BOARD COMMUNICATIONS - OCTOBER 09, 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: October 09, 2026

Phone Number: (559) 457-3884

Regarding: Superintendent Calendar Highlights

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

- Attended the Wallace Equity Centered Pipeline Peer Learning Community Meeting in Philadelphia
- Made four classroom visits at Gaston Middle School
- Gave interview with ABC30, KSEE24/CBS47 and GVWire regarding process for potential closure of schools
- Met with California Urban Superintendents to discuss budget and policy priorities
- Attended the Central Valley Community Foundation 60th Anniversary Celebration

If you have any questions about the information in this communication, or require further information, please contact me 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: Debra Hawkins, Campus Culture Manager

Date: October 09, 2026
Phone Number: (559) 457-3674

Regarding: Revision to Graduation Schedule

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with a graduation schedule change. Due to facility availability constraints at Fresno City College, the graduation date for Design Science Middle College High School has been changed to Tuesday, May 25, 2026.

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

Cabinet Approval: 

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

2027 High School Graduations

Day	Date	Grad Time	Practice	School	Location
Tuesday	May 25	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	*Practice Only*	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	*Graduation Day*	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: October 09, 2026

Phone Number: (559) 457-3907

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for October 02, 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 October 02, 2026, include the articles as follows:

- A Tale of Two Economies: Growth Persists as Risks Mount – October 01, 2026
- Schools Were Confused About K-12 Arts Funding. A New Law Adds Clarity – September 30, 2026
- Becerra, Hilton Spar Over California's Failing School Results, Vaccine Mandates in CNN debate – October 01, 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.

Cabinet Approval: 

Name and Title: Patrick Jensen, Chief Financial Officer

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DATE: October 2, 2026

TO: Misty Her
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

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

Governor Newsom Takes Final Bill Actions

Governor Gavin Newsom took his final actions on bills this past Wednesday, September 30, 2026. Overall, the Legislature sent the Governor 1,160 bills in 2026, the third-most during Newsom's eight-year tenure as California's chief executive. Of those measures, the Governor signed 1,040 into law and vetoed 120, for a veto rate of 10.3%.

Among the noteworthy education measures we highlighted at the conclusion of the legislative session, the Governor signed the following into law:

- Assembly Bill (AB) 1381 (Muratsuchi, Statutes of 2026) strengthens employment-history disclosure and inquiry requirements for certificated and classified school employees and establishes consequences for noncompliance.

- AB 1590 (Ransom, Statutes of 2026) requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to revise the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant allocation formula, beginning no later than 2027-28, to ensure all appropriated funds are allocated to eligible applicants.

- AB 1763 (Lee, Statutes of 2026) requires schools to excuse pupils for religious holidays or ceremonies without requiring a written parental request and principal approval.

- AB 1871 (Fong, Statutes of 2026) streamlines participation in College and Career Access Pathways partnerships by eliminating certain application and principal-recommendation requirements and the 4-course-per-term limit while retaining the 15-unit cap.

- AB 2017 (Haney, Statutes of 2026) adds Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha as state holidays and authorizes public schools and community colleges to close on those days, subject to applicable local procedures and collective bargaining requirements.

- AB 2225 (Patel, Statutes of 2026) requires the Education Commissioner, by October 1, 2028, to report on the state's progress toward streamlining California's education governance structure and identify opportunities to eliminate fragmented or duplicative requirements.

- AB 2241 (Boerner, Statutes of 2026) requires the CDE to maintain an online resource identifying best practices for designing inclusive playgrounds for individuals with and without disabilities.

- AB 2440 (Muratsuchi, Statutes of 2026) clarifies Proposition 28 requirements, including how local educational agencies (LEAs) may pool funding among school sites and demonstrate compliance with the supplement-not-supplant requirement, and revises related reporting and auditing requirements.

- AB 2468 (Patel, Statutes of 2026) establishes the Supporting Inclusive Practices Project in statute, with the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence responsible for statewide universal support and the CDE responsible for targeted assistance to LEAs and charter schools.

- AB 2490 (Valencia, Statutes of 2026) creates an alternative pathway to qualify for an Emergency Career Substitute Teaching Permit based on professional development, orientation, and mentoring and allows qualifying permit holders to serve up to 70 cumulative days in a single classroom assignment.

- AB 2496 (Solache, Statutes of 2026) requires the CDE to examine duplication between the School Accountability Report Card and other publicly available data and eliminates the February 28 deadline for the annual Local Control and Accountability Plan update and Local Control Funding Formula Budget Overview.

- AB 2555 (Patel, Statutes of 2026) substantially revises English learner reclassification, including reclassification based on state-established assessment scores beginning July 1, 2027, an alternative pathway for certain English learners with Individualized Education Programs beginning July 1, 2028, and four years of monitoring following reclassification.

- Senate Bill (SB) 133 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Statutes of 2026) makes numerous changes implementing and clarifying the 2026-27 State Budget, including provisions related to universal prekindergarten, community schools, school nutrition, dual enrollment, educator workforce programs, differentiated assistance, and literacy.

- SB 685 (Cortese, Statutes of 2026) eliminates the requirement that certified nonpublic schools and agencies (NPS/As) be nonsectarian while prohibiting public funds from being used for religious instruction and strengthens NPS/A certification, credentialing, background check, reporting, monitoring, and enforcement requirements.

- SB 1067 (Weber Pierson, Statutes of 2026) establishes a statewide K-2 mathematics diagnostic assessment framework and, beginning in 2028-29, requires LEAs to annually administer a state-approved assessment to identify pupils' mathematics knowledge and learning needs.

- SB 1083 (Pérez, Statutes of 2026) strengthens employment-history disclosure, misconduct reporting, and background check requirements for school employees and contractors who have contact with pupils.

Budget bills and urgency measures generally take effect immediately upon signature, while most other measures take effect January 1, 2027, unless a different effective or operative date is specified.

The Governor also vetoed three noteworthy education measures highlighted at the conclusion of the legislative session:

- AB 917 (Ávila Farías, D-Concord) would have generally standardized permanent-status requirements for certificated employees in small school districts and county offices of education and allowed certain regional occupational center or program (ROC/P) service to count toward permanent status.
    - Governor Newsom cited concerns that the measure would reduce flexibility for small districts and ROC/Ps, including their ability to respond to changing student and regional workforce needs.
- AB 2142 (Garcia, D-Rancho Cucamonga) would have created a rebuttable presumption requiring school and community college districts to convert certain short-term employee positions into classified service positions.
    - Governor Newsom cited implementation challenges associated with the bill's thresholds and legal standards, as well as additional cost pressures that he said should be considered through the annual State Budget process.
- AB 2526 (Muratsuchi, D-Torrance) would have expanded, contingent upon additional state funding, eligibility for special education low-incidence funding to include pupils eligible to take California's alternate assessments.
    - Governor Newsom said using an Individualized Education Program team determination for funding eligibility would be an imprecise measure of student needs and could create inappropriate fiscal incentives or dilute funding for currently eligible students. He called for a funding mechanism more directly tied to demonstrated service needs and costs.

Leilani Aguinaldo

A Tale of Two Economies: Growth Persists as Risks Mount

By Patti F. Herrera, EdD, and Wendi McCaskill, EdD
School Services of California's *Fiscal Report*
October 1, 2026

Just before UCLA Anderson Forecast (Forecast) Faculty Director Sebastian Edwards opened the fall 2026 conference with the latest projections for the U.S. and California economies, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released revised national gross domestic product (GDP) figures for the first half of 2026.

According to the BEA revisions, U.S. economic output grew more strongly than previously estimated. First quarter annual GDP was revised upward by 0.4 percentage points, from 2.1% to 2.5%. Second quarter estimates were revised more sharply, by 0.7 percentage points, from 1.5% to 2.2%. As a measure of economic health, UCLA Economist Clement Bohr noted that the U.S. economy remains strong amid geopolitical volatility and a speculative artificial intelligence (AI) environment, which underpins current trends.

National Forecast—Is the Economy Getting Out of Control?

Entitled "Is the Economy Getting Out of Control?," Bohr began his overview of the U.S. forecast with four factors that have gained recent attention: (a) inflation, namely energy prices; (b) long-term U.S. Treasury rates; (c) AI's increasing share of GDP; and (d) mixed labor market signals.

Inflation. The Forecast's summary of current inflationary trends attributes the rise in prices predominantly to the sustained spread of geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. The shock to the world's oil supply that the U.S. war with Iran created was exacerbated by Ukraine's campaign against Russian refineries, which produce a significant share of global diesel upon which logistics, agriculture, and industrial production rely. While the rise in prices was once impacted by the Trump Administration's tariff regime, the Forecast notes that they are no longer driving prices upward since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the broadly applied tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

The Forecast expects moderate inflation in the long term; however, given the dim prospects of resolving the current geopolitical tensions constraining oil supplies, UCLA economists predict a shorter-term surge in headline and core inflation through mid-2027 before abating toward the Federal Reserve's 2.0% target.

U.S. Treasury Interest Rates. Growing concerns among investors about sustained inflationary pressures, global geopolitical hazards, and the weakening fiscal health of many developed countries, including the U.S., are directly impacting interest rates on long-term treasurys. Long-term U.S. interest rates have risen sharply in recent months, with the ten-year Treasury yield climbing from 3.97% in late February to above 5.0% in September. While private long-term debt issuance among AI companies also contributes to the rise in rates, UCLA economists explain that the aggregate value of AI long-term private debt ($303 billion) is dwarfed by government debt, highlighting that outstanding U.S. Treasury debt measured $31.8 trillion in August. Investor demands for higher yields on long-term Treasury are expected to keep interest rates between 4.5% and 5.0% through 2028.

AI and GDP. As noted earlier, national economic output remains robust despite headwinds from deportations, import duties, and rising oil prices that, under most conditions, would have stifled growth. UCLA economists explain that AI is driving this trajectory. First, as previously reported, capital outlay from

AI "hyperscalers" to build data centers is expected to reach over $1 trillion in 2027. AI companies have leveraged their entire operating cash flow to support these investments, with aggregate spending among them expected to exceed cash flow this year. Exuberance over AI's promise is also driving up consumption, as investors see their wealth rise. UCLA economists measure the impact of this wealth effect on consumption to be 0.5 percentage points of GDP over the last few years. The aggregate effect of AI capital expenditures and AI wealth boost, UCLA economists highlight that AI drives nearly half of core GDP.

Labor Market. The labor market remains stable with slow growth but is sending mixed signals. The U.S. unemployment rate of 4.1% in August trends with historical standards, signaling a fully employed labor force. UCLA economists highlight that the modest decline in unemployment is due to labor force participation (age eligible workers leaving the labor market) contracting faster than unemployment. The Forecast projects a stable labor market with monthly payroll growth of zero to 50,000 and an unemployment rate near 4.2% through the forecast period.

California Forecast—Growing, Fast and Slow

The mixed-signal nature of the national economy also applies to the California economy, as UCLA Economist Thomas Ash noted in his presentation entitled, "Growing, Fast and Slow." California economic output continues to outpace the U.S. In the first quarter of 2026, California GDP reached 3.7%, well above the national rate of 2.1% (note: the BEA revised this figure to 2.5%). When compared to other states, including New York and Massachusetts, which, like the Golden State, benefit from venture capital investments, California continues to outproduce on a per capita basis.

Conversely, California's labor market signals weakening below headline numbers. California's labor force declined 1.8% over the last year, compared with 0.57% nationally. The state's unemployment rate remained about one percentage point above the U.S. rate, reflecting weakness in sectors disproportionately important to California, including technology and entertainment. While recent payroll growth has been concentrated primarily in health care and social services, education, and retail, UCLA economists predict weakening in these sectors due to government budget constraints, reductions in federal health care support, and immigration-related workforce disruptions. Thus, for labor market trends to change, California will need a rebound in durable-goods manufacturing and technology.

Similarly, California's housing market remains unaffordable without clear signals of a turnaround. The Forecast highlights three headwinds for housing in the state: the availability of construction workers due to deportations, inflation and interest rates making the dream of home ownership out of reach for many, and sustained tariff policies that are driving up the cost of construction.

Against this backdrop, UCLA economists provide a dimmer forecast than June, but only modestly. They anticipate that geopolitical tensions will subdue the state's economy for the remainder of 2026 before it recovers in early 2027 and accelerates in both 2027 and 2028.

Note: AB 2440 (Muratsuchi, Statutes of 2026) looks to provide greater clarity for schools implementing Proposition 28 by specifying how arts funds may be pooled, how baseline arts spending is calculated for supplement-not-supplant purposes, and what instruction qualifies as arts education.

Schools Were Confused About K-12 Arts Funding. A New Law Adds Clarity

By Carolyn Jones
CalMatters
September 30, 2026

Schools seeking to spend their windfall of Proposition 28 arts education money will have more clarity and guidelines under a law Gov. Gavin Newsom signed over the weekend.

The new law, Assembly Bill 2440 by Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, a Democrat from Torrance, is intended to clear some confusion as schools tried to implement Prop. 28. The 2022 measure provides about $1 billion a year to California's public K-12 schools for visual art, music, dance, theater and other arts.

Although schools welcomed the extra funding, some returned their money to the state because they weren't sure how to spend it and feared getting sued. Austin Beutner, a former superintendent of Los Angeles Unified who authored Prop. 28, sued his former district last year over allegations it cut existing arts programs and backfilled the cuts with money generated by the proposition — something not permitted in the law. That case is pending in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Under Prop. 28, schools must use their money to supplement, not replace, existing arts funding. But some schools weren't sure if that applied to existing arts grants from other sources, such as donations from band boosters. Smaller schools were also in a bind because their proposition allotment wasn't enough to hire a full-time teacher, and they weren't sure if they could pool funds with a neighboring school to share an arts teacher.

In some cases, schools were confused about what constitutes an arts class. For example, some wondered if a physical education class that includes dance could count as an arts class.

The new law clarifies these and several other points of confusion: It's OK for schools to pool their resources, as long as it's proportional; one-time arts grant money from other sources does count toward a school's baseline arts spending; and arts instruction must align with the state's arts education framework (so no, in most cases P.E. is not an arts class).

Over the summer Beutner came out against the bill, saying it would give schools too much latitude and essentially gut the intention of the measure. After lawmakers made some minor changes he switched his position and the bill passed unanimously.

Advocates of Prop. 28 has a multitude of benefits. Students involved in the arts are more likely to attend school, less likely to be disciplined and more likely to graduate, according to the National Endowment for the Arts. High-quality arts education will also provide students with job skills in California's creative economy — film, television, music, design and other industries, they say.

The arts play a significant role in California's economy, according to Create for California, a nonprofit advocacy group, making up nearly 10% of the state's economic output and employing over 1 million people.

"An arts class can give a child something to look forward to at school and a place where they feel they belong," said Veronica Alvarez, executive director of Create CA, an arts advocacy group that supported the bill. "They learn critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity in practice, skills they'll carry into their lives and the jobs of today and tomorrow."

Note: Education emerged as a key dividing issue in California's gubernatorial debate, with Xavier Becerra and Steve Hilton offering sharply different approaches to school governance, parental authority, curriculum, and the role of state government in K-12 education.

Becerra, Hilton Spar Over California's Failing School Results, Vaccine Mandates in CNN debate

By Diana Lambert
EdSource
October 1, 2026

Democrat Xavier Becerra and Republican Steve Hilton agree that the state's education system is falling short, but the candidates for California governor offered sharply different explanations for why and what they would do about it during a one-hour debate hosted by CNN Wednesday night.

In 2025, about half of the state's students were deemed proficient or advanced in English, while 37% were proficient or advanced in math, according to Smarter Balanced test results.

"It's a catastrophe for our young people," said Hilton, who blamed the poor academic outcomes on 16 years of Democratic oversight.

"California's education system spends nearly the highest amount in the entire country for some of the worst results," Hilton said. "We need reform and change. We need to make sure that every student reads by third grade. We need to use phonics in our school system to teach kids to read."

Becerra blamed the poor academic outcomes on a badly coordinated education system with too much regulation. He said students should not be promoted to the next grade unless they are working at grade level, more tutoring should be provided and the state's youngest children must be prepared to begin school.

Hilton, 47, a former strategist for British Prime Minister David Cameron and former Fox News host, is running against Becerra, 68, the former U.S. secretary of Health and Human Services under President Joe Biden and former California attorney general in the Nov. 3 election.

Becerra blasts Hilton's plans

During the debate, Becerra lambasted Hilton over his proposals to eliminate community schools and create a savings account program similar to school vouchers that would allow parents to use taxpayer dollars to send their children to schools of their choice.

"I'll make sure that every public dollar, taxpayer dollar that we put in our schools — and nine out of 10 kids in California go to public schools — that those dollars, taxpayer dollars, stay in our public schools," Becerra

said. "Steve Hilton wants to send those public taxpayer dollars to private for-profit schools. Not on my watch."

Community schools are K-12 public campuses transformed into educational and social service hubs that partner with local organizations to support students and their families.

Becerra also criticized Hilton's plan to cut taxes, which he said would take money from education. The proposal calls for eliminating the state income tax on the first $150,000 of income, with income above that taxed at 8%.

"He wants to give the richest Californians, millionaires and billionaires, a 40% tax cut, which means, of course, he'll take it out of our schools, he'll take it out of healthcare, he'll take it out of housing and make the conditions even worse," Becerra said.

Candidates clash over teachers

The strongest words from the candidates were reserved for California teachers. Becerra, who is endorsed by the California Teachers Association, said they are underpaid, while Hilton argued they should be held accountable for student outcomes.

"None of that will happen because he is sponsored by the teacher unions that have been such a big part of the problem in California," Hilton said.

Becerra pushed back, accusing Hilton of attacking teachers.

""I believe that the people who are supposed to train our kids should be treated like professionals," Becerra said. "They are underpaid compared to professionals with similar education levels. He attacks them. He says they're doing the wrong thing for our kids."

Differing opinions on vaccine mandates

Interviewer Dana Bash asked Hilton about a recent statement indicating he is opposed to vaccination mandates.

Hilton said he is pro-vaccine and would not be able to overturn California's school vaccine mandates, although he doesn't necessarily support them.

"The evidence shows as the current head of NIH (National Institutes of Health) has made clear, when you look at the data around the world, the places where the requirements, the mandates are lower, are the places where you actually have higher compliance, where parents don't feel that they're being bullied into doing something that they don't want to do," Hilton said. "And that's what I want to see here."

Becerra stood firmly behind the mandates, saying that measles, which was declared eradicated in 2000, has now made a comeback because of vaccine hesitancy.

"Today, the spread of measles has reached a proportion we haven't seen since the 1960s, I believe," Becerra said. "That's what happens when vaccine deniers take over. And this is what'll happen in California if you let someone who is willing to promote that type of attitude become governor of the state of California. We can't reward those who are willing to let families die. We know vaccines work."

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

From: Office of the Superintendent — Date: October 09, 2026
To: Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Andrew Scherrer, Assistant Superintendent — Phone Number: (559) 457-3530

Regarding: Recommendation for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Waiver

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with an explanation for the recommendation of a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Waiver on the October 14, 2026, Board Meeting Agenda for Myra Stephanie Rubio. The waiver was created in response to the need to fill hard-to-fill positions, such as Deaf and Hard of Hearing, that is not covered by emergency permits. Fresno Unified is actively recruiting fully credentialed candidates to fill vacant Special Education positions.

Requirements for Issuance (Education Code 44225)

Initial issuance requirements:

- Evidence that the employer attempted to recruit a credentialed teacher
- Verification that the candidate has been admitted into the credential program
- Candidate affirms that the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) exam will be completed to meet credential requirements

Myra Stephanie Rubio holds a master's degree in Deaf Education. This is a one-year subsequent academic waiver for the 2026/27 school year. The employee is working toward passing the RICA exam, which requires special accommodation due to her disability (Deaf/hard of hearing). Completion is expected in June 2027.

If you have any questions about the information in this communication, or require further information, please contact Andrew Scherrer at (559) 457-3530.

Cabinet Approval: 

Name and Title: David Chavez, Chief Human Resources/Labor Relations Officer

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

From the Office of the Superintendent — Date: October 09, 2026
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Jeremy Ward, Assistant Superintendent — Phone Number: (559) 248-7465

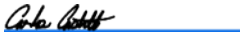
Regarding: Ratify Agreement with Fresno County Superintendent of Schools - Golden State Pathway Program

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information regarding the agreement with Fresno County Superintendent of Schools (FCSS) as the lead agency for a Golden State Pathways Program (GSPP) grant award that ends June 30, 2028. The agreement has been submitted as a ratification for the October 14, 2026, Board meeting. GSPP provides local educational agencies with the resources to promote pathways in high-wage, high-skills, high-growth areas, including technology, health care, education, and climate-related fields from high school to college and career.

The GSPP request for applications was released in January 2024, and awards were released in October 2024. FCSS is the lead agency and included Fresno Unified in its grant application to expand student internship opportunities and work-based learning experiences centered around the Education and Child Development industry sector and specifically named McLane and Roosevelt high schools in its application. FCSS staff contacted the Fresno Unified College and Career Readiness Department in July 2025 after receiving communication from the California Department of Education (CDE) about the grant award.

The individual from FCSS who wrote and submitted the grant had retired and a revised grant application and accompanying documents needed to be submitted and approved by CDE to accept the award. Central Unified School District was also named in the original grant application and chose to remove itself from the revised grant application. An updated GSPP plan and budget was submitted on May 07, 2026, to CDE and was approved in July 2026. FCSS created the agreement with Fresno Unified for GSPP funding and was received by Fresno Unified in August 2026.

If you have any questions about the information included in this communication or need further information, please contact Jeremy Ward at (559) 248-7465. Thank you.

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

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

From the Office of the Superintendent — Date: October 09, 2026
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Marie Williams, Ed.D., Associate Superintendent — Phone Number: (559) 457-3750

Regarding: California Assembly Bill 2555

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with updated English learner reclassification requirements under California Assembly Bill (AB) 2555, effective September 27, 2026.

AB 2555 aims to create a more consistent, equitable, and streamlined system for identifying when English learner students have attained English proficiency and are ready to be reclassified as Fluent English Proficient. AB 2555 establishes English language proficiency as the sole criterion for reclassification. Students must be reclassified upon achieving an overall Performance Level 4 on the Summative English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) or Level 3 on the Summative Alternate ELPAC. Teacher evaluation, parent consultation, and basic skills assessments are no longer additional conditions for reclassification.

Students qualifying through their 2025/26 assessment results will be reclassified and reported in California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System by January 31, 2027. Reclassified students must continue to be monitored for four years after they are reclassified to ensure they are making adequate progress.

District implementation of AB 2555 will require reviewing eligible students, updating policies and procedures, and communicating changes to staff and families. English Learner Services Department remains committed to maintaining strong partnerships with families throughout the English Learner journey. Information regarding AB2555 and its impact on English learner students was shared with parents during the District English Learner Advisory Committee meeting on September 24, 2026.

As implementation moves forward, English Learner Services will continue to ensure parents are informed of their child's English language development progress, assessment outcomes, and eligibility for reclassification.

If you have any questions about the information included in this communication or need further information, please contact Erica Piedra at (559) 457-3928. Thank you.

Cabinet Approver: 
Name and Title: Carlos Casitllo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer