BOARD COMMUNICATIONS - OCTOBER 16, 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 16, 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 keynote at the Fresno Unified Classified Conference
- Gave interview with Jessica Harrington, ABC30, regarding the Strategic Plan
- Met with Cabinet Teams
- Attended CART Board Meeting
- Gave interview with Alexan Balekian, KSEE 24, regarding the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)

If you have any questions about the information in this communication, or require further information, please contact me 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 — Date: October 16, 2026
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Kim Kelstrom, Chief Executive — Phone Number: (559) 457-3907

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for October 08, 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 08, 2026, includes the articles as follows:

- By the Way …CDE Releases Classified Employees Staffing Ratio Report – October 06, 2026
- Becerra Hasn't Made Education a Priority. California Education Leaders Aren't Worried – October 08, 2026
- Tax Increase or Tax Cut? What California's Prop. 3 May Mean for Education Funding – October 05, 2026

If you have any questions about the information included in this communication, or require additional 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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DATE: October 8, 2026

TO: Misty Her
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

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

With the Legislature not scheduled to return to Sacramento until Monday, December 7, 2026, and Governor Gavin Newsom having completed his final bill actions last week, it was a relatively quiet week in Sacramento.

In this week's update, we highlight a recent summit hosted by State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) Tony Thurmond on declining enrollment and its fiscal implications for California schools. We also preview an upcoming Assembly Education Committee informational hearing on K-12 mathematics education.

SSPI Convenes Summit on Declining Enrollment and School Funding

SSPI Tony Thurmond recently convened a statewide summit focused on declining enrollment and its fiscal implications for California schools. The October 1 summit, titled *From Managing Decline to Building a Sustainable Future for California Schools*, brought together education leaders and interest holders to examine demographic trends, funding challenges, and potential strategies to help local educational agencies (LEAs) adapt to declining enrollment.

A central focus of the summit was Thurmond's proposal to transition California from its current average daily attendance (ADA)-based school funding model to an enrollment-based model. Proponents argue that an enrollment-based approach could provide greater funding stability and predictability for LEAs, particularly by reducing the fiscal impact of student absences. Participants also discussed strategies to attract and retain students, strengthen student engagement, expand educational opportunities, and repurpose underutilized school facilities.

However, a January 2026 report from the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), the Legislature's nonpartisan fiscal and policy advisor, recommended maintaining the state's ADA-based funding model, estimating that a transition to enrollment-based funding would increase annual state education costs by approximately $6 billion. The LAO also cautioned that such a transition could

negatively affect student attendance over time by reducing the financial incentive for LEAs to prioritize attendance improvement efforts. While acknowledging that enrollment-based funding could provide greater predictability, the LAO recommended that the Legislature instead consider adjustments to the existing Local Control Funding Formula to provide additional resources to districts serving higher concentrations of students with greater needs.

Assembly Education Committee Mathematics Informational Hearing

The Assembly Education Committee, chaired by Assemblymember Darshana Patel (D-San Diego), will hold an informational hearing on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, titled *K-12 Math Education in California: Current Landscape and Future Opportunities*.

The hearing will examine the current state of mathematics education in California, recent challenges and investments, and strategies for improving student achievement. Scheduled presenters include representatives from the Public Policy Institute of California, Education Trust-West, Learning Policy Institute, California Mathematics Council, Policy Analysis for California Education, California Education Partners, and Education Commission for the States.

The hearing follows Governor Gavin Newsom's recent signing of Senate Bill (SB) 1067 (Weber Pierson, Statutes of 2026), which establishes annual mathematics screening requirements for students in kindergarten through second grade beginning in the 2028-29 school year, and requires additional support for students identified as experiencing mathematics difficulties. Although SB 1067 is not specifically identified on the hearing agenda, its implementation could arise during discussions about improving mathematics outcomes, while the hearing itself could help inform additional legislative proposals in 2027.

The hearing is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. in State Capitol Room 126. You can find the agenda and hearing materials here: 2026 Informational Hearings | California State Assembly.

Leilani Aguinaldo

By the Way . . . CDE Releases Classified Employee Staffing Ratio Report

By Teddi Wentworth and Kathleen Spencer
School Services of California's *Fiscal Report*
October 6, 2026

The California Department of Education (CDE) has released the Classified Employee Staffing Ratio Workgroup Legislative Report, which includes recommended staffing ratios for classified employees in California's TK-12 schools. Education Code Section 45118 required the CDE to convene the workgroup to develop staffing recommendations for TK-12 schools and community colleges across specific classified employee groups. For TK-12 local educational agencies (LEAs), the report recognizes that appropriate classified staffing levels depend heavily on local circumstances and should consider factors such as student enrollment, school and district size, job responsibilities, specialized student and program needs, facilities and environmental conditions, and applicable collective bargaining agreements.

The workgroup considered the following classified position groupings for their staffing ratio recommendations:

- Clerical and Administrative Services
- Custodial, Maintenance, and Grounds Services
- Food and Nutrition Services
- Health and Student Services
- Information Technology Services
- Library and Media Services
- Paraprofessional Services
- Student Safety and Security Services
- Translation and Interpretation Services
- Transportation Services
- Special Considerations, which is a grouping for positions only at the community college level

The report found that the needs of the community colleges and TK-12 school settings differ, and separate considerations are necessary to address the needs of each setting. The workgroup recommended further examination of classified staffing needs through a report focused specifically on California community colleges.

The ratios provided within the report are not mandates, but recommendations that an LEA may use if they see the need to develop staffing ratios within their local context.

Note: Democratic gubernatorial candidate Xavier Becerra has yet to release a comprehensive education plan, leaving uncertainty about how his administration would address the challenges facing California's public school students.

Becerra Hasn't Made Education a Priority. California Education Leaders Aren't Worried

By Diana Lambert
EdSource
October 8, 2026

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Xavier Becerra has not laid out a detailed plan for improving California schools, leaving education leaders to piece together what his administration might mean for the state's nearly 6 million public school students.

"He's a very thoughtful person," said Jack O'Connell, a former superintendent of public instruction who served in the state Assembly with Becerra in the early 1990s. "He's not going to make a flip comment just to get headlines for the day. I'm sure his proposals will be well thought out, based on research and data and study."

Becerra has said his cautious approach to campaigning comes from years of political experience.

"I can make some really big promises. But that doesn't get us anywhere — it may get us elected, but I would prefer not to run on inflated promises that I can't deliver on," Becerra told Politico in August.

His Republican opponent, Steve Hilton, in contrast, has disclosed a long list of significant changes he would like to make in California schools, if elected. He supports cellphone bans for young children, firing underperforming teachers and principals, giving parents school choice, halting funding for community schools and holding children back in the third grade until they can read at grade level.

Becerra has focused primarily on tuition-free community colleges, investing in early childhood education, protecting students in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and supporting teachers when he has talked about education during the campaign.

Continuity is a selling point

Becerra is well known in California political circles, having served as the state's deputy attorney general from 1987 to 1990, a member of the state Assembly from 1990 to 1992, a U.S. representative for California from 1993 to 2017 and state attorney general from 2017 to 2021. He was confirmed as U.S. secretary of Health and Human Services in 2021, a position he held until 2025.

Becerra's appeal to the political establishment in Sacramento, and voters, is that he will bring continuity and no big surprises, said Dan Schnur, a political analyst and strategist who served as press secretary for Gov. Pete Wilson.

"He and his team have correctly figured out that while Californians might want forward progress on any number of fronts, including education, they're willing to settle for the status quo if the alternative is a Trumpian candidate like Hilton," Schnur said.

Becerra is campaigning, in part, on a promise to fight back against Trump administration policies. He filed 122 lawsuits against the administration when he was California attorney general, including one that resulted in the Supreme Court overturning an attempt to rescind DACA.

Unlike Hilton, Becerra has not made himself available for many media interviews since the primary election in June, including one for this article.

"That innate caution is intensified by the fact that he's such a strong front-runner," Schnur said. "At this point, he's a quarterback with a three-touchdown lead late in the fourth quarter. He doesn't want to throw any interceptions, so he runs the ball."

Becerra has a large lead over Hilton, according to recent polls. A September poll by Berkeley IGS found that Becerra had the support of 58% of the state's likely voters, while Hilton had 33%.

Difficult education decisions await

Becerra will prioritize healthcare, housing, the economy, oversight of AI, clean energy, disaster preparedness, homelessness and fighting Donald Trump if elected governor, according to his campaign website.

But if he is elected, Becerra will also face decisions about school funding, college affordability and major changes in the California Department of Education. One of his first tasks is likely to be the appointment of an education commissioner who will oversee the CDE.

But state education leaders interviewed by EdSource say they're not concerned that Becerra does not seem to have a comprehensive plan for education.

"Education has not been his main focus in his previous jobs," said California State Board of Education President Linda Darling-Hammond, who said she has spoken to the candidate about the state's education landscape. "He does care a lot about kids and their learning. He really cares about early childhood. … I think he'll be looking at childcare and preschool in the years prior to TK, as well to try to give kids a really good start in other ways," she said.

Former State Board of Education President Michael Kirst calls Becerra's education policy "a work in progress and not far developed at this point."

"My impression is that he hasn't even focused deeply on the subject," Kirst said. "He will get through this time. I'm not criticizing it. He hasn't even been elected, so he's proceeding in his style, which is a deliberative style, talking with many people, thinking about it."

What does Becerra say about education?

Although Becerra hasn't revealed a comprehensive plan to improve education in the state, he has expressed his thoughts on some issues during interviews and on social media.

"If we want kids ready for college and careers, we can't wait until high school to start helping them succeed," Becerra posted on X in February. "That means investing in early childhood education, preparing kids before kindergarten and reducing class sizes, so every student gets the attention they deserve. The California Dream starts in the classroom."

In May, Becerra posted on X that "the community college system is the gateway to higher education. It is the way that so many people ultimately become the Ph.D.s, the M.D.s, the lawyers, the teachers. We should make sure community colleges are not exclusive."

Becerra also has expressed interest in the emerging high-tech economy and the need to prepare people for those jobs, Darling-Hammond said.

"I think he will be very supportive of the college and career pathways that are emerging in California that are really trying to enable young people to be in the STEM fields, the green technology fields," she said.

A California story

Becerra, a son of Mexican immigrants, often tells the story of his parents arriving in the U.S. with only $12 in their pockets. His father — a union man — and mother worked hard to ensure their children had an education. Becerra graduated with a law degree from Stanford in 1984.

Lupita Cortez Alcalá, executive director of the nonprofit Policy Analysis for California Education, said that Becerra's background and family struggles are familiar to many Californians. She heard him speak recently at a Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project event.

"He was the first in his family to attend college, and he's talked about Stanford opening his eyes to the real opportunity," Cortez Alcalá said. "Having that background and understanding about the importance of access to opportunity and how much it matters to students and their families, it resonates with me and my family and my experience."

Becerra backs teachers

Becerra defended teachers during a recent CNN debate, after Hilton argued they should be held accountable for student academic outcomes and condemned the California Teachers Association.

"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."

Although Becerra is endorsed by the CTA, the powerful teachers union may not hold much sway over him because they first chose to endorse former U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell and later recommended billionaire businessman Tom Steyer for the job, Kirst said.

Kirst said he can't remember a primary where the Democratic candidate who won did not have the support of the CTA.

"So, he's not as affiliated and therefore has, at least in my view, more running room to push back," Kirst said.

CTA President David Goldberg couldn't say why the union's 700 delegates didn't endorse Becerra initially.

"But he's our choice now," Goldberg said, adding that the gubernatorial field was replete with good candidates. "I can tell you that Xavier really resonated with our interview committee in a lot of deep and

meaningful ways. So I think it wasn't like we plugged our noses and did it. People had strong feelings about him as well."

The CTA had donated $39,200 to Becerra's campaign by Oct. 1. Some of the union's 300,000 members have also canvassed neighborhoods for Becerra's campaign. Goldberg indicated that the CTA political action committee could decide to invest more in the campaign if needed.

"Our initial thing is to get folks elected," Goldberg said. "That's our goal. He looks like he is well on his way to doing that."

Note: According to the LAO, Proposition 3 (2026) would preserve approximately $5 billion to $15 billion in annual state revenue generated by the income tax provisions established under Propositions 30 and 55, approximately 40% of which supports TK-14 education.

Tax Increase or Tax Cut?
What California's Prop. 3 May Mean for Education Funding

By Naomi Taxay
The Sacramento Bee
Updated October 5, 2026

Proposition 3 asks California voters whether to make permanent a temporary income tax on the state's highest earners to help fund education.

The tax was first approved by voters in 2012 and extended in 2016. But it is set to expire in 2031. It typically generates between $5 billion and $15 billion annually. Supporters say making the tax permanent would protect a critical source of funding for schools. Opponents say voters were promised a temporary tax and the state should let it expire.

The higher rates apply only to the top 2% of California taxpayers. According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, that affects single filers earning at least $361,000 and joint filers earning at least $721,000, though the thresholds increase annually with inflation.

California Teachers Association President David Goldberg said California's reliance on income taxes to fund public education makes school funding vulnerable to large swings from year to year. Making the higher tax on California's top earners permanent would provide more stability for schools, he said.

The revenue from the higher rates now form a core component of the state budget, according to the California Budget & Policy Center.

"There's a lesson we've learned by passing it — this will be the third iteration. The need to have it be permanent is made clear by the fiscal cliff that we face every time it gets close to sunsetting," Goldberg said.

David Kline with the California Taxpayers Association, which opposes Prop. 3, argued that making the tax permanent could actually contribute to instability in school funding. Because the state budget relies heavily on income taxes paid by high earners, Kline said California risks losing a significant source of revenue if those taxpayers choose to move elsewhere.

Pointing to other proposed taxes on high earners, including the billionaire tax, Kline said, "We have to be careful about killing the goose that lays the golden eggs."

The two sides fundamentally disagree on whether Prop. 3 represents another tax on wealthy Californians or simply a continuation of the status quo. Supporters say allowing the rates to expire would amount to a tax cut for the state's highest earners.

Kline said that if Californians want to keep education a top priority, lawmakers should reflect that in the existing state budget.

California is already constitutionally required to provide a minimum level of funding for public schools and community colleges, which often amounts to about 40% of the state's General Fund.

Because revenue from the higher income tax helps the state meet that requirement, allowing the tax to expire could force lawmakers to draw more heavily from other General Fund dollars, putting greater pressure on funding for services such as healthcare and housing.

For opponents, the debate also comes down to whether a tax originally presented to voters as temporary should become permanent. Kline said the fiscal emergency that prompted voters to approve the higher rates in 2012 has passed. He argued lawmakers should allow them to expire as promised.

Goldberg countered that voters have the opportunity to decide again whether the higher rates should continue. He said repeatedly approaching an expiration date creates too much uncertainty for school funding.

"It still does not give us anywhere near what students deserve or what educators and families and communities deserve," Goldberg said. "But at least we'll stabilize."

This story was originally published September 8, 2026 at 5:00 AM.

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 16, 2026

Phone Number: (559) 457-3907

Regarding: October Legislative Committee Meeting

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information shared at the October 08, 2026, Legislative Committee Meeting.

At the regular meeting of the Legislative Committee of the Fresno Unified School District the following were present: Board of Education Members Andy Levine, and Keshia Thomas; District Staff: Patrick Jensen, Chief Financial Officer; David Chavez, Chief Human Resources/Labor Relations; Kim Kelstrom, Chief Executive, Fiscal Services, Teresa Plascencia, Executive Director. Constituent Services and Leilani Aguinaldo, Director of Governmental Relations, attended remotely.

Budget and Economic Update – Ms. Aguinaldo provided an update on the State Budget.

The Department of Finance (DOF) projects General Fund revenues through August to be above projections by $1.5 billion. The DOF does mention cost pressures including due rising increases in energy, gasoline, and overall inflation.

The California Teachers Association (CTA) has filed a suit against the Department of Finance Director and California State Controller over the underfunding of Proposition 98. The state withheld $1.9 billion in 2024/25 and $3.9 billion in 2025/26 from Proposition 98, citing revenue volatility as justification. The lawsuit alleges Proposition 98 was deliberately under-appropriated and defeats the purpose of its intent. Subsequently, the California School Boards Association (CSBA) has announced that they will also be filing a separate lawsuit against the state's recent budget approaches to Proposition 98.

Effective January 01, 2027, California sales and use tax extends to certain digital products. The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration's (CDTFA) is currently working through the emergency regulation process to implement the new law. School districts are not exempt and anticipate increased costs beginning January 01, 2027.

Charter school oversight has changed with AB 126 and AB 2467 and includes the following: Annual site visits, verify compliance with all reports, monitoring enrollment and attendance, periodic checks of credit and debit card transactions, provide feedback of any fiscal concerns, annual financial review and oversight, attend at least one governing body meeting annually, if independent study increases by 10% then a review of sample agreements and work samples are required.

The 2026/27 enacted budget includes two new competitive grants. The California's New Americans in Schools provides one-time funds of $100 million to support immigrant student and families to improve educational outcomes and well-being. The Dream Resource Center Grant Program provides one-time funds of $75 million to support undocumented students and students from mixed-status families to establish a dream center or a site to support services such as academic counseling, financial aid navigation, and legal assistance.

Legislative Update – Ms. Aguinaldo reported the following:

The Governor has taken final action on 2026 bills on Wednesday, September 30, 2026.

The Governor signed the following legislation:

SB 1119 (Padilla) – Support – Established child-safety requirements for companion chatbots.

AB 1763 (Lee) – Watch – Includes observance of a holiday or ceremony of the pupil's religion as a type of required excused absence without the requirement that the absence be requested.

AB 1871 (Fong) – Watch – Revises College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) statute to make it easier for high school students to take community college courses.

AB 2017 (Haney) – Adds Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha as state holidays and authorizes public schools to close on those days, subject to applicable local procedures and collective bargaining requirements.

AB 2490 (Valencia) – Support – Reestablishes the 70-cumulative day authorization for substitute teachers (rather than 20 days in a special education assignment or 30 days in a general education assignment) if certain requirements are met.

AB 2496 (Solache) – Support – Requires the California Department of Education to report to the Legislature on duplication between information in the School Accountability Report Card and other publicly available data.

AB 2555 (Patel) – Watch – Makes changes to the system of reclassifying English learner students as English proficient commencing on July 01, 2027.

SB 1067 (Weber/Pierson) – Requires districts to annually administer a state-approved mathematics diagnostic assessment to pupils in kindergarten through second grade by 2028/29.

AB 1578 (Jackson) – Support – Adds anti-hate speech training to sexual harassment training that is required of all elected local officials.

AB 1803 (Lowenthal) – Support – Adds anti-hate speech training to sexual harassment training that employers are required to provide to their employees.

AB 1626 (Gabriel) – Support – Requires additional mental health training for school coaches.

AB 395 (Gabriel) – Support – Requires schools to consider scheduling the first day of school and graduation that does not conflict with ritual observance of a religious, cultural, or ancestral holiday.

AB 2242 (Davies) – Watch – Requires schools to display in at least one student men's restroom, one student women's restroom, and one student all-gender restroom a poster that contains specified information relating to sextortion.

The School Services Legislative Committee October 2026 report is attached. The next Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for November 05, 2026.

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

Cabinet Approval:

Name and Title: Patrick Jensen, Chief Financial Officer

Fresno Unified School District

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 8, 2026

2025-2026 Legislative Session

Prepared By:

Leilani Aguinaldo
Senior Director, Governmental Relations



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Legislative and Economic Update Prepared for:
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California Revenues Remain Above Forecast

By: Wendi McCaskill, EdD and Michelle McKay Underwood September 23, 2026

The Department of Finance (DOF) released its September *Finance Bulletin* (Bulletin), yesterday September 22, 2026, updating economic conditions and California General Fund revenues through August. U.S. headline inflation remained at 3.4% in August, unchanged from July but one-half percentage point above its August 2025 level. Core inflation (which excludes food and energy) continued to moderate, declining from 2.5% in July to 2.4% in August. Energy prices remain a significant source of inflationary pressure. Gasoline prices were 27.4% higher than a year earlier, accelerating from 24.6% in July.

The September Bulletin reports August General Fund cash receipts of $15.5 billion, $1.5 billion, or 10.9%, above the 2026 Budget Act forecast for August. Personal income tax receipts were $1.47 billion above forecast, while corporation tax receipts were $56 million above forecast, and sales and use tax receipts were $19 million above forecast. Looking more broadly, preliminary General Fund agency cash receipts since the April forecast are $2.4 billion above projections. However, the DOF notes that $828 million of the overage is attributable to cash collected during the 2025-26 fiscal year.

2026-27 Comparison of Actual and Forecast General Fund Revenues, August
(Dollars in millions)

Revenue Source	Forecast	Actual	Difference	Percent Difference
Personal Income Tax	$8,363	$9,836	$1,473	17.6%
Corporation Tax	$305	$362	$56	18.5%
Sales and Use Tax	$4,121	$4,140	$19	0.5%
"Big Three" Total	$12,789	$14,338	$1,548	12.1%

Source: California DOF, September 2026 Bulletin
Note: Slight differences may occur due to rounding

Labor market conditions improved in August, although California's labor force continued to contract. The unemployment rate held steady at 5.1%, while the labor force declined by 50,500 people. Civilian employment declined by 36,500 people, while the number of unemployed declined by 14,000. Despite the contraction in the labor force, California added 39,400 nonfarm payroll jobs. Private education and health services led the gains, adding 18,600 jobs, followed by government with 9,800 jobs and leisure and hospitality with 7,800 jobs.

National labor market conditions improved in August. The U.S. unemployment rate held steady at 4.1% while the labor force increased by 683,000 people. The nation added 162,000 nonfarm payroll jobs. The largest gains were seen in leisure and hospitality, government, education and health services, and construction.

Housing indicators also showed improvement. California's median sales price for an existing single-family home increased 1.6% from July to $901,420 and was 0.1% higher than a year earlier. Sales increased 2.4% from July and were 1.4% higher than in August 2025. Through July, total housing permits were 16.5% above the same period in 2025, reflecting a 41.6% increase in multifamily permits, partially offset by a 0.8% decline in single-family permits.

Overall, the September Bulletin continues to present a mixed picture. General Fund revenues remain above forecast, and both California and the nation added jobs in August. At the same time, California's labor force continued to contract, and inflation remains elevated, with higher gasoline prices contributing significantly to the increase in headline inflation since February. Revenue performance over the coming months, especially during the more significant tax collection periods, will provide a clearer indication of the state's fiscal position as the 2027-28 Governor's Budget approaches.

Proposition 98 Battle Escalates

By: Megan Baier and Patti F. Herrera EdD September 17, 2026

Alleging that the withholding of $5.8 billion in Proposition 98 funds for two consecutive years violates the state's constitution and contravenes the will of the voters when they passed the initiative to establish a guaranteed level of funding for public education in 1988, the California Teachers Association (CTA) filed suit against the Department of Finance Director Joe Stephenshaw and the California State Controller Malia Cohen.

At issue is that, as part of the State Budgets adopted by the Legislature and signed by Governor Gavin Newsom in fiscal years 2024-25 and 2025-26, the state knowingly appropriated less than its estimates of the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee by $1.9 billion and $3.9 billion, respectively, citing state revenue volatility as justification.

In the suit filed with the Alameda County Superior Court (Court) on September 15, 2026, the CTA is calling on the Court to:

- Require the state to fully appropriate the 2025-26 Proposition 98 minimum guarantee as required by the California Constitution
- Prohibit the state from withholding Proposition 98 funds in 2025-26 using the statutory "settle up" mechanism as its authority
- Prohibit the state from withholding Proposition 98 funds in *future* fiscal years using the statutory "settle up" mechanism as its authority
- Declare that the state violated the California Constitution when it withheld Proposition 98 funds in 2024-25 and 2025-26
- Declare that the California Proposition 98 certification statutes do not authorize the state to appropriate less funds to local public education agencies than the minimum funding level determined by the California Constitution

The CTA argues that Section 8's provision within Article XVI of the California Constitution requires that the annual State Budget adoption process "first be set apart the moneys to be applied by the State for the support of the public school system and public institutions of higher education," and when combined with the Education Code Section (EC §) 41202 relating to Proposition 98, requires the state to appropriate the full amount for public education to satisfy its Proposition 98 obligation. Moreover, the CTA highlights that EC § 41202 identifies that "an appropriation that is withheld, impounded, or made without provisions for its allocation to school districts or community college districts shall not be considered to be 'moneys applied by the State'" to meet the constitutional minimum funding level.

The lawsuit alleges that deliberately under-appropriating Proposition 98 defeats its purpose and intent, which is to insulate schools and students from the politics of annual budget making. Finally,

the CTA warns that, absent judicial intervention and "[if] the State can simply refuse to appropriate the minimum guarantee by any amount of its choosing, Proposition 98's minimum guarantee will be rendered meaningless."

Following the filing and announcement of the CTA lawsuit, the California School Boards Association (CSBA) issued a press release welcoming CTA's decision to challenge the two withholdings and also announced that it too will be filing a separate lawsuit against the state's recent budget approaches to Proposition 98 next week. In the press release, CSBA President Dr. Debra Schade stated that "[attempts] to normalize manipulations of Proposition 98 chip away at the security of our school funding model and diminish conditions for California students."

New Tax on Digital Products: Is Your LEA Prepared?

By: Matt Phillips, CPA, Megan Baier, Raphael Guzman, and Leilani Aguinaldo

September 15, 2026

As part of the 2026-27 State Budget, Senate Bill (SB) 122 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Statutes of 2026) expands California sales and use tax to certain digital products. This change, which goes into effect beginning January 1, 2027, will have a direct fiscal and operational impact on local educational agencies (LEAs), particularly those with significant software and subscription costs.

What Is Changing?

Effective January 1, 2027, prewritten computer software will generally be taxable regardless of how it is delivered. This includes software delivered on physical storage media, transferred electronically, or accessed remotely through a subscription, commonly referred to as Software as a Service (SaaS).

LEAs already pay sales tax when purchasing computers and other physical equipment. The significant change under SB 122 is that separately purchased software and cloud-based subscriptions may now also be taxable, even when the LEA does not receive a physical product.

The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration's (CDTFA) discussion paper and SB 122 **do not** identify a general exemption for school districts regarding this tax. Therefore, this change will have a financial impact on many products commonly used by LEAs, including financial and payroll systems, student information systems, productivity applications, cybersecurity software, and other subscription-based platforms.

The CDTFA is currently working through the emergency regulation process to implement the new law. On September 10, 2026, the CDTFA held an interested parties meeting to review the proposed regulations and receive feedback. Additional information and materials are provided below:

- The agenda and discussion points for the meeting held on September 10, 2026, are available here.
- The proposed regulations and supporting information are available in the CDTFA's Digital Products Interested Parties Meeting Discussion Paper
- SB 122

Important Definitions

The proposed regulations include several definitions that will be important for LEAs to understand and evaluate:

- **Tangible Personal Property:** Amended by SB 122, provides that the term "tangible personal property" means either of the following:

(1) Personal property that can be seen, weighed, measured, felt, touched, or is in any other manner perceptible to the senses

(2) A digital product and any copyright or patent interests associated therewith. (Revenue and Taxation Code [RTC] 6016)

- **Digital Product:** Prewritten computer software transferred on physical storage media, transferred electronically, or accessed remotely (RTC 6016.1)
- **Prewritten Computer Software:** Software that is held or existing for general or repeated sale or lease, even if the prewritten software was initially developed on a custom basis or for in-house use, including the combination of two or more prewritten programs (RTC 6010.9)
- **Accessed Remotely:** Accessed for consideration by use of a digital code, password, or other means prewritten computer software that resides on the vendor's server or the server of a third party
- **Tangible Storage Media:** Any tangible device or material capable of storing a digital product, including, but not limited to, any internal or external drive, disk, memory card, or other item capable of storing a digital product (RTC 6016.2)
- **Transferred Electronically:** Obtained by the purchaser, by means other than tangible storage media, in a manner that allows the purchaser to open, view, access, download, copy, possess, store, manipulate, update, or otherwise use the digital product (RTC 6016.2)
- **Custom Computer Software:** Software prepared to the special order of a single customer (RTC 6010.9)
- **SaaS:** Software as a Service

What Is Excluded or Exempt?

Not every digital purchase will be subject to tax. The discussion paper identifies several items that are excluded from the definition of a digital product, including:

- **A Digital Asset:** A digital representation of value that is recorded on a cryptographically secured distributed ledger or any similar technology, as specified by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States
- **A Digital Audio Work**: A work that results from the fixation of a series of musical, spoken, or other sounds, including a ringtone or music, that is transferred electronically or accessed remotely
- **A Digital Audiovisual Work:** A series of related images that when shown in succession impart an impression of motion, together with accompanying sounds, if any, that is transferred electronically or accessed remotely

- **A Digital Book:** A work that is generally recognized in the ordinary and usual sense as a book that is transferred electronically or accessed remotely

- **Digital Infrastructure:** A cloud-based service provided remotely that allows a user to create, deploy, scale, or run the user's own computer software on the service provider's digital platform without managing, operating, or maintaining the user's own infrastructure, including any hardware, software, networks, and facilities that are required to allow the user to create, deploy, scale, or run the user's own computer software, required to complete the task

- **A Digital Video Game Product:** An electronic, interactive game played for entertainment purposes by manipulating an input device to produce visual feedback on a screen that is transferred electronically or accessed remotely

- **A Digital Visual Work:** Artwork created by using computer hardware and software processes which results in artwork in a digital format that is transferred electronically or accessed remotely

The discussion paper also identifies exemptions for certain transactions such as:

- Digital products purchased solely for use outside California or in interstate or foreign commerce

- Reproduction for sales to third parties

- Service provided in electronic form/SaaS only if it meets both of the following conditions:

    - The service primarily involves the application of human effort by the service provider

    - The human effort originated after the customer requested the service

(This exemption does not apply when the customer is purchasing the right to use or access the provider's software)

The treatment of educational platforms will require careful review. Many platforms purchased by LEAs combine digital books, instructional videos, assessments, student tracking, and software functions into one agreement. While some components may be excluded, other components may be taxable.

Custom computer software, other than a basic operational program, is generally excluded from the definitions of a sale and purchase. The specific regulatory guidance, and interpretation of custom computer software, is still being developed by the CDTFA, and several examples are outlined in the discussion paper. Qualifying custom modifications to prewritten software may also be nontaxable when the charges for the modifications are separately stated. Therefore, how costs are identified in the contract and invoice may become increasingly important.

Who Is Responsible for the Tax?

According to the CDTFA's discussion paper, California sales tax is imposed on the retailer. The retailer may collect sales tax reimbursement from the purchaser when the contract provides for it. When sales tax does not apply, the purchaser is generally responsible for reporting and paying use tax on taxable purchases.

However, a retailer engaged in business in California that makes sales subject to California use tax is required to collect the use tax from its customers and remit it to the CDTFA. The discussion paper also provides that these retailers are liable for use tax they fail to collect and remit.

Accordingly, LEAs should not assume that the absence of tax on an invoice means the purchase is exempt. If the retailer does not collect applicable use tax, the LEA may still have a responsibility to report and pay it.

Separate rules apply when a purchaser obtains more than $5 million in electronically transferred or remotely accessed digital products from a single retailer. Once the threshold is exceeded, responsibility generally shifts to the purchaser to self-assess and pay the use tax directly to the CDTFA, unless the CDTFA approves a waiver.

What Can LEAs Do Now?

As LEAs prepare for implementation, they should:

- Identify any existing and upcoming software and subscription agreements and whether they will be subject to the new tax
- Review agreements that extend beyond January 1, 2027
- Review the Discussion Paper, including the examples provided pertaining to subscription or software purchase dates
- Determine whether agreements combine software with services or excluded digital content
- Ask vendors how sales or use tax will be addressed
- Ensure potentially taxable and nontaxable components are separately identified when appropriate
- Consider the potential additional cost when developing and updating budget projections when preparing the First Interim report, and future fiscal reports
- Contact the LEA legal team for technical questions or interpretations of the impacts of specific contract language

The regulations are not yet final, and the CDTFA acknowledges that not every question will be addressed through the initial emergency rulemaking process. Additional clarification is expected

through an ongoing industry guide and future rulemaking. However, it is important for LEAs to prepare and understand that:

- **LEAs are not provided a general exemption from this new tax.** In addition, Section 37 of SB 122 provides that **no state reimbursement** is required for LEAs pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution

- These taxes **will likely impact** LEAs' 2026-27 budgets and multiyear projections, as the new requirements take effect January 1, 2027

The CDTFA is currently moving through the interested parties and emergency rulemaking process. Written comments, suggestions, or proposed regulatory language from interested parties, including LEAs, are due to the CDTFA by September 24, 2026, and may be submitted to PPDD-BTC.InformationRequests@cdtfa.ca.gov

The CDTFA has acknowledged that the initial emergency regulations will not address every implementation question and plans to provide additional clarification through an ongoing industry guide and future rulemaking.

We will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available. However, LEAs should start planning now, as these changes will have a financial impact.

Charter Oversight Changes

By: Brianna García and Kathleen Spencer September 29, 2026

Assembly Bill (AB) 126 (Committee on Budget, Statutes of 2026) and AB 2467 (Committee on Education, Statutes of 2026) made a number of changes to statutory language that impacts all local educational agencies as well as others specific to charter schools. The intent of these changes is to provide greater transparency and accountability. This article is the first in a series and covers changes specific to charter oversight.

Monitoring Requirements—Since the inception of charter schools, chartering authorities have had five basic duties: 1) identification of a staff member as the charter school's contact person; 2) visiting each charter school at least annually; 3) ensuring the authorized charter school complies with reporting requirements; 4) monitoring the charter school's fiscal condition; and 5) providing notification to the California Department of Education of granting or denial of renewals, revocations, and closures.

Education Code Section (EC §) 47604.32 has been revised by AB 126 and AB 2467 as it pertains to three of these five duties, and an additional six duties have been added, though implementation is delayed for three of them. The revised duties that are currently in effect include:

1. The visitation requirement is no longer simply about the "charter school," but now states that each school site approved in the petition or material revision must be visited annually.

2. Instead of simply "ensuring" a charter school complies with all reports, the language has been changed so that chartering authorities must verify each charter school complies with all reports.

3. The monitoring of the fiscal condition has been expanded to include enrollment and attendance data, as well as periodic checks of credit and debit card transactions.

As to the new duties added with AB 126 and AB 2467, also currently in effect, chartering authorities must:

1. Provide feedback to the charter school's governing body on any concerns as it relates to the charter school's fiscal condition, as well as provide the governing body with an opportunity to respond. Further, if there is a suspicion of fraud, misappropriation of funds, embezzlement, or other financial crimes, then the chartering authority must notify the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the county superintendent of schools.

2. Conduct annual financial and compliance audit reviews and oversight pursuant to EC § 41020.

3. No later than July 1 of each year, identify any material concerns—meaning anything that could lead to a decision of non-renewal or revocation—based on its oversight and monitoring

responsibilities during the prior 12-month period and provide written and timely notification to the charter school governing body of identified concerns.

Note that all the above changes went into effect with the signing of the bills. Therefore, chartering authorities should ensure they are updating their policies and procedures to reflect these changes and incorporating them into their practices.

In addition to the changes in EC § 47604.32(a), EC § 47604.32(b) calls for the chartering authority to expand its oversight of a charter school's sites and governing body meetings. Beginning July 1, 2027, chartering authorities must:

1. Visit each approved and established resource center, meeting space, and satellite facility upon opening and at least every two years thereafter.

2. Annually attend, in person, at least one charter school governing body meeting, as well as review agendas and minutes of the meetings.

3. Refer any credible allegations of fraud, misappropriation of funds, or other illegal fiscal practices—either received from third parties or observed—to the county superintendent of schools.

While these three additional oversight duties are not in effect until next year, chartering authorities should not wait to incorporate them into their policies and procedures in an effort to begin planning for how they will meet these increased requirements.

Lastly, note that EC § 47604.32(e) has been added and states that charter schools must provide their chartering authorities supporting documents necessary for it to perform the duties described.

Nonclassroom-Based Charter School Oversight—Starting July 1, 2027, a chartering authority must annually review each of its nonclassroom-based charter schools' average daily attendance (ADA). If the nonclassroom-based ADA reported for purposes of apportionment has increased by 10% or more relative to the most recent prior principal apportionment period, the chartering authority should then review a sample of independent study written agreements and work samples from each track to determine whether they generally align with the reported attendance. The "prior principal apportionment reporting period" is defined as follows:

- For the first principal reporting period, compare it to the prior year first principal reporting period

- For the second principal reporting period, compare it to the current year first principal reporting period

- For the annual principal reporting period, compare it to the current year second principal reporting period

If the review shows that the ADA does not generally align, including subsequent corrections, the chartering authority must request additional information from the charter school to explain the misalignment.

Once again, while still a year away, chartering authorities should begin to incorporate these reviews into their policies, procedures, and practices. Also note that while there were discussions regarding increasing the oversight fee to account for these additional duties, ultimately, no increases were included in the legislation. Therefore, the costs to perform all the required duties—both existing, revised, and new—are funded from the supervisorial oversight fee currently in statute per EC § 47613 (i.e., not to exceed 1% of the revenue of the charter school or 3% if the charter school is receiving substantially rent-free facilities from the chartering authority).

These are only some of the changes that AB 126 and AB 2467 have made to charter oversight. The next article in this series will cover renewals and the return of verified data.

Verified Data Returns

By: Brianna García and Kathleen Spencer October 2, 2026

As noted in the September 2026 *Fiscal Report* article "Charter Oversight Changes," Assembly Bill (AB) 126 (Committee on Budget, Statutes of 2026) has made changes to statutory requirements that impact charter schools. This is the second article in the series and will look at renewals and the return of verified data.

The requirement to use verified data when considering renewal for low and middle performing charter schools returned effective with the signing of the AB 126 and is in effect through June 30, 2028. Verified data is defined as "assessment data from nationally recognized, valid, peer-reviewed, and reliable sources that are externally produced." Verified data also includes measures of postsecondary outcomes, which is defined as "college enrollment, persistence, and completion rates equal to similar peers."

During this two-year period, chartering authorities may renew charter schools in the low performing category upon making both of the following written factual findings:

1. The charter school is taking meaningful steps to address the underlying cause(s) of low performance and those steps are, or will be, reflected in a written plan adopted by the charter school's governing body; and

2. There is clear and convincing evidence showing that the charter school either: a) has achieved measurable increases in academic achievement as defined by at least one year's progress; or b) has strong postsecondary outcomes as defined by college enrollment, persistence, and completion rates equal to similar peers.

Both of these are demonstrated by verified data.

As it pertains to renewal of charter schools in the middle performing category, chartering authorities—in addition to state and local indicators—must consider clear and convincing evidence showing either of the items noted in item 2 above as, once again, demonstrated by verified data.

The State Board of Education (SBE) approved the criteria to define verified data and the list of valid and reliable assessments and measures of postsecondary outcomes in November 2020 and updated the list in May 2023. Memos outlining the SBE's actions and other information can be found here, and the list of adopted academic progress and postsecondary indicators can be found here. The SBE intends to continue use of the already-approved lists.

As verified data was included in law with the signing of AB 1505 (O'Donnell, Statutes of 2019) and only became inoperative on January 1, 2026, most chartering authorities likely have experience using it during the renewal process.

Lastly, Education Code Section (EC §) 47607(b), which notes that renewals and material revisions are governed by the standards and criteria outlined in EC § 47605, has been revised. It now states that, beginning July 1, 2026, the standards and criteria include timelines, deadlines, and other procedures referenced in EC § 47605(b) or EC § 47605.6(b), charters approved by school districts and county offices of education, respectively. The timelines, deadlines, and procedures in EC § 47605(b) or EC § 47605.6(b) (e.g., public hearing within 60 days of petition receipt, approval or denial within 90 days, etc.) have historically been applied to renewals and material revisions based on the original language. This addition simply makes it explicit.

The next article in the series will share a few of the miscellaneous updates that affect all local educational agencies and have specific provisions related to charter schools.

Governor Signs Bills on Electric Bicycles, Teacher Exchange Programs, and Heat Illness

By: Kyle Hyland September 4, 2026

Earlier this week, the Legislature wrapped up the 2025-26 legislative session (see "Legislature Wraps up the 2025-26 Legislative Session" in the September 2026 *Fiscal Report*) sending several hundred bills to Governor Gavin Newsom for his consideration.

While hundreds of measures remain before the Governor, he has already acted on dozens of bills sent to him by lawmakers, including a number of measures affecting local educational agencies (LEAs). Below, we highlight several recently signed bills and what they mean for LEAs.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1569 (Davies, Statutes of 2026)—Pupil Safety: Electric Bicycle: Safety and Training Program. This bill requires the California Department of Education, in consultation with the California Highway Patrol, to develop a standardized electric bicycle safety and training program for students in grades 7-12 by March 1, 2028. The program will cover rules of the road, electric bicycle classifications, required safety equipment, and other safe-riding practices. The bill does not require LEAs to provide the training but encourages LEAs and parent organizations to partner with local governments or law enforcement agencies to offer hands-on safety demonstrations for students and parents. AB 1569 takes effect January 1, 2027.

AB 2056 (Alvarez, Statutes of 2026)—Teachers: Exchange Programs: Local Educational Agencies. This bill expands California's World Language Teacher Exchange and Recruitment Law to include county offices of education and charter schools, in addition to school districts, and removes the existing one-year limit on teacher exchanges. The measure also provides that, if the State Board of Education adopts regulations governing the program, those regulations must allow designated J-1 visa sponsors to facilitate the placement of international teachers with California LEAs. AB 2056 takes effect January 1, 2027.

AB 2503 (Wallis, Statutes of 2026)—California Interscholastic Federation: Pupil Health: Heat Illness: Guidelines. This bill requires the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), beginning July 1, 2027, to annually review and update, as necessary, its guidelines for preventing and managing exertional heat illness, with special consideration for regions with higher average temperatures. School districts and charter schools offering interscholastic athletics should monitor any resulting changes to CIF's heat illness guidelines and ensure local athletic programs and practices remain aligned with the updated standards. AB 2503 takes effect January 1, 2027, with the annual review requirement beginning July 1, 2027.

Senate Bill (SB) 1038 (Laird, Statutes of 2026)—The Public Employees' Retirement System. This bill establishes new notification requirements for California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) audits of public employers. The measure also requires employers, including school employers, to provide employee bargaining representatives with specified notices and information related to the audit and affected members. For LEAs subject to a CalPERS audit,

the measure will create additional notification and coordination responsibilities with employee representatives. SB 1038 takes effect January 1, 2027.

Grants to Support Immigrant Students Modified by Education Trailer Bill

By: Megan Baier September 14, 2026

The 2026-27 Enacted Budget created two new grant programs designed to support immigrant students and families, the California's New Americans in Schools (CalNAS) program and the Dream Resource Center Grant Program. The Legislature recently passed an education trailer bill, Senate Bill (SB) 133 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review), which makes several changes to the Enacted Budget, adjusting the criteria the California Department of Education (CDE) must consider when awarding both grants.

California's New Americans in Schools

The Enacted Budget establishes the CalNAS program and provides a one-time appropriation of $100 million for grants to support immigrant students and families. Grants will support planning, designing, and implementing academic and social support services intended to improve student educational outcomes and well-being. Allowable activities include professional development, academic supports, family engagement, transportation, extracurricular programs, and access to immigrant legal service providers, among others.

SB 133 modifies the factors the CDE must consider when awarding CalNAS grants. The Enacted Budget required the CDE to consider the percentage of English learners and socioeconomically disadvantaged students as defined in Education Code Section 42238.024 served by a local educational agency (LEA). SB 133 replaces the English learner factor with the percentage of newcomer students served over the previous five years.

The CDE will award grants on a competitive basis and funds will be available for encumbrance until June 30, 2032.

Dream Resource Center Grant Program

The Enacted Budget also provided $75 million in one-time funding for the Dream Resource Center Grant Program to support undocumented students and students from mixed-status families. LEAs may apply for four-year grants to establish a Dream Resource Center or to expand services they already provide at one or more school sites to provide support services such as academic counseling, financial aid navigation, and legal assistance.

SB 133 also modifies the criteria the CDE must consider when awarding Dream Resource Center grants. In addition to considering the percentage of English learners and students eligible for free or reduced-price meals served by an LEA, the CDE will be required to give weight to LEAs serving a high percentage of newcomer students, based on newcomer enrollment data from the previous five years.

Currently, SB 133 is on Governor Gavin Newsom's desk awaiting his action. We expect he will sign the bill prior to the September 30 deadline.

Governor Signs Sweeping Child Online Safety Package

By: Kyle Hyland September 14, 2026

Governor Gavin Newsom signed a broad package of legislation on September 10, 2026, aimed at strengthening protections for children who use social media, artificial intelligence (AI), and other digital technologies. While much of the package regulates technology companies and online platforms, several measures have direct implications for local educational agencies (LEAs), including new requirements and considerations related to student data privacy, school-issued devices, extracurricular communications, and digital wellness. We highlight those bills below.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1159 (Addis, Statutes of 2026)—Student Personal Information. This bill expands student data privacy protections under the K-12 Pupil Online Personal Information Protection Act to address the growing use of AI in educational technology. Among its provisions, AB 1159 restricts operators of covered online services from using student information to train generative AI models or develop AI systems. The measure is particularly relevant as LEAs increasingly use AI-enabled instructional, assessment, and administrative tools that may collect or process student information. LEAs should consider reviewing existing contracts, data-sharing agreements, and procurement practices involving educational technology and AI vendors to ensure that student information is handled consistently with the expanded protections.

Senate Bill (SB) 1128 (Stern, Statutes of 2026)—Pupils: Technology-Based Materials: School-Issued Electronic Devices. This bill establishes new limitations on the use of school-issued electronic devices for the state's youngest students. Beginning in the 2027-28 school year, LEAs may not require transitional kindergarten and kindergarten pupils to take school-issued electronic devices home, with exceptions for pupils whose Individualized Education Programs require access to a device, certain emergencies, and independent study. SB 1128 also encourages LEAs to regularly review their policies and practices related to student screen time and the use of digital devices. To support implementation, the measure requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to provide related guidance by July 1, 2027. LEAs should review that forthcoming guidance as they prepare for the new requirements.

AB 302 (Bauer-Kahan, Statutes of 2026)—Pupil and Parental Communication: Extracurricular Activities: Addictive Feeds. This bill establishes new protections for pupils who do not use social media in connection with school-sponsored extracurricular activities. Beginning in the 2027-28 school year, LEAs may not exclude a pupil from an extracurricular activity because the pupil does not use certain addictive social media feeds. The measure also prohibits LEAs from using those feeds as the sole means of communicating information to pupils or their parents. The new requirements could affect communication practices for athletics, clubs, performing arts, and other extracurricular programs that currently rely heavily on social media to distribute schedules, announcements, or other information. LEAs should review these practices and ensure that pupils and families have an alternative means of receiving necessary communications.

AB 2071 (Hoover, Statutes of 2026)—Pupil Instruction: Digital Wellness. This bill requires the CDE to develop a plan by January 1, 2028, to expand digital wellness instruction for California students, including instruction addressing the benefits and potential harms associated with technology use. The measure does not establish an immediate new instructional mandate for LEAs; however, LEAs should monitor development of the plan and any subsequent state action affecting curriculum or instructional expectations.

AB 2298 (Irwin, Statutes of 2026)—Pupil instruction: Computer Science: Content Standards. This bill requires the Instructional Quality Commission to consider incorporating cybersecurity skills the next time California's computer science content standards are revised. The measure does not require an immediate change to local curriculum or instruction, although LEAs should monitor future revisions to the standards and related curriculum frameworks.

The Governor also signed several measures primarily targeting technology companies and online platforms. These include SB 1119 (Padilla, Statutes of 2026), which establishes child-safety requirements for companion chatbots; AB 1709 (Lowenthal, Statutes of 2026), which restricts certain addictive social media features for users under age 16; and SB 867 (Padilla, Statutes of 2026), which establishes a four-year prohibition on certain toys containing companion chatbots for children under age 16. Additional measures strengthen age-verification requirements and protections against child sexual exploitation and AI-generated material.

Taken together, the package reflects the state's increasing focus on children's interaction with technology. For LEAs, the most significant areas to watch are student data use by AI and educational technology vendors, school-issued device and screen-time policies, and reliance on social media to communicate with students and families. While some requirements take effect beginning in the 2027-28 school year, LEAs should begin reviewing affected policies, contracts, and practices as they prepare for implementation.

Governor Newsom Takes Final Action on 2026 Bills

By: Kyle Hyland October 5, 2026

Governor Gavin Newsom completed his bill actions on Wednesday, September 30, 2026, marking the conclusion of the final bill-signing period of his gubernatorial career. Of the 1,160 bills sent to his desk this year, Newsom signed 1,040 and vetoed 120, for a veto rate of 10.3%. Over his full tenure, Newsom vetoed approximately 13.5% of the bills that reached his desk.

With the Governor's actions now complete, we provide an update below on how several of the most significant education measures, highlighted in our September 2026 *Fiscal Report* article "Legislature Wraps up the 2025-26 Legislative Session," ultimately fared. For measures with more significant operational, fiscal, or programmatic implications for local educational agencies (LEAs), we will provide additional analysis in subsequent *Fiscal Report* articles.

Bills Signed by Governor Newsom

Assembly Bill (AB) 1331 (Elhawary, Statutes of 2026)—Workplace Surveillance. This bill restricts employers from using workplace surveillance tools to monitor employees in workplace bathrooms and provides employees specified protections related to surveillance devices while using those facilities.

AB 1381 (Muratsuchi, Statutes of 2026)—Education-Related Positions: Previous Employment Disclosures: Commission on Teacher Credentialing: Unprofessional Conduct. This bill strengthens employment-history disclosure and inquiry requirements for certificated and classified school employees and establishes related grounds for Commission on Teacher Credentialing action.

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

AB 1721 (Muratsuchi, Statutes of 2026)—Pupil Safety: Comprehensive School Safety Plans. This bill requires the Education Commissioner, in consultation with specified interest holders, to review existing comprehensive school safety plans and submit recommendations by July 1, 2028, on their development, approval, and required elements.

AB 1763 (Lee, Statutes of 2026)—Excused Absences: Religious Observance. This bill requires pupils to be excused from school to observe a holiday or ceremony of their religion without the existing requirement for a written parental request and principal approval.

AB 1809 (Fong, Statutes of 2026)—Public Contracts: School and Community College Districts. This bill extends authorization for school and community college districts to use job order contracting through January 1, 2037, and revises related contracting requirements.

AB 1871 (Fong, Statutes of 2026)—Dual Enrollment: College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships. This bill streamlines College and Career Access Pathways participation by eliminating the principal-recommendation requirement and four-course-per-term limit while retaining the 15-unit cap and revises annual reporting requirements.

AB 1883 (Bryan, Statutes of 2026)—Workplace Surveillance Tools. This bill restricts employers, including public agencies, from using certain artificial intelligence-enabled workplace surveillance tools, including tools that collect neural data or recognize an individual's emotional state.

AB 1961 (Ahrens, Statutes of 2026)—Civil Actions: Protective Orders: Workplace Violence. This bill expands workplace violence restraining order protections available to employers and collective bargaining representatives on behalf of employees.

AB 2008 (Patel, Statutes of 2026)—Local Educational Agencies: Planning and Reporting Requirements: Template: Repealer. This bill requires the CDE to develop a standardized template for LEA reporting on competitive state grants and establishes requirements intended to limit and streamline new LEA planning and reporting mandates.

AB 2017 (Haney, Statutes of 2026)—State Holidays: Eid. This bill 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 2067 (Patel, Statutes of 2026)—School Facilities: Leasing Real Property. This bill extends, through July 1, 2032, provisions authorizing school districts to use lease-leaseback agreements for school construction projects, including the competitive solicitation and best-value selection process.

AB 2225 (Patel, Statutes of 2026)—Education Governance: Education Commissioner: Reporting. This bill requires the Education Commissioner, by October 1, 2028, to report on the state's progress toward streamlining California's education governance structure and identify additional opportunities for consolidation.

AB 2241 (Boerner, Statutes of 2026)—School Facilities: Inclusive School Playgrounds. This bill requires the CDE to curate and maintain an online resource identifying best practices for designing inclusive school playgrounds.

AB 2440 (Muratsuchi, Statutes of 2026)—Arts and Music in Schools—Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act: Allowable Uses: Pooled Funding: Certifications. This bill clarifies various provisions of Proposition 28 (2022), including how LEAs may pool funding across school sites and the methodology for demonstrating compliance with the supplement-not-supplant requirement. The bill also revises related reporting and audit requirements.

AB 2467 (Committee on Education, Statutes of 2026)—Elementary and Secondary Education: Omnibus. This bill makes various technical, clarifying, and conforming changes to provisions of the Education Code governing elementary and secondary education.

AB 2468 (Patel, Statutes of 2026)—School Accountability: Pupils with Disabilities: Inclusion. This bill establishes the Supporting Inclusive Practices Project, with the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence responsible for statewide universal support and the CDE responsible for targeted assistance to LEAs.

AB 2490 (Valencia, Statutes of 2026)—Teacher Credentialing: Emergency Career Substitute Teaching Permit: Alternative Qualifications. This bill creates an alternative pathway to the Emergency Career Substitute Teaching Permit based on professional development, orientation, and mentoring and allows qualifying permit holders to serve up to 70 days in a single classroom assignment.

AB 2496 (Solache, Statutes of 2026)—School Accountability Report Card: California School Dashboard: Local Control Accountability Plan: Local Control Funding Formula Budget Overview. This bill requires the CDE to report to the Legislature on duplication between information in the School Accountability Report Card and other publicly available data. The bill also eliminates the February 28 deadline for presenting the annual Local Control and Accountability Plan update and Local Control Funding Formula Budget Overview.

AB 2555 (Patel, Statutes of 2026)—English Learners: Reclassification. This urgency bill revises the process for reclassifying English learners as English proficient. Beginning July 1, 2027, pupils meeting the state-established score on the applicable English language proficiency assessment will be reclassified as English proficient. Beginning July 1, 2028, the bill also establishes an alternative reclassification pathway for specified English learners with Individualized Education Programs.

Senate Bill (SB) 577 (Laird, Statutes of 2026)—Public Entities. This bill requires LEAs, by December 1, 2027, to adopt specified policies and procedures intended to prevent and address childhood sexual abuse, including codes of conduct, sexual assault prevention plans, and procedures for reporting suspected grooming or abuse. The bill also makes changes related to childhood sexual assault claims against public entities and school district emergency apportionments.

SB 685 (Cortese, Statutes of 2026)—Special Education: Nonpublic Schools and Agencies. This bill eliminates the requirement that certified Nonpublic Schools and Agencies (NPS/As) be nonsectarian while prohibiting public funds from being used for religious instruction. The bill also strengthens NPS/A certification, credentialing, background check, incident reporting, monitoring, and enforcement requirements.

SB 947 (McNerney, Statutes of 2026)—Employment: Automated Decision Systems. This bill establishes employee protections governing employers' use of automated decision systems, including notice and human-review requirements for specified employment decisions.

SB 951 (Reyes, Statutes of 2026)—Employment: Technological Displacement: Notice. This bill expands California WARN Act requirements for specified layoffs, relocations, or terminations

involving technological displacement, including displacement associated with artificial intelligence.

SB 1067 (Weber Pierson, Statutes of 2026)—Pupil Instruction: Math Assessments. This bill requires LEAs, beginning in 2028-29, to annually administer a state-approved mathematics diagnostic assessment to pupils in kindergarten through second grade.

SB 1083 (Pérez, Statutes of 2026)—Noncertificated Public School Employees: Private School Employees: Egregious Misconduct: Statewide Data System: Commission on Teacher Credentialing: Adverse Actions: Contracts and Background Checks for Educational Services. This bill strengthens employment-history disclosure, misconduct reporting, and background-check requirements for noncertificated school employees and contractors who have contact with pupils.

Bills Vetoed by Governor Newsom

AB 917 (Ávila Farías, D-Concord)—County Offices of Education: School Districts: Average Daily Attendance of Less than 250 Pupils: Permanent Status. This bill would have eliminated distinctions in permanent-status requirements based on a school district's or county office of education's (COE) size and generally provided permanent status to certificated employees after two consecutive years of service and reelection for a third year. Beginning July 1, 2027, service as an instructor in a regional occupational center or program would also have counted toward permanent status with the employing school district or COE.

In his veto message, Governor Newsom expressed concern that the bill would eliminate flexibilities available to small school districts and could undermine their ability to meet students' educational needs. He also raised concerns about limiting the flexibility of regional occupational centers and programs to respond to changing regional workforce needs.

AB 1383 (McKinnor, D-Inglewood)—Public Employees' Retirement Benefits. This bill would have modified provisions of the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA), including increasing the pensionable compensation limit and modifying benefit formulas for specified public employees.

In his veto message, Governor Newsom expressed concern that the bill would partially reverse PEPRA reforms, significantly increase state and local government costs, and expose public retirement systems to additional risk.

AB 2142 (Garcia, D-Rancho Cucamonga)—School Districts: Community College Districts: Short-Term Employees: Classified Service. This bill would have created a rebuttable presumption that a TK-14 district must convert a short-term employee position into a classified service position when specified conditions are met, including when an employee exceeds prescribed time thresholds or is repeatedly rehired to perform substantially the same duties.

In his veto message, Governor Newsom acknowledged the goal of preventing employees from being repeatedly hired as short-term workers without the benefits of permanent employment but expressed concern that the bill's thresholds and legal standards would create significant

implementation challenges. He also cited potentially significant state and local costs and indicated that such expenditures should be considered through the annual budget process.

AB 2526 (Muratsuchi, D-Torrance)—Special Education Local Plan Areas: Apportionments: Alternate Assessments. Contingent upon increased state funding, this bill would have revised the special education low-incidence funding formula to include both pupils with low-incidence disabilities and pupils eligible to take specified alternate assessments.

In his veto message, Governor Newsom expressed concern that alternate-assessment eligibility is an imprecise measure of a pupil's service needs and could create inappropriate fiscal incentives and dilute funding for currently eligible students. He called for future funding changes to be more directly aligned with demonstrated service needs and costs.

SB 608 (Menjivar, D-San Fernando Valley)—Sexual Health. This bill would have required school-based health centers serving pupils in grades 7-12 to make condoms readily accessible and required LEAs to allow condoms to be made available through specified educational or public health programs. The bill also would have authorized the CDE to monitor compliance with the California Healthy Youth Act and prohibited retailers, with specified exceptions, from refusing to provide nonprescription contraception solely based on age.

In his veto message, Governor Newsom stated that decisions regarding the implementation of these policies are best made locally, in consultation with educators, health professionals, students, parents, and families, and based on the needs and circumstances of each community

Looking Forward

Unless otherwise specified, bills enacted during the 2026 legislative session will take effect January 1, 2027, while urgency statutes and certain budget-related measures take effect immediately.

Although the California Constitution permits the Legislature to override a gubernatorial veto with a two-thirds vote of each house, successful overrides are exceedingly rare. The Legislature has not overridden a Governor's veto in more than four decades, including during periods of one-party supermajority control. Despite Democrats holding supermajorities in both houses, an override of Governor Newsom's vetoes would represent a significant departure from longstanding legislative practice.

Barring a special session called by Governor Newsom, lawmakers will next return to Sacramento on December 7, 2026, to convene the 2027-28 legislative session for organizational purposes before returning in January to begin regular legislative work.

Bill Report

SCHOOL SERVICES OF CALIFORNIA INC.

Legislative Report Prepared for:
Fresno Unified School District
Status as of October 6, 2026

Chaptered

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Accountability and Assessments

AB 1581 (Ramos)

Amended Date: 08/21/2026
Title: Pupils: Data Reporting: American Indian and Alaska Native Pupils
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Watch

Summary:

The bill was completely amended on August 21, 2026, to require the California Department of Education to annually publish statewide aggregate educational outcome data for the prior school year for American Indian or Alaska Native pupils including the number of pupils, the academic achievement of pupils, and the rate of suspension, expulsion, and chronic absenteeism of pupils.

The prior version of the bill would have required local educational agencies to report in CALPADS the tribal affiliation of students who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native.

AB 2225 (Patel)

Amended Date: 08/27/2026
Title: Education Governance: Education Commissioner: Reporting
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Watch

Summary:

Implementation of the education governance reform requires the Education Commissioner to develop recommendations by October 1, 2027, for a second phase of education governance consolidation, including recommendations regarding statewide support entities, county office regional functions, the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence, the Office of Civil Rights, and the future role and staffing of the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

As amended on August 27, 2026, requires the Education Commissioner to submit a report by October 1, 2028, that includes information on the state's progress toward implementing the Commissioner's recommendations on phase two of education governance consolidation and streamlining, and recommendations for additional steps to consolidate and reduce fragmentation.

AB 2496 (Solache)

Amended Date: 08/21/2026
Title: Local Educational Agencies: Reports: School Accountability Report Card: California School Dashboard: Local Control Accountability Plan: Local Control Funding Formula Budget Overview
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Support

Summary:

As amended on August 13, 2026, this bill would require the California Department of Education, by August 31, 2027, to identify information in the School Accountability Report Card (SARC) that duplicates information already publicly available through sources such as the California School Dashboard, DataQuest, Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs), and other state and local resources, with the goal of informing future efforts to streamline reporting.

The bill would also remove the existing requirement for school district governing boards to report aggregate physical performance testing results in the SARC, while retaining the underlying requirement to administer physical performance testing. The bill would also remove the requirement for schools to report annually in the SARC on the status of their Comprehensive School Safety Plans, while retaining requirements to adopt, annually review, and update those plans.

Additionally, the bill would eliminate the February 28 deadline for presenting the LCAP Annual Update and Local Control Funding Formula Budget Overview for Parents, while retaining the requirement that local educational agencies present the report annually as a nonconsent item at a regularly scheduled governing board or body meeting. The bill does not establish a replacement statutory deadline for that presentation.

Attendance or Instructional Time

AB 1763 (Lee)

Title: Pupil Attendance: Excused Absences: Religious Observance
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Watch

Summary:

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

College and Career

AB 1871 (Fong)

Amended Date: 08/28/2026
Title: Pupil Instruction: Dual Enrollment: College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Watch

Summary:

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

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

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

AB 2248 (Hoover)

Amended Date: 03/26/2026
Title: Pupil Services: Educational Counseling: California College Guidance Initiative
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Watch

Summary:

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

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

Employees

AB 1578 (Jackson)

Amended Date: 08/26/2026
Title: State Agency Officials: Training on Responding to Hate: Local Agency Officials: Anti-Hate Speech Training
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Support

Summary:

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

AB 1626 (Gabriel)

Amended Date: 08/21/2026
Title: Interscholastic Athletics: Youth Sports: Coaches: Behavioral and Mental Health Training
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Support

Summary:

Assembly Bill (AB) 1626, working in tandem with AB 1665, would specify mental health training for high school coaches. The training, which could be free and/or online, would cover:

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

Additionally, the bill would require the California Department of Education to identify existing training or develop a model youth athletics behavioral and mental health training for persons who serve as coaches in youth sports organizations.

AB 1665 (Pacheco)

Amended Date: 08/21/2026
Title: School Athletics: Coaches: Youth Athletics Behavioral and Mental Health Training
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Support

Summary:

As amended, this bill works in tandem with Assembly Bill (AB) 1626 to require all coaches to complete mental health training established by AB 1626.

AB 1803 (Lowenthal)

Amended Date: 08/13/2026
Title: Employment: Sexual Harassment Training and Education: Anti-Hate Speech Training
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Support

Summary:

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

AB 2148 (Muratsuchi)

Amended Date: 04/13/2026
Title: Elementary and Secondary Education: Public School Employees: Contractors: Natural Persons
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Watch

Summary:

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

AB 2490 (Valencia)

Amended Date: 08/21/2026
Title: Teacher Credentialing: Emergency Career Substitute Teaching Permit: Alternative Qualifications
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Support

Summary:

As amended, this bill amends the requirements for an emergency career substitute teaching permit. Existing law requires applicants for an emergency career substitute teaching permit to verify 90 days of substitute teaching in each of the prior three years. This bill would allow, as an alternative, verification that the applicant has completed at least five hours of professional development, an orientation, and a mentoring program. The bill would authorize permit holders who qualify through this alternative pathway to serve up to 70 cumulative days in a single classroom, including in career technical education, general education, and special education. The bill would also require 30 hours of professional development upon the first renewal of the permit and provide that permits issued or renewed under these provisions are valid for 12 months.

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

English Learners

AB 2555 (Patel)

Amended Date: 08/20/2026
Title: English Learners: Reclassification
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Support

Summary:

Makes changes to the system of reclassifying English learners (ELs) as English proficient commencing on July 1, 2027:

- Limits the reclassification criteria to the assessment of English language development (ELD)
- Requires that ELs be reclassified as English proficient if they meet the score established by the State Board of Education for purposes of reclassification on the ELD assessment or the alternate ELD assessment
- Permits some ELs with disabilities to be reclassified using alternate means
- When a student is classified as an EL, the local educational agency must communicate specified information to the student's parent or guardian regarding the student's EL classification, supports available to EL students, and the reclassification process
- Requires the State Board of Education to identify an appropriate instrument for monitoring reclassified Els
- Requires the California Department of Education to post data on reclassification rates Reframes EL reclassification as a milestone on the path to biliteracy
- Requires an evaluation of these changes to EL reclassification

Commencing January 1, 2027, parents or guardians of children enrolled in public schools have the right to meet with their child's teacher or teachers to discuss their child's progress toward reaching proficiency in English.

Governance and District Operations

AB 395 (Gabriel)

Amended Date: 08/19/2026
Title: Holidays
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Support

Summary:

Requires public schools to consider making efforts to avoid scheduling the first day of class and high school graduation on a date for which the governing board knows, or has reason to know, that members of the public would be unable to participate or be present due to the ritual observance of a religious, cultural, or ancestral holiday. July 8, 2026, amendments authorize a person who has suffered harm as a result of a violation to bring a civil action for injunctive relief.

AB 1821 (Pacheco)

Amended Date: 06/25/2026
Title: California Public Records Act: Agency Response Time
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Support

Summary:

As amended on June 25, 2026, the bill no longer includes the June 10 amendments. Existing law requires a public agency, within ten days of a request for a copy of records, to determine whether the request seeks copies of disclosable public records in possession of the agency and to promptly notify the person of the determination and the reasons therefor. Existing law authorizes that time limit to be extended by no more than 14 days under unusual circumstances. This bill also clarifies that the time period is 10 business days and 14 business days, respectively.

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

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

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

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

AB 2726 (Fong)

Amended Date: 04/13/2026
Title: School Facilities: Disposal of Surplus Technology Property
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Support

Summary:

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

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

SB 1017 (Reyes)

Amended Date: 08/20/2026
Title: Pupils: Foster Youth: Access to Pupil Records
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Support

Summary:

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

Instruction

AB 2071 (Hoover)

Amended Date: 06/22/2026
Title: Pupil Instruction: Digital Wellness
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Support

Summary:

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

SB 1048 (Becker)

Amended Date: 08/12/2026
Title: State Seal of Climate Literacy
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Support

Summary:

Establishes the voluntary State Seal of Climate Literacy and requires the Education Commissioner to recommend criteria under which participating local educational agencies may award the seal to qualified students. The Commissioner shall consider requiring successful completion of two courses in climate literacy and a presentation of a climate literacy final experiential learning project.

SB 1133 (Strickland)

Amended Date: 03/23/2026
Title: Pupil Instruction: Preventative Health Instruction
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Support

Summary:

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

Miscellaneous

AB 2008 (Patel)

Amended Date: 06/18/2026
Title: Local Educational Agencies: Planning and Reporting Requirements: Template: Repealer
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Support

Summary:

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

SB 867 (Padilla)

Amended Date: 08/27/2026
Title: Toys: Companion Chatbots
Status: Signed Into Law
Position:

Summary:

Until January 1, 2031, prohibits the sale or manufacture of any toy that includes a companion chatbot.

SB 1119 (Padilla)

Amended Date: 08/28/2026
Title: Companion Chatbots: Children's Safety
Status: Signed Into Law
Position:

Summary:

Enacts "Adam's law," a comprehensive regulatory framework to ensure that companion chatbots made available in this state are safe for children. Among other conditions, requires chatbot operators to:

- Implement age verification requirements or apply specified protections
- Make specified disclosures relating to child safety risks based on whether they permit child users to access the companion chatbot
- Implement a specified crisis response protocol and safeguards for child users
- Include default settings that can be changed only by a parent—disable persistent conversational memory, disable push notification, limit the amount of time a child can spend with the chatbot

The bill also prohibits targeted advertising to a child user using personal information and allows minors who suffer actual harm, or parents on their behalf, to bring a civil action against violators.

Nutrition

AB 1731 (Wilson)

Amended Date: 08/13/2026
Title: Office of Farm to Fork: Healthy Food for California Public Institutions Program
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Support

Summary:

As amended on August 13, 2026, if funding is provided for this purpose, requires the Office of Farm to Fork to establish the Healthy Food for California Public Institutions Program, within the California Department of Food and Agriculture, for the purpose of identifying vendors in California that have the capacity to provide healthy foods to California public institutions. California public institutions includes local educational agencies.

School Safety and Student Discipline

AB 2242 (Davies)

Amended Date: 06/11/2026
Title: Pupil Safety: Sextortion Informational Poster
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Watch

Summary:

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

Student Health

AB 2460 (Rodriguez, Celeste)

Amended Date: 08/20/2026
Title: Pupil Health: Mental Health: Model Referral Protocols
Status: Signed Into Law
Position: Support

Summary:

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

Student Services

AB 2107 (Pellerin)

Amended Date: 08/05/2026
Title: Expanded Learning Opportunities Program: Offering Access: Unduplicated Pupils
Status: Signed Into Law
Position:

Summary:

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

Vetoed

Employees

AB 1896 (González, Mark)

Amended Date: 08/27/2026
Title: Public Employment: Disqualifications
Status: Vetoed by the Governor
Position: Watch

Summary:

Disqualifies a person from public employment in California, including employment as a peace officer, if they were previously employed as a sworn law enforcement officer or individual contractor and personally engaged in immigration enforcement.

School Safety and Student Discipline

AB 2230 (Ávila Farías)

Amended Date: 08/21/2026
Title: Child Daycare Facilities
Status: Vetoed by the Governor
Position: Support

Summary:

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

AB 2526 (Muratsuchi)

Amended Date: 04/21/2026
Title: Special Education Local Plan Areas: Apportionments: Alternate Assessments
Status: Vetoed by the Governor
Position: Support

Summary:

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

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

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

Bills that Failed the Legislature

Accountability and Assessments

AB 2149 (Garcia)

Amended Date: 06/30/2026
Title: Pupil Achievement: Closing the Achievement Gap: Accountability Report
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: Watch

Summary:

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

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

AB 2202 (Muratsuchi)

Amended Date: 06/30/2026
Title: Pupil Achievement: Closing the Achievement Gap Commission
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: Support

Summary:

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

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

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

AB 2303 (Muratsuchi)

Amended Date: 04/27/2026
Title: School Accountability: Local Educational Agencies: Required Plans and Reports
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: Support

Summary:

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

AB 2514 (Ransom)

Amended Date: 06/30/2026
Title: Pupil Achievement: State of the Achievement Gap Dashboard
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: Support

Summary:

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

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

Attendance or Instructional Time

AB 1631 (Muratsuchi)

Amended Date: 03/23/2026
Title: Elementary Education: Kindergarten
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: Support

Summary:

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

College and Career

AB 731 (Fong)

Amended Date: 07/01/2025
Title: Pupil Instruction: Dual Enrollment: College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: Watch

Summary:

Amends the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) program to streamline access to dual enrollment by doing the following:

- Removes the requirement for a principal's recommendation in order to participate in a CCAP dual enrollment program
- Requires CCAP agreements to authorize a student to complete a single community college application for the duration of their participation in the program
- Removes the four-course-per-term cap for CCAP students, while retaining the 15-unit maximum per term

July 1, 2025, amendments remove the bill language regarding online coursework using either synchronous or asynchronous modalities and removed the requirement for community colleges to provide comprehensive support services to high school students dually enrolled in asynchronous courses.

AB 1694 (Carrillo)

Amended Date: 06/11/2026
Title: California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program: Renewal Grants
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: Support

Summary:

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

SB 323 (Pérez)

Amended Date: 07/10/2025
Title: Student Aid Commission: California Dream Act Application
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: Support

Summary:

By the start of the 2026-27 financial aid cycle, the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) shall amend the California Dream Act Application (CADAA), and any of its grant processing systems, to clarify and ensure that the application can be used by any student eligible for state financial aid programs, regardless of their eligibility for federal financial aid. The bill would also require CSAC to consult with California's public and private colleges and universities to effectively promote the CADAA and inform students and their families of their available financial aid application options.

Employees

AB 65 (Aguiar-Curry)

Title: School and Community College Employees: Paid Disability and Parental Leave
Status: Senate Floor—Inactive File
Position: Support

Summary:

Requires a K-14 public school employer to provide up to 14 weeks of full pay to certificated and classified employees due to pregnancy, miscarriage, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from those conditions.

AB 1654 (DeMaio)

Title: Vehicles: Commercial Driver's Licenses
Status: Assembly Transportation Committee
Position: Oppose

Summary:

Would require the Department of Motor Vehicles, before issuing or renewing a commercial driver's license, to verify the applicant's lawful presence in the United States. Would require the department to revoke any commercial driver's license issued to a person subsequently determined to be unlawfully present in the United States.

AB 1750 (Caloza)

Amended Date: 04/13/2026
Title: School Employees: Absences Due to Illness or Accident
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: Oppose

Summary:

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

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

AB 1898 (Schultz)

Amended Date: 03/20/2026
Title: Workplace Artificial Intelligence Tools
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: Watch

Summary:

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

AB 2325 (Alvarez)

Amended Date: 06/15/2026
Title: Teachers: Bilingual Teachers: Pathways to Bilingual Teaching Program
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: Support

Summary:

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

AB 2365 (Sanchez)

Amended Date: 04/27/2026
Title: Education-Related Positions: Egregious Misconduct: Previous Employment Disclosures
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: Support

Summary:

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

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

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

Facilities

AB 1822 (Muratsuchi)

Amended Date: 03/23/2026
Title: School Facilities: Project Priorities: Extreme Heat and Climate Change
Status: Senate Education Committee
Position: Support

Summary:

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

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

Governance and District Operations

AB 1644 (Muratsuchi)

Amended Date: 06/22/2026
Title: Pupils: Use of Smartphones: Prohibition: Report
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: Oppose

Summary:

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

As amended on April 28, 2027, the current law requirement for a local policy to limit or prohibit the use of smartphones shall apply only to students in grades 9-12. By July 1, 2028, LEAs must adopt a policy for students in grades TK-8 that prohibits the use of smartphones while at school or under the supervision of a school employee. The bill also prohibits instruction for students in grades TK-8 from requiring the use of a smartphone by a student, and the adopted policy shall include a method for parents/guardians to contact their students while smartphones are prohibited.

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

AB 2220 (Arambula)

Amended Date: 03/19/2026
Title: School Districts: Auxiliary Organizations
Status: Assembly Education Committee
Position: Sponsored

Summary:

Authorizes school districts to establish auxiliary organizations for purposes of providing supportive services and specialized programs for the general benefit of its schools. The bill, among other things, would require a school district that establishes an auxiliary organization, in accordance with regulations adopted by the State Department of Education, to institute an accounting and reporting system for the operation of the auxiliary organization, and procedures to ensure that transactions of the auxiliary organization are within the educational mission of the school district, as specified.

SSC comment: AB 2220 replicates the existing statutes for auxiliary organizations of community college districts and applies them to school districts.

Instruction

AB 887 (Berman)

Amended Date: 07/17/2025

Title: Pupil Instruction: High Schools: Computer Science Courses: California Computer Science Demonstration Grant Program: Reporting

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File

Position: No Position

Summary:

As completely rewritten on July 7, 2025, this bill establishes the California Computer Science Demonstration Project to increase the number of public high schools offering computer science and to increase the computer science course access of low-income students and students that are underrepresented in the field of computer science. The pilot program shall be funded through contributions from nonprofit organizations or private entities. Public high schools that do not offer any computer science courses may voluntarily participate in the pilot program. Funding entities, in coordination with the California Computer Science Demonstration Project Working Group, shall select the public high schools to participate in the pilot program.

SB 745 (Ochoa Bogh)

Amended Date: 07/07/2025

Title: American Government and Civics: Curriculum Guide: State Seal of Civic Engagement

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File

Position: No Position

Summary:

As amended May 7, 2025, this bill requires the California Department of Education to develop a curriculum guide for a one-year course in American government and civics. The bill also provides that a student's completion of the one-year course satisfies the applicable criterion for the State Seal of Civic Engagement.

SB 1147 (Ochoa Bogh)

Amended Date: 04/28/2026

Title: Pupil Instruction: High School Graduation Requirements: Personal Finance

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File

Position: Oppose

Summary:

Allows the existing personal finance course requirement to be fulfilled as part of an integrated yearlong course that includes the personal finance required topics. A prior version of the bill would have allowed a local educational agency to also award credit for coursework in that yearlong course in the subject that the course is offered, including, if applicable, credit toward satisfying a graduation requirement, but this provision was removed from the bill.

Support: College Board (sponsor) and more than 50 school districts and county offices of education, including Ceres Unified School District (USD), Chawanakee USD, Denair USD, Los Banos USD, Pasadena USD, San Benito High School District, and San Diego USD

Opposition: Next Gen Personal Finance

Miscellaneous

AB 2117 (Alvarez)

Amended Date: 04/28/2026
Title: State Board of Education: Superintendent of Public Instruction: Education Commissioner
Status: Senate Education Committee
Position: Watch

Summary:

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

AB 2404 (Tangipa)

Title: State Advisory Groups, Boards, and Committees: San Joaquin Valley
Status: Assembly Education Committee
Position: No Position

Summary:

Requires at least one member of the following bodies to be from the San Joaquin Valley:

- The State Board of Education
- The State Superintendent of Public Instruction advisory group on career technical education
- The Financial Solvency Standards Board within the Department of Managed Health Care
- The Citizen's Financial Accountability Oversight Committee associated with the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine
- The California Veterans Board

SB 492 (Becker)

Amended Date: 08/29/2026
Title: Wildfire
Status: Assembly Floor—Third Reading
Position: Support

Summary:

Senate Bill 492 was amended on August 29, 2026, to remove the contents related a Youth Housing Bond and instead the bill deals with wildfire risk. The bill will no longer be included in future reports.

School Safety and Student Discipline

AB 327 (Ta)

Amended Date: 07/16/2025
Title: Crimes: False Reporting
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: Oppose

Summary:

Increases the punishment for a second or subsequent offense of "swatting" which results in an unnecessary emergency response, from a misdemeanor to an alternate felony-misdemeanor. However, the increased penalties for a second or subsequent offense for swatting does not apply to a person who was under 18 years of age at the time they committed the prior offense or offenses.

SSC Comment: Assembly Bill 327 is supported by various school districts and law enforcement agencies around the state, though none are in the Fresno vicinity. Among the opponents of the bill are the American Civil Liberties Union, California Action, and the California Public Defenders Association.

AB 1872 (Ta)

Title: False Reporting
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: No Position

Summary:

Increases the punishment for a second or subsequent offense of "swatting" from a misdemeanor to an alternate felony-misdemeanor. However, the increased penalties for a second or subsequent offense for swatting does not apply to a person who was under 18 years of age at the time they committed the prior offense or offenses.

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

SB 1181 (Hurtado)

Amended Date: 07/02/2026
Title: Violence Prevention, Pupil Wellness, and School Safety Grant Program
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: Watch

Summary:

As amended July 2, 2026, establishes the Violence Prevention, Pupil Wellness, and School Safety Grant Program to award grants to local educational agencies (LEAs) for evidence-based violence prevention, pupil wellness, and public safety initiatives. The bill would require the department to consult with representatives of the Office of Emergency Services, LEAs, county behavioral health departments, community-based organizations, and public safety agencies when it develops guidelines for the program.

State Budget and Education Finance

AB 477 (Muratsuchi)

Amended Date: 06/23/2025
Title: Fair Pay for Educators Act: Local Control Funding Formula: Base Grants: Funding Targets
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: No Position

Summary:

This bill would establish new Local Control Funding Formula base grant targets to be reached in 2036-37 and state the intent of the Legislature to use those funds to increase school site staff salaries. Despite the "increase school site staff salaries" being intent language, the bill's title was recently amended to the "Fair Pay for Educators Act."

AB 1204 (Alvarez)

Amended Date: 05/05/2025
Title: Local Control Funding Formula: School Districts and Charter Schools: Pupils Experiencing Homelessness: Supplemental and Concentration Grants: Regional Adjustment Factors: Grade-Span Adequacy Adjustments
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position:

Summary:

This bill makes a number of changes to the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), phasing the changes in beginning in 2025-26 and fully funding them by 2030-31 as follows:

- Provides a minimum 4% annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for the LCFF, if the calculated COLA is lower
- Requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to establish regional COLAs in addition to the statewide COLA

- Adds students experiencing homelessness to the categories of students who generate supplemental and concentration grants
- Raises the supplemental grant add-on from 20% to 35% of a local educational agency's (LEA) base grant
- Lowers the threshold for LEAs to be eligible for concentration grants from those with 55% of unduplicated students to 45% of unduplicated students
- Requires the CDE to develop recommendations by January 1, 2028, on how grade span funding levels should be adjusted to account for their unique costs

The May 5, 2025, amendments remove the provisions that would have allowed for duplicated counts of students who are low-income, foster youth, and English learners.

AB 2509 (Schultz)

Amended Date: 04/20/2026
Title: Education Finance: Average Daily Attendance: Apportionments
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: Support

Summary:

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

SB 743 (Cortese)

Amended Date: 07/07/2025
Title: Education Finance: Education Equalization Act: Equalization Reserve Account
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position:

Summary:

Subject to a voter-approved constitutional amendment, this bill would require deposits into a newly established "Equalization Reserve Account" whenever the state deposits funds in the Proposition 98 rainy day fund, and funds in the "Equalization Reserve Account" would be available to increase per-pupil funding in non-basic-aid school districts in a manner prescribed by the Legislature.

Student Health

SB 980 (Hurtado)

Amended Date: 03/16/2026
Title: Access to Medical Records
Status: Senate Health Committee
Position: Support

Summary:

Prohibits health care providers from charging a fee to a patient for completing health-related forms required by an educational institution for a student's participation in school, child care, or school-sponsored activities.

Student Services

AB 673 (Jackson)

Amended Date: 06/18/2026
Title: Unaccompanied Homeless Pupils: Unaccompanied Youth Support Grant Program
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: Support

Summary:

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

AB 1899 (Caloza)

Amended Date: 05/18/2026
Title: Office of Youth Homelessness Prevention
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: Watch

Summary:

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

- Sufficient stable housing
- Economic and employment support
- Education
- Prevention of youth homelessness

- Health and mental health

- Services to assist youth to establish and maintain connections with supportive adults and peers

AB 2430 (Muratsuchi)

Amended Date: 04/21/2026
Title: Expanded Learning Programs: High School Pupils: After School Education and Safety Program Act of 2002
Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position:

Summary:

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

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

Transportation

AB 1111 (Soria)

Amended Date: 07/22/2025
Title: Pupil Transportation: School Buses: Zero-Emission Vehicles: Scrapping
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: Support

Summary:

The bill changes the parameters of the State Air Resources Board California Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project grant program, eliminating the requirement that school districts scrap an existing bus if it is less than 25 years old and ownership of the school bus has been transferred to another local educational agency that either qualifies for or has been approved for an extension from the January 1, 2025, requirement to only purchase zero-emission vehicles in order to access the funds.

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

From the Office of the Superintendent — Date: October 16, 2026
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Marie Williams, Ed.D., Associate Superintendent — Phone Number: (559) 457-3750

Regarding: Student Teacher Stipend Program

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board of Education with an overview of the Student Teacher Stipend Program, a state-funded initiative administered by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing to strengthen California's teacher workforce pipeline.

The Student Teacher Stipend Program was established through Assembly Bill 121 to address financial barriers that often prevent aspiring educators from completing student teaching requirements. The program provides eligible credential candidates with a $10,000 stipend during the academic year in which they complete at least 500 hours of clinical practice.

Beginning in the 2026/27 academic year, participating Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) apply for funding on behalf of eligible student teachers assigned to their schools. Stipends are distributed directly to teacher candidates through the participating LEA. Through partnerships with educator preparation programs, Fresno Unified will work collaboratively to identify eligible student teacher candidates and facilitate participation in the stipend program.

The Student Teacher Stipend Program provides a valuable opportunity to strengthen the district's “Grow our Own” model supporting student teachers assigned to Fresno Unified. The availability of stipend funding may attract more credential candidates to complete their student teaching in Fresno Unified schools, creating a stronger pathway for recruiting highly qualified educators, particularly in hard-to-fill positions. By helping alleviate the financial challenges often associated with student teaching, the program promotes workforce development, expands access to the teaching profession, and supports the district’s staffing goals.

There is no direct fiscal impact to Fresno Unified associated with the stipend payments. Funding is provided through the state-administered grant program and distributed to eligible student teacher candidates through Fresno Unified.

Participation in the Student Teacher Stipend Program supports Fresno Unified’s commitment to developing a strong educator pipeline. This communication is provided for informational purposes, and staff will continue to update the Board as the program expands.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Teresa Morales-Young at (559) 457-6072. Thank you.

Cabinet Approval: 

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