year’s historic federal shutdown.

The Trump administration has pursued other changes to the program as well. In May, federal officials proposed removing certain wage and benefits requirements for Head Start staff, saying the move would “restore needed flexibility and autonomy to local programs” while reducing paperwork.

Most recently, in June, right-wing think tank The Heritage Foundation published a report outlining why Head Start should be deregulated “until officials end it.”

Back at Bright Starts, the children returned to their classroom after outdoor play, moving between Spanish and English as they settled into their next activity.

For now, the routines that shape their day remain in place — two adults in the classroom, time for physical activity, meals and snacks, and opportunities for children to learn English while maintaining their home language.

Whether those practices remain federal standards or are left to states and local programs to decide could depend on what happens next. If the changes are approved, legal challenges are likely, particularly in response to new requirements such as English-only instruction.

Bautista said the outcome should ultimately be measured by what happens to children in classrooms like Bright Starts.

“Will these changes improve outcomes for children?” he said. “I think we have to stay rooted in that.”

Note: AB 1709 (Lowenthal, D-Long Beach) would prohibit “covered platforms” that provide addictive feeds from allowing users under the age of 16 to create or maintain an account.

California Could Soon Put Limits on Youth Social Media. Is it the Right Approach?

By Stephen Hobbs
The Sacramento Bee
August 13, 2026

California isn’t the first — and certainly won’t be the last — state to put a limit youth social media use, if Assembly Bill 1709 passes the Legislature this month.

But its author Assemblymember Josh Lowenthal, D-Long Beach, sees the measure as providing a guide for others to follow as parents, doctors and teens across the political spectrum clamor for lawmakers to do more

to stem rising rates of poor mental health among young people. The current reality is a complicated and controversial patchwork of laws across the country.

His bill would force social media companies to offer platforms to children under 16 that don't include certain features meant to keep them using the site, such as a personalized feed and autoplaying videos. It would also create an e-safety advisory commission to help the attorney general implement and enforce the law.

The measure faces a key vote in the Senate Appropriations Committee Thursday. It has bipartisan support.

"I see this as being just the right amount of regulation, where consumers and kids are not shut off and the platforms have a very clear path to being compliant," Lowenthal said. "I find this the equivalent of saying to kids, 'we're not banning you from riding bicycles or skateboards, we're insisting that you wear a helmet when you do so.' And that is the situation. That should be replicated not only throughout the United States, but throughout the world, in my estimation."

Lowenthal didn't get there right away. Previously, the bill would have prevented Californians under 16 from opening accounts on certain platforms, following several other states that pursued bans for children. He pivoted away from that approach in the face of concerns from state senators and advocates that shutting off vulnerable youth from social media could cut them off from supportive online networks.

But is this new path more effective?

The research is not yet clear, but California's bill is part of a worldwide fight to find the best way to protect young people online. Legislators are pursuing what they see as the right path in the face of well-financed social media companies looking to knock out those ideas in court.

State laws have been challenged in court, were only recently put into place or haven't yet gone into effect, meaning researchers will need more time to figure out how state laws are affecting young people. Australia's ban on children under 16 having access to social media platforms, the first national policy around the world, just went into effect last year.

"Age restrictions, limits on potentially addictive features, and other safeguards are different strategies, and their real-world effects should be carefully evaluated," said Dr. Jason Nagata, a pediatrics professor at the University of California, San Francisco, in an email.

He and other researchers have found that heavy social media and phone use is associated with health and developmental concerns.

"As policies are implemented, we have an opportunity to study whether they actually reduce problematic social media use and improve outcomes such as sleep, mental health, and school functioning, as well as whether they have unintended consequences," Nagata said.

States use different approaches

In the absence of conclusive evidence and federal laws passed by Congress, Republican and Democratic state legislators across the country have introduced and passed an array of bills that include the changes Lowenthal considered — banning teenagers of different ages from having accounts and forcing companies to provide feeds that are stripped of addicting features.

Lowenthal said the inspiration for his initial ban, and the advisory commission, came from Australia, not another state.

The new approach has support. The California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls was a key backer of AB 1709 when it would have kept children under 16 off platforms. After the bill was amended, the commission now opposes it.

Darcy Totten, the commission's executive director, said the ban would help buy time for a young person's brain to develop and better educate them on how to navigate platforms safely. She views it as a starting point.

"With these amendments, the concern for the commission is that the bill would open the door for these platforms to advertise their product as safe for kids or free of addictive features," Totten said. "Which could, one, potentially make the problem worse, but two, would really stall progress and real accountability."

A majority of Americans support banning anyone under 16 from using social media sites, according to a Pew Research Center survey published last month.

Design It For Us, an organization led by young people that wants to "disrupt Big Tech's harmful business models" went the opposite way. It opposed the earlier version of the bill, but advocated for the new policy that would require platforms to provide a way for young people to use them without certain features.

Nikki Iyer, a youth leader at the organization and a UC Berkeley student, said the original ban sounded good in theory, but young people could still find ways around it. The new version of the bill, she said, "takes a much more nuanced approach and requires companies to actually change their behavior, and to change their design, rather than to keep doing what they're doing."

The current version of the measure is in line with recommendations from the United Nations, which endorses policies that attempt to make platforms safer for children, instead of banning them from the sites completely.

'Cut and pasted'

Some of the bill's opponents don't like either path taken by AB 1709.

One of them is NetChoice, a trade group whose members include Google, TikTok and Meta. It has sued California several times, including over a 2022 bill that attempted to force companies that have platforms likely used by children to offer stricter privacy settings. It has also filed lawsuits against several other states to block their own efforts to regulate youth social media use.

Amy Bos, who handles government affairs for the trade group, said California's bill repeats what NetChoice sees as a bad pattern of taking decisions out of the hands of parents and potentially running afoul of the First Amendment.

"The government stepping in and limiting choices and mandating design features and telling private companies how to display, that just runs into a whole host of constitutional and policy issues," Bos said.

California is also initiating legal fights. It is one of more than 30 states accusing Meta in federal court of intentionally designing its platforms Instagram and Facebook to maximize the time young people spend on the sites. Jury selection on the case began Wednesday. AB 1709 could lead to another courtroom battle if the measure passes and is signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom, but Lowenthal believes his bill will hold up to scrutiny.

“In California,” he said, “we are acclimated to having the responsibility of crafting legislation that can be cut and pasted into other states.”

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Darrin Person, Executive Director

Date: August 21, 2026

Phone Number: (559) 457-3650

Regarding: Agreement with Central California Food Bank

The purpose of this communication is to inform the Board members of the reason why this agreement is being ratified. The 2025/26 agreement is submitted for ratification due to an increase in the contract amount from \$99,999 to \$108,415. As the implementation advanced, the final cost of services needed to fully support the expanded scope of work exceeded the original contract amount, thereby causing the agreement to surpass the Board's approval threshold of \$100,000.

If you have any questions about the information included in this communication or need further information, please contact Darrin Person at (559) 457-3650. Thank you.

Cabinet Approval: 
Carlos Castillo (Aug 30, 2026 15:48:55 PDT)

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

Date: August 21, 2026

Prepared by: Marie Williams, Ed.D., Associate Superintendent

Phone Number: (559) 457-3750

Regarding: Certificated Retiree Contract for Thomas Donald for the 2026/27 School Year

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with information regarding the ratification of a Certificated Retiree Contract for Thomas Donald for the 2026/27 school year.

Mr. Donald will provide academic support and tutoring services to identified students at Bullard High School and will teach one section of the Men's Alliance course. His services commenced on August 12, 2026, including participation in Buyback Day activities with staff and administration.

This contract is being presented to the Board for ratification. The contract was received from the school site on June 10, 2026; however, it was not received in time to be included on the Board meeting agenda for June 17, 2026. Because the contract became effective on August 12, 2026, prior to the first Board meeting of the 2026/27 school year, Board ratification is requested to formalize approval of the agreement.

If you have any questions about the information included in this communication or need further information, please contact Matt Ward at (559) 457-3781. Thank you.

Cabinet Approval: 
Carlos Castillo Aug 20, 2026 14:04:57 PDT

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