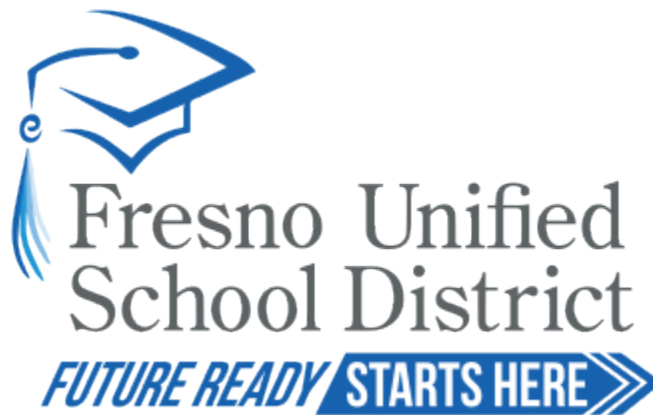




BOARD COMMUNICATIONS - SEPTEMBER 04, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Mao Misty Her, Superintendent

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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: September 04, 2026

Phone Number: (559) 457-3884

Regarding: Superintendent Calendar Highlights

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

- Visited two preschool classrooms
- Spoke at the New Employee Orientation
- Visited the Special Day Class (SDC) Mild-Moderate Teacher Training
- Visited the Middle School Intervention Training
- Visited the Assembly Bill (AB) 715 Instructional Coaches Training
- Met with Cabinet Teams
- Held Pess Conference regarding field trips and budget
- Met with Council Member Tyler Maxell and district staff regarding potential partnership on field trips
- Held Principals Meeting regarding Budget Update
- Attended the State of the College at Fresno City College
- Met with Labor Partners
- Attending Dok Bua Luang Gala

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

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: David Ray, Executive Director

Date: September 04, 2026

Phone Number: (559) 457-3980

Regarding: Agreement with City of Fresno Police Department for Student Resource Officers

The purpose of this communication is to provide information to Board members regarding the reason this agreement is presented for ratification. The 2026/27 agreement with the City of Fresno Police Department for Student Resource Officers is being submitted for ratification due to the prior agreement expiring on June 30, 2026, and the new agreement could not be prepared, reviewed, and routed for approval prior to the expiration of the previous agreement. To ensure continuity of Student Resource Officer services at District Schools while the new agreement was being finalized, services continued following the expiration of the prior agreement.

Ratification of the agreement will formalize the continued provision of Student Resource Officer services for the 2026/27 school year and authorize payment for services provided under the new agreement.

If you have any questions about the information included in this communication or need further information, please contact David Ray at (559) 457-3980. Thank you.

Cabinet Approval:



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

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

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

Date: September 04, 2026
Phone Number: (559) 457-3907

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for August 28, 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 28, 2026, are attached and include the following articles:

- LAO Releases Updated "Big Three" Revenues – August 24, 2026
- California Bill to Catch Math Struggles in Youngest Students Heads to Governor's Desk – August 26, 2026
- Billionaire-Backed Group Kicks Off Ad Blitz Against Prop. 40 Wealth Tax – August 25, 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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www.sscal.com

DATE: August 28, 2026

TO: Misty Her
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

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

Legislature Inches Closer to End of Legislative Year

As of this writing, the Legislature still has hundreds of bills left to consider with just a couple of days remaining in the 2025-26 legislative session. Those measures need to be approved by the Legislature by 11:59 p.m. this Monday, August 31, 2026, or they will die on the house floor.

Last Friday, August 21, 2026, was the last day for the Legislature to amend bills on the floor. However, as we mentioned in last week's update, the August 21 deadline is a rule set by the Legislature itself, meaning it can waive that rule and make further amendments to bills until August 28, 2026. The reason today is the true drop-dead deadline to amend legislation is that Proposition 54 (2016) requires bills to be in print for at least 72 hours in their "final form" before being voted on by the Legislature.

Some of the significant education bills that have been approved over the past week and are on their way to the Governor, include:

- **Assembly Bill (AB) 2460 (Rodriguez, D-San Fernando)—Pupil Mental Health.** This bill requires the California Department of Education to (CDE) to, by July 1, 2027, update its model behavioral health referral protocols to include guidance for providing equity-centered mental health supports during local emergencies related to immigration enforcement activities or the actual or threatened deportation of pupils or their family members. By July 1, 2028, local educational agencies (LEAs) must update their behavioral health referral policies to address these circumstances, either using the CDE's model protocols or locally developed protocols created in consultation with specified interest holders.
- **AB 2490 (Valencia, D-Anaheim)—Substitute Teacher Permits.** This bill expands eligibility for the Emergency Career Substitute Teaching Permit by allowing substitute teachers to qualify through an alternative pathway that includes at least five hours of professional development, orientation training, and an assigned teaching mentor instead of the existing requirement to verify 90 days of substitute teaching. The bill also allows

qualifying permit holders, subject to specified requirements, to serve in the same classroom for up to 70 cumulative days during a school year, including in special education classrooms. The bill also establishes additional professional development, LEA assignment procedures, and reporting requirements.

- **AB 2496 (Solache, D-Paramount)—LEA Reporting Requirements.** This bill requires the CDE to, by August 31, 2027, identify information in the School Accountability Report Card (SARC) that duplicates information available through other state and local sources to inform future reporting streamlining efforts. The bill also eliminates SARC reporting requirements related to physical performance testing results and Comprehensive School Safety Plans while retaining the underlying testing and safety plan requirements. Additionally, the bill eliminates the February 28 deadline for presenting the Local Control and Accountability Plan Annual Update and Local Control Funding Formula Budget Overview for Parents, while retaining the annual presentation requirement.
- **AB 2526 (Muratsuchi, D-Torrance)—Special Education Funding.** Contingent upon an appropriation, this bill expands an existing special education funding mechanism that currently provides special education local plan areas with a per-pupil entitlement for students with low-incidence disabilities. The bill would also base the entitlement on the number of pupils eligible to take specified alternate assessments and authorize the funding to support special education and related services required by the individualized education programs of those pupils.
- **AB 2555 (Patel, D-San Diego)—English Learner Reclassification.** This urgency bill makes several changes to the process for reclassifying English learners as fluent English proficient and, beginning July 1, 2028, establishes an alternative pathway for reclassifying certain English learners with disabilities whose disability may affect their ability to meet the standard English-language proficiency assessment threshold.
- **Senate Bill (SB) 1067 (Weber Pierson, D-San Diego)—K–2 Math Screenings.** This bill requires LEAs, beginning in the 2028-29 school year, to annually screen kindergarten through grade two pupils for risk of mathematics difficulties using a state-approved screening instrument and provide appropriate supports and interventions to pupils identified as at risk.

Budget Clean Up

Finally, on the State Budget front, both the Senate and Assembly have scheduled budget hearings for Sunday, but without budget trailer bills released yet (as of Friday morning). Reportedly, few items will be addressed in budget clean up legislation as negotiating parties have taken a firmer line than usual of what will and won't be included.

Next Week's Update

In next week's *Sacramento Update*, we will provide a more detailed look at which education measures survived the end-of-session deadline and which failed to pass.

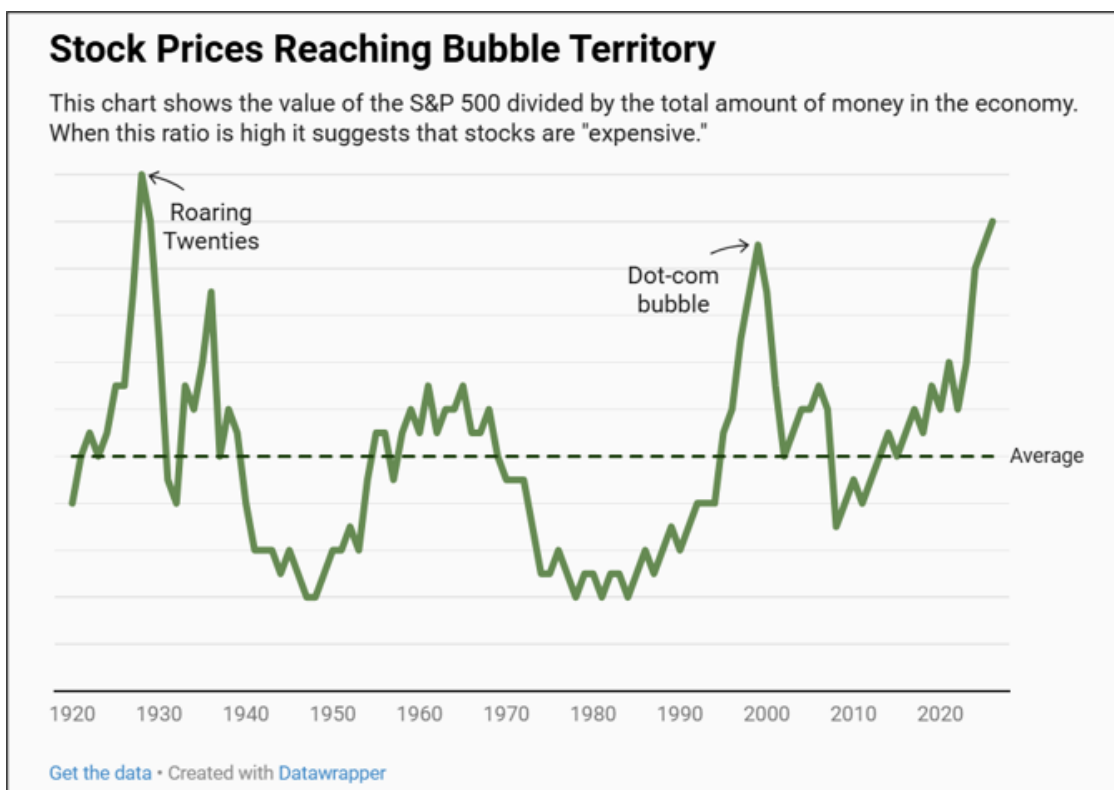
Leilani Aguinaldo

LAO Releases Updated “Big Three” Revenues

By Megan Baier and Patti F. Herrera, EdD
School Services of California’s *Fiscal Report*
August 24, 2026

The Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) recently released revised estimates for the state’s largest sources of General Fund revenue—the “Big Three” taxes, including personal income, corporation, and sales and use taxes. Combined, these taxes generate more than 95% of the General Fund revenue available to support state programs, including public education.

The LAO’s updated forecast shows tax revenues trending mostly in line with Enacted Budget estimates, but the agency continues to caution that current trends could be significantly affected by a stock market correction, highlighting an apparent “speculative bubble” fueled by exuberance surrounding the artificial intelligence industry. In May, when the S&P 500 was about 300 points below its current level, the LAO warned that stock prices may be too high (see chart below). Since then, the index reached nearly 7,800 points earlier this month and now appears to be settling at just over 7,600 points.



Source: LAO, May 7, 2026

For fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27, the LAO now estimates that “Big Three” tax revenues will modestly exceed projections by a combined \$3.3 billion—\$2.1 billion and \$1.2 billion, respectively. For the impending budget year 2027-28; however, the LAO forecasts revenues \$5.2 billion below projections. Personal income and sales and use tax revenues are expected to fall nearly \$6.4 billion below June estimates, partially offset by \$1.2 billion in better-than-anticipated corporation tax revenue.

Finally, the LAO offers a broad range of possible outcomes for “Big Three” revenues over the three-year period. Unsurprisingly, personal income tax—the most volatile of the three taxes—presents the greatest uncertainty. In 2027-28, revenues could exceed estimates by \$15 billion or fall a whopping \$40 billion below estimates if the stock market reverses its current trend.

Note: SB 1067 (Weber Pierson), summarized above, has received final legislative approval and is now on its way to the Governor.

California Bill to Catch Math Struggles in Youngest Students Heads to Governor’s Desk

By John Fensterwald
EdSource
August 26, 2026

In a step toward giving math the attention early literacy has gotten, the Legislature on Monday approved a bill that would require schools to assess the math capabilities of all students in kindergarten through second grade each year, beginning in 2028-29.

The bill would also require districts to provide math support, such as additional coaching for elementary teachers or group tutoring for students, to help children avoid falling behind and head off potentially irreversible achievement gaps emerging by third grade.

The Assembly voted unanimously for Senate Bill 1067, which now heads to Gov. Gavin Newsom’s desk, despite opposition from the California Mathematics Council and school lobbies including the Association of California School Administrators and the California County Superintendents, along with the California Teachers Association.

In an Aug. 12 letter, the groups argued that requiring the assessments before the state has adequately invested in teacher training and extra help for students would be premature. “A mandated assessment is only as effective as the system that supports it,” they wrote.

But the bill’s author, Sen. Akilah Weber Pierson, D-San Diego, said California should not delay dealing with “a real and urgent math achievement crisis.”

“We also know that students who miss foundational math skills in grades K through 2 rarely catch up,” she said.

California fourth graders have scored lower than their peers in most states on a national test. On California’s 2025 state tests, only 37% of students were proficient in math, compared with 49% on the language arts test. The disparities among students are wide, with 26% of low-income students and 20% of Black students scoring proficient.

“Our state has not focused on math achievement,” said Marshall Tuck, CEO of the nonprofit advocacy group EdVoice, one of the bill’s sponsors. “The bill’s passage is a strong recognition by the Legislature that we must focus on students early with more support.”

Newsom has not indicated whether he will sign the bill. Tuck said the State Board of Education and administration advisers offered suggestions that were incorporated into a major revision of the bill.

All screeners are not alike

The new math assessment would come three years after Newsom pushed for an early literacy screener, which went into effect in 2025. But the early literacy screener and AB 1067 version are different. In fact, SB 1067 does not use the word “screener.” Weber and the sponsors swapped all references to “diagnostic assessment” to distinguish them.

The literacy screener is designed to identify students with potential reading difficulties, including dyslexia. The math counterpart, dyscalculia, is less prevalent and more difficult to diagnose. The diagnostic assessment’s purpose is “to assess pupils’ mathematics knowledge and learning needs and identify pupils in need of additional support,” not to diagnose a disability, SB 1067 states.

Under the bill, the State Board of Education would establish criteria and guidelines for the assessments by July 31, 2027, and the Department of Education would publish a list of approved assessments by Jan. 31, 2028, for districts to choose from and use the following school year. Opponents have objected that the bill doesn’t spell out what the criteria will be. But many districts already use “formative” or diagnostic assessments to measure skills such as fluency, placeholder values and two-step problem-solving. As long as an assessment aligns with the California Math Framework and meets the criteria, a district can certify its own assessment, according to the bill. The assessments must be available in multiple languages.

The bill also seeks to prevent the assessments from being used to evaluate teachers, rate schools or identify students as gifted or having a disability. The assessment’s primary audience would be parents; they’d receive an explanation of the findings and support their child would receive. The bill does not call for reporting results to the state.

A funding imbalance

Over the past five years, when state funding through Proposition 98 was flush, Newsom and the Legislature appropriated \$1 billion to hire and train reading coaches in the state’s lowest-income schools as part of a broader effort to improve how TK-3 reading is taught.

Math has received far less attention. In 2023, the State Board adopted a new math framework that emphasizes engaging students in classroom activities to build an understanding of math concepts, but most teachers have not undergone intensive training to teach it well. A study included in the 2026 research project Getting Down to Facts found that only one-quarter of district leaders say the framework drives their math lessons, and 30% say it is not at all a factor.

The Legislature has appropriated \$100 million to develop a network of math trainers across all 58 counties. But Cole Sampson, the project director and assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction for the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, questions whether the state will commit to training teachers once the initial funding runs out. That’s one reason he continues to oppose the new assessment mandate while acknowledging the improvements made to SB 1067.

“We can’t just put something in place and say teachers will magically know how to do X without the proper training and support,” he said. “What supports can we start putting in place right now so that school districts are ready for it when it gets here?”

Advocates of an early diagnostic assessment point to Alabama, the first state to adopt an early math screening, in 2022. According to the latest results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress, in 2024, it was the only state in which math scores exceeded pre-Covid pandemic results.

“Alabama is getting the results they’re getting, I would argue, because they put a math coach on every K-5 campus,” Sampson said.

Tuck points out that districts do have immediate funding in the 2026-27 state budget. They could use their share of \$737 million, the last installment of the \$6.8 billion Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant, which is the state’s version of the federal Covid relief funding. There is also an unrestricted, multiyear, \$5 billion block grant — \$937 per student.

Two scholars, two views

Two authors of the math analysis for Getting Down to Facts, H. Alix Gallagher and Elizabeth Huffaker, disagree on the value of early-grade math screening.

Gallagher, director of educational policy and outcomes for the research center Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE), said the 40% student math proficiency rate underscores the need to integrate professional learning into elementary teachers’ workweek and “make major changes in teacher preparation as well.”

Few California elementary schools provide the intensive support for students struggling with math that they have created for literacy, and those schools that already administer diagnostic assessments, like iReady or STAR, “don’t seem to use these data effectively” to monitor overall instruction, she said.

An additional screening measure — “especially if it isn’t valid” — probably won’t help and “could actually do harm,” she said.

But Huffaker, the lead author of the math study and an assistant professor of educational leadership and policy at the University of Florida, said that a diagnostic test for young students “is a good idea.”

Supports like high-impact tutoring to develop foundational numeracy skills in K-2 are important, she said, and “the universality helps ensure no students fall through the cracks.”

While acknowledging adding further to the testing burden “is always a concern,” she said that, subject to the state’s adoption list, a new screener may not add a new test for schools that already administer them.

Compared with Alabama’s more prescriptive and better-funded approach, Huffaker said, California districts “will have more flexibility in implementing and responding to the screener but also less capacity support from the state.”

Note: Proposition 40 (2026) would impose a one-time 5% tax on the net worth of California billionaires who were state residents on January 1, 2026, with 90% of the revenue dedicated to health care and the remainder primarily for education and food assistance.

Billionaire-Backed Group Kicks Off Ad Blitz Against Prop. 40 Wealth Tax

By Ben Paviour
The Sacramento Bee
August 25, 2026

Opponents of a proposed California billionaire tax launched their first statewide TV ad on Tuesday warning of dire consequences if voters pass Proposition 40.

Funded in part by billionaires who could be subject to the one-time, 5% tax, the ad touts three prominent politicians who've come out against the proposal: Gov. Gavin Newsom and the two men running to replace him, Democrat Xavier Becerra and Republican Steve Hilton. It also ticks off a number of other prominent critics, which include Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, California School Boards Association and California Professional Firefighters.

The ad cites a Hoover Institute study that found the tax could cost the state \$25 billion in lost revenue, "forcing deep cuts to hospitals, schools, and first responders."

The ad kicks off an ad blitz that will continue through election day.

The group sponsoring the ad, No on Prop 40, is heavily funded by Building a Better California. Google co-founder Sergey Brin, whom Forbes ranks as the world's 4th wealthiest person, has given \$100 million into that group, including \$20 million last month. Several other wealthy tech investors and entrepreneurs have also contributed to the group this month; entrepreneur Chris Larsen added \$10 million, venture capitalist L. John Doerr contributed \$7.5 million, entrepreneur John Hering gave nearly \$1 million and venture capitalist Neil Mehta cut a check for \$250,000.

The New York Times reported last month that Building a Better California has reserved \$87 million for statewide TV commercials.

The ads' claims of calamity are certain to be contested by the union backing the tax, SEIU United Healthworkers West. The union argues that the tax revenue is needed to save California's healthcare system from steep cuts caused by H.R. 1, a Republican megabill passed last year that paired tax cuts with far-reaching changes to Medicaid.

The two sides have cited radically different studies from academics on the economic impacts of the tax; the proposal's backers say it will bring in \$100 billion to state coffers with minimal longterm impacts.

The ad's argument that the tax will force "deep cuts" to state services is also up for debate. To back up that claim, the ad cites research from the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office. But that analysis is slightly more measured than the ad suggests. It says that if Prop. 40 passes, an unknown number of billionaires could leave the state, taking hundreds of millions of dollars or more in annual tax revenue with them.

“This would mean less money for the state’s general budget that supports education, healthcare, prisons and other services,” the report says.

A poll released earlier this month by UC Berkeley’s Institute of Governmental Studies found 48% of likely voters say they support Prop. 40 compared to 41% who say they plan to vote against it.

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Patrick Jensen

Date: September 04, 2026

Phone Number: (559) 457-6226

Regarding: Meritorious Budget Award

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with information regarding the district's receipt of the Meritorious Budget Award for the 2026/27 Adopted Budget.

Fresno Unified has been awarded the prestigious Meritorious Budget Award (MBA) for the fourth consecutive year for the Adopted Budget 2026/27 from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO). This national recognition celebrates the district's commitment to clear, transparent, and high-quality budget presentation, reinforcing its dedication to responsible financial stewardship. ASBO International's Meritorious Budget Award program sets the standard for excellence in school budget development and communication. Designed to help school business professionals enhance their financial planning skills, the program ensures that district budgets are not only comprehensive but also accessible and informative for stakeholders.

To achieve this distinction, school districts submit their budget documents for a rigorous peer review process conducted by experienced school finance professionals. Each submission is carefully evaluated against ASBO International's MBA Criteria Checklist, and districts receive valuable feedback to refine and strengthen their budget presentations. "An effective school budget is more than just numbers—it's a vital tool for building trust and engaging the community," said Jim Rowan, CAE, SFO, Executive Director of ASBO International. "The Meritorious Budget Award recognizes districts like Fresno Unified School District that prioritize financial clarity and accountability. We commend their dedication to upholding nationally recognized budget presentation standards."

School districts that meet the program's high standards receive the Meritorious Budget Award distinction, showcasing their leadership in financial transparency and best practices.

If you have any questions about the information included in this communication, or need further information, please contact Patrick Jensen, (559) 457-6226. Thank you.

Cabinet Approval:



Name and Title: Patrick Jensen, Chief Financial Officer

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education

Date: September 04, 2026

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

Phone Number: (559) 457-3750

Regarding: Promoting Equity and Quality in Early Care and Education Agreement

The purpose of this communication is to inform the Board of the reasons why the Promoting Equity and Quality in Early Care and Education agreement is presented for ratification.

Promoting Equity and Quality (PEQ) in Early Care and Education is a framework supported by the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools that advances the Early Stars initiative by improving the quality and accessibility of early childhood education and strengthening workforce support for children from birth to age five.

The 2026/27 agreement requires ratification because it was received from the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools Early Care and Education Department after the contract's effective date. The agreement was received on July 23, 2026, which prevented it from being presented at earlier Board meetings. Consistent with the internal backward-mapping schedule, the agreement was subsequently placed on the agenda for the next available Board meeting.

The grant award is \$20,000 for the period of July 01, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

If you have any questions about the information included in this communication or need further information, please contact Maria Ceballos Tapia at (559) 457-3623. Thank you.

Cabinet Approval: 
Carlos Castillo (Sep 3, 2026 09:57:43 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
Prepared by: Rachael Maciel, Executive Officer

Date: September 04, 2026
Phone Number: (559) 253-5384

Regarding: Inter-Jurisdictional Exchange Agreement between Fresno Unified School District and State Center Community College District

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with information regarding the ratification of the Inter-Jurisdictional Exchange Agreement between Fresno Unified School District and State Center Community College District (SCCCD) for the reimbursement of salary and benefits associated with Pang Vangyi's assignment as Director of the State Center Adult Education Consortium.

This contract is presented to the Board for ratification. The agreement became effective on July 01, 2026, and was received from SCCC on July 30, 2026. Due to the hiring process, determination of salary and benefit costs, and the required review and routing process between both agencies, the agreement was not finalized in time for Board consideration prior to its effective date. Therefore, 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 Rachael Maciel at (559) 253-5384. Thank you.

Cabinet Approval: Signature 

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