

Sessions and room locations are subject to change. Last updated on 11/22/24.

Thursday, Dec. 5 | 11:00 a.m.–12:05 p.m.

Leading the Way with Creativity: Arts Education and Prop. 28

❖ **Critical Issue – Room: 201 AB**

STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This session will explore the opportunities available to schools and districts in California through implementation of high quality, standards-based arts instruction. The panel will address the opportunities and appropriate uses of Prop. 28 resources, what high quality arts learning looks like in both secondary and elementary schools and explore the power of creativity to transform teaching and learning across California.

Gary Waddell, Superintendent, Santa Clara USD

Kris Alexander, Executive Director, The California Arts Project

Letty Kraus, Director, Statewide Arts Initiative, California County Superintendents

Charlene Schmid, Education Programs Consultant, Curriculum Initiatives Office, California Department of Education

Current Legal Issues Facing Governing Boards: Guidance for Board Members

❖ **Workshop – Room: 201 CD**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

What are the current legal issues affecting California schools and governing board members right now? Attorneys from CSBA's four premier law firms will participate in an engaging, interactive panel discussion providing attendees with their take on the critical legal issues confronting school districts and county offices of education.

Kristin Lindgren-Bruzzone, General Counsel, CSBA

Anthony P. De Marco, Senior Partner, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

L. Carlos Villegas, Partner, Fagen Friedman & Fulfroost, LLP

Karen Rezendes, Managing Partner, Lozano Smith

Candace M. Bandoian, Managing Partner, Dannis Woliver Kelley

Small District, Big Lift: The Critical Role of the Superintendent/Principal

❖ **Workshop – Room: 202 AB**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

What does the work of a superintendent/principal really entail? And how can school board members foster effective collaboration so that their superintendent/principals are successful in this critical role? Join CSBA's Research and Policy Development team for a workshop that explores the realities of this under-discussed leadership position and provides concrete recommendations for effective board leadership in districts where the superintendent also serves as the instructional leader. Sponsored by the CSBA Small School Districts Advisory Workgroup, this workshop is designed to focus on the needs of members who lead small but mighty districts.

Kim Kern, Superintendent/Principal, Pope Valley Union SD

Joshua Munoz, Superintendent/Principal, Howell Mountain ESD

Melanie Matta, Superintendent/Principal, Hope ESD

Christina Belmer, Board Vice President, Placerville Union ESD

❖ *Recommended for Small and Rural School Districts*

Critical Decision Making is Crucial in Times of Budget Uncertainty

❖ **Workshop – Room: 203 AB**

FISCAL STRATEGIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Districts face numerous challenges in today's uncertain landscape, including declining enrollment and financial instability. Amidst this turmoil, other post-employment benefits (OPEB) liabilities pose a serious concern. There are strategies that can help alleviate the stress and uncertainty surrounding OPEB and pension obligations. Delve into the power of prefunding a Section 115 Trust, a solution that can empower districts to navigate difficult budgetary situations by addressing their liabilities head-on.

John Gray, President and CEO, School Services of California

Gina Potter, Superintendent, San Ysidro SD

Brianna Garcia, Vice President, School Services of California

Jennifer Meza, Senior Manager, PARS

Providing Educational and Co-Curricular Opportunities for all Student Athletes in a Positive and Safe Environment

❖ **Workshop – Room: 204 ABC**

MENTAL HEALTH, WELLNESS AND STUDENT SAFETY

San Luis Coastal USD is committed to building a community and culture of health, safety, and excellence, where athletes can thrive in sport and in life. Presenters in this session will share the process of designing and developing a comprehensive safe sports policy that can be used by district and site leaders, along with coaches, parents and student-athletes to help maintain safety and build capacity around best practices when working with student-athletes.

Marci Beddall, Teacher on Special Assignment, San Luis Coastal USD

Chris Ungar, Board Member, San Luis Coastal USD, Delegate, CSBA

Tyler Hoyt, Athletic Director, San Luis Coastal USD

Ellen Sheffer, Board Member, San Luis Coastal USD

Collaborations to Support Workforce Decisions for UPK Educators Serving Multilingual Learners

❖ **Workshop – Room: 205 AB**

ACCESS FOR ALL

Preparing, recruiting and retaining the early childhood educator workforce to meet the needs of California's diverse, multilingual population is a challenge for governing boards and education systems across the state. The Central Valley reflects the rich diversity of California and has undertaken innovative partnerships to address the substantial need for universal pre-K (UPK) staff. School systems in the Central Valley are collaborating with partners and philanthropic organizations in the English Learners Workforce Investment Initiative.

Xilonin Cruz-Gonzalez, Deputy Director, Californians Together, Past President, CSBA

Julie Berk, Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services, Tulare COE

Diane Lira, Deputy Superintendent, Fresno COE

Erika Hesterberg, Senior Program Strategist, James B. McClatchy Foundation

❖ *Recommended for County Offices*

Policy Development: The Importance and Process

❖ **Workshop – Room: 206 AB**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

Policy sets the direction of a district or county office of education, conveys expectations for actions, clarifies roles and responsibilities, and communicates board philosophy and positions, making it one of the most important obligations of a governing board. Join members

of CSBA's Policy team for this workshop that will focus on the policy development process, from CSBA's Update Packets to district and county office of education adoption and implementation.

Barbara Laifman, Director, Policy Manual Development, CSBA
Joshua Daniels, Chief, Policy and Governance Technology Services, CSBA
Meghan Russell, Senior Policy Manual Writer, CSBA
Dustin Bindreiff, Senior Policy Manual Consultant, CSBA

❖ *Recommended for First-Term Board Members*

What Board Members Need to Know About Title IX

❖ **Workshop – Room: 207 AB**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

The U.S. Department of Education rolled out new regulations for Title IX, effective August 1, 2024, updating protections against sex-based discrimination in education. These changes not only revise the 2020 updates but also prompt K-12 and higher education institutions to refresh their policies and practices. Join us for an insightful presentation that will equip you with a comprehensive legal overview of these changes. You'll gain valuable insights into national and local litigation considerations and hear practical perspectives from school district administrators from attorney, high school, and elementary school perspectives who are navigating these requirements. This is your opportunity to stay informed and empowered as we work together to ensure districts provide an equitable educational environment for all.

Pamela Townsend, Attorney, Dannis Woliver Kelley
Chelsea Tibbs, Attorney, Dannis Woliver Kelley
Jeremy Boerner, Director, Educational Services, Cajon Valley Union SD
Mary Nishikawa, Director, Student Support Services & Alternative Education, Grossmont Union HSD

Enhancing Educational Communication with Artificial Intelligence: A Future-Oriented Approach

❖ **Workshop – Room: 207 CD**

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN EDUCATION

In our rapidly evolving educational landscape, the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) presents a unique opportunity to enhance the efficiency of interactions. This session will explore the multifaceted benefits of AI, offering practical ways it can support teachers, students and families by freeing up valuable time for educators to focus on more complex issues and direct engagement. Attendees will leave with a comprehensive understanding of how AI can transform school communication.

Trinette Marquis, Executive Director, California School Public Relations Association
Jessica Hull, Executive Director of Communication, Roseville City SD

Tailoring Mental Health Support and Community Engagement Strategies to AANHPI Youth

❖ **Workshop – Room: 208 AB**

MENTAL HEALTH, WELLNESS AND STUDENT SAFETY

The multi-faceted Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) community shares a distinct story of rising above societal ostracization — and the effects linger in the education system. Nationally, high schools and universities debate policies that treat AANHPI youth as impediments, not beneficiaries, to justice, conveying that the so called “model minority” is a mere roadblock to equity. Consequently, mental health issues among AANHPI students have increased as evidenced by the high prevalence of depression and suicidal ideation.

John Yeh, Partner, Burke, Williams & Sorensen
Camillia Lui, Scientist, Public Health Institute
Mary Anne Foo, Executive Director, OCAPICA
Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto, Vice President, Fremont Union HSD

To Post or Not to Post: Free Speech for Students, Staff and Board Members

❖ **Workshop – Room: 209 AB**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

Freedom of speech is a foundational American principle, but strong opinions and hot topics can raise questions on what is protected and what is prohibited. Get legal guidance and practical tips on visitors to campuses and district offices, public participation in board meetings, student voices and demonstrations and staff speech in the workplace and online.

Chris Keeler, Partner, Fagen Friedman & Fulfroost, LLP

Terilyn Finders, Director of Client Services, Fagen Friedman & Fulfroost, LLP

Diann Kitamura, Deputy Superintendent, Sonoma COE; Consultant, Fagen Friedman & Fulfroost, LLP Next Level Client Services

Developing Processes to Ensure Student Data Privacy and Cohesive Curriculum in a Digital World

❖ **Workshop – Room: 210 AB**

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN EDUCATION

Districts today are struggling under the sheer weight of the numbers of digital applications and artificial intelligence (AI) tools that are available to teachers, many of which are implemented with little to no vetting through the district. Additionally, student data and personal identifiable information may be exposed through each one of these unvetted applications. In this session, Palmdale SD representatives will review the steps they have taken to eliminate the purchase and implementation of non-district approved applications.

Christine Jones, Coordinator of Educational Technology, Palmdale SD

Nancy Smith, Board Member, Palmdale SD

Jim Smith, Director of Information Services, Palmdale SD

Raul Maldonado, Superintendent, Palmdale SD

Building Stronger Connections: Santa Ana USD's P.A.T.H. to Enhanced Parent and Student Advocacy

❖ **Workshop – Room: 210 CD**

STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Santa Ana USD created the P.A.T.H. (Partners in Advocacy, Teaching, and Learning) Conference to empower parents of students with disabilities, providing tools and knowledge to advocate for their children's education. P.A.T.H. aims to build bridges between parents and district staff, increasing alternative dispute resolution. P.A.T.H. aligns with the district's commitment to family engagement, fostering a more inclusive educational environment. In this session, presenters explain how to replicate this initiative.

Rigo Rodriguez, Board Member, Santa Ana USD

❖ *Recommended for Large and Urban School Districts*

Building a Brighter Future: Actionable Strategies for School Safety and Student Wellness

❖ **Workshop – Room: 211 AB**

MENTAL HEALTH, WELLNESS AND STUDENT SAFETY

School safety and student wellness have been headline topics in the last few years nationwide. The Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint USD, under the leadership of its board of education, has made numerous enhancements and investments in both of those realms. From the addition of a second school resource officer, to better equipping its health services employees with trainings and resources, the district has prioritized student safety and wellness to ensure academic success.

Cali Binks, Superintendent, Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint USD

Tim OConnell, Chief, Calimesa Fire Department

Mike Walker, Police Captain, San Bernardino County Sherriff's Department

Bob Miller, Board Member, Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint USD

Inspiring STEM Careers via an Innovative CTE Partnership

❖ **Workshop –Room: 213 AB**

ACCESS FOR ALL

The Medical Innovation Research Entrepreneurship Program (MIRE) is a pioneering partnership to inspire students into STEM careers by combining an interdisciplinary learning project with direct access to, and support from, medical, biotech and other industry professionals. This workshop aims to showcase the career technical education program's impact on students, schools and the broader community, while illustrating its alignment with school districts' educational objectives.

Carrie Buck, Board Member, Placentia Yorba Linda USD, Board Member, North Orange County ROP

Brian Dozer, Superintendent, Coastline ROP

Dana Lynch, Superintendent, North Orange County ROP

Samantha Renusch, Education Program Manager, University Lab Partners

❖ *Recommended for First-Term Board Members, Large and Urban School Districts*

College Readiness: Empowering Minority Students

❖ **Workshop – Room: 213 CD**

ACCESS FOR ALL

A daunting challenge facing California schools is the A-G completion gap. A-G coursework opens the door to university acceptance and expands students' options after high school — yet A-G completion rates are alarmingly low across the state, particularly for minority students. Learn how one district took action to achieve a significant increase in A-G completion rates for minorities with an aligned vision from the board, administration and employee associations.

Carl Coles, Superintendent, Victor Valley Union HSD

Ratmony Yee, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services, Victor Valley Union HSD

Michael Lillard, Heritage Coordinator, Victor Valley High School

Chris Cusino, Principal, Victor Valley High School

❖ *Recommended for Large and Urban School Districts*

Thursday, Dec. 5 | 2:00–3:05 p.m.

Beyond the Classroom: Building Stronger Communities, Stronger Students

❖ **Critical Issue – Room: 201 AB**

MENTAL HEALTH, WELLNESS AND STUDENT SAFETY

Jurupa USD is a model for the positive impact a school district can make by engaging the community, addressing needs and leveraging available resources. As the first Riverside County School District to fully implement Community Schools, JUSD stands out as a leader in this innovative school model. JUSD currently has 18 Community Schools, offering a wide range of services and support which have had a significant impact on hundreds of lives. Community Schools support student and family well-being, health, mental wellness and improved parent engagement while providing information and resources that support the whole child/whole family. These efforts have helped to remove barriers so that our students, families and community can be stronger now and in the future.

Trenton Hansen, Superintendent, Jurupa USD

Monty Owens, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services, Jurupa USD

Jose Campos, Director of Parent Involvement & Community Outreach, Jurupa USD

Understanding CSBA and the Governance Structure: How County Board Members Can Engage and Access Resources

❖ **Workshop – Room: 201 CD**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

Join this session to learn about CSBA services, the association's governance structure, and ways to get the most from your membership. CSBA provides a platform for county board members to connect, share ideas, and access resources that can help them be more effective in their roles. CSBA's organizational structure involves an elected Board of Directors and Delegate Assembly that represents member interests, and a range of committees that address specific issues affecting California's students and families.

Amy Christianson, Chief, Member Services, CSBA

Susan Henry, Board Vice President, Huntington Beach Union HSD

Negotiations and Challenging Times

❖ **Workshop – Room: 202 AB**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

Labor negotiations have been challenging for many this year. Is your local educational agency among them? Learn about legal parameters and communication techniques and strategies regarding negotiations in this session. CSBA experts will answer questions like: How can you communicate your message? What can you say in open session and in closed session? What is appropriate behavior for boards/board members? How do you deal with chaos if things get out of control? This session will cover it all.

Luan Rivera, Senior Governance Educator/Consultant, CSBA

Robert Tuerck, Chief Legal Counsel, CSBA

❖ *Recommended for First-Term Board Members*

I Believe In, I Belong In, I am VUSD: Strategies and Solutions to Enhance Student and Family Engagement

❖ **Workshop – Room: 203 AB**

STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In this workshop, presenters will delve into practical programs and strategies for fostering meaningful student and family engagement within Visalia USD. By leveraging a cohesive districtwide approach and research-based solutions, district leaders address challenges with chronic absenteeism, parent and student engagement barriers, share successful partnerships and explore tangible solutions. Attendees will gain actionable takeaways that will transform family-school engagement and communication.

Jeff Pelzel, Director of Executive Leadership Engagement, PowerSchool
Kirk Shrum, Superintendent, Visalia USD
Alan Nguyen, Senior Solution Engineer, PowerSchool
Jacqueline Gaebe, Board President, Visalia USD

Building Tomorrow's Leaders: Harnessing AI's Transformative Power for a Safe and Inclusive K-12 Education

❖ **Workshop – Room: 204 ABC**

ACCESS FOR ALL

Explore the dynamic landscape of artificial intelligence (AI) in K-12 education, addressing governance challenges, policy formulation and budget implications. Discover how the Anaheim Union HSD is successfully implementing strategies, resulting in enhanced learning outcomes and equitable opportunities. Uncover scalable solutions empowering schools to navigate AI integration effectively. Join us to bridge horizons and champion AI for inclusive education.

Jaron Fried, Assistant Superintendent, Anaheim Union HSD
Michael Matsuda, Superintendent, Anaheim Union HSD
Annemarie Randle-Trejo, Board President, Anaheim Union HSD
Seema Sidhu, Principal, Anaheim Union HSD

❖ *Recommended for Large and Urban School Districts*

School Closure and Consolidation

❖ **Workshop – Room: 205 AB**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

School closure and consolidation is one of the most challenging issues a school district can face. However, the school board's process can provide a thorough, inclusive and efficient method to determine the number of schools that can be operated that will best serve students academically and the district financially, and which schools should be closed. This presentation will provide an overview of best practices to close a school and will review real examples of challenges and success.

Nadia Hillman, Superintendent, Duarte USD
Joseph Pandolfo, Executive Vice President, Total School Solutions
Sarine A. Abrahamian, Partner, Orbach Huff & Henderson
Latyna Young, Board Member, Vallejo City USD

Improving Learning, Attendance and Community Connections

❖ **Workshop – Room: 206 AB**

FISCAL STRATEGIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

To close achievement gaps, suburban school district leaders are proactively addressing shifts in enrollment and student needs with innovation and persistence. Panelists will share strategies to improve attendance, accelerate learning and ensure students are prepared for postsecondary education, the workforce and civic engagement. They will also discuss looming challenges around school funding that threaten these efforts, and why flexibility is needed to meet the ever-changing needs of students.

Sherrie Reed, Executive Director, California Education Lab, UC Davis
Cindy Marks, Board Member, Modesto City Schools, Past President, CSBA
Sara Noguchi, Superintendent, Modesto City Schools
Darin Brawley, Superintendent, Compton USD

Current Issues Impacting Board Policy

❖ **Workshop – Room: 207 AB**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

This past year, a variety of legislation that impacts public education became law. In addition, there have been agency actions and guidance, educational trends, and current issues and reports that impact district and county office of education board policy. This informative workshop highlights recent legislative and other significant changes impacting policy, presented by CSBA policy writers who will explain the most noteworthy changes and what local educational agencies need to do to comply.

Barbara Laifman, Director, Policy Manual Development, CSBA

Joshua Daniels, Chief, Policy and Governance Technology Services, CSBA

Meghan Russell, Senior Policy Manual Writer, CSBA

Dustin Bindreiff, Senior Policy Manual Consultant, CSBA

❖ *Recommended for First-Term Board Members*

Advancing School Finance Skills for Board Members

❖ **Workshop – Room: 207 CD**

FISCAL STRATEGIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

In today's complex educational landscape, school board members face challenges such as budget uncertainty, changing enrollment dynamics and evolving funding models. This session by the California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO) goes beyond the basics, providing an in depth exploration of essential financial management skills. Learn how to become effective stewards of public funds and strong advocates for student success. Enhance your financial acumen and ensure the best outcomes for schools and students.

Tatia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer, CASBO

Eric Dill, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, Carlsbad USD

Tina Douglas, Associate Superintendent, Business Services, La Mesa-Springs Valley SD

Aaron Heinz, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative Services, Colusa COE

❖ *Recommended for County Offices*

Navigating Gender Identity Issues In Education

❖ **Workshop – Room: 208 AB**

ACCESS FOR ALL

California schools must navigate several legal concerns when addressing gender identity, including facility use, athletic participation, discrimination protections, pronoun usage, parental rights, religious concerns, and free speech rights. These issues require school districts to both comply with the law and address community concerns regarding how schools are protecting the safety and rights of both students and staff. Although various California and federal laws address these issues, they do not provide clear guidelines to help school districts navigate the complex gender identity questions that often arise. This presentation summarizes the current laws applicable to gender identity issues and provides comprehensive guidelines to help schools implement practical steps to both comply with the law and uphold the rights and respect the concerns of all involved.

Brooke Romero, Senior Counsel, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

Mellissa Gallegos, Partner, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

Stephen McLoughlin, Partner, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

Pursuing Excellence Through Safe and Equitable School Environments

❖ **Workshop – Room: 209 AB**

MENTAL HEALTH, WELLNESS AND STUDENT SAFETY

This session will delve into the intersections of safety, culture, climate and racial equity in schools. The presentation will provide a historical context and reaffirm a baseline understanding of educational equity and how systemic-level racism and the oppression of marginalized groups oftentimes plague our schools. Attendees will leave with tangible examples of how they can individually contribute to creating and sustaining a safe, equitable school culture that is anti-racist and unbiased in nature.

Dennis L. Carpenter, Senior Education Advisor, Evolv Technology

Governing Boards and Superintendents: How to Navigate in a New Political Landscape

❖ **Workshop – Room: 210 AB**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

What does good school district governance look like in today's political landscape? Elected governing board members are leading in increasingly diverse and divisive settings. District superintendents must recognize and contend with new realities and political minefields while staying focused on the needs of students and families. Navigating this new landscape demands persistence to core values, maintaining the focus to serve all students.

Carl Cohn, Professor Emeritus, School of Educational Studies, Claremont Graduate University

Jackie Thu-Huong Wong, Board Member, Washington USD, Board of Directors, CSBA

Carmen Garcia, Superintendent, Morgan Hill USD

David Miyashiro, Superintendent, Cajon Valley USD

AI: Your Partner in Reducing Cognitive Load

❖ **Workshop – Room: 210 CD**

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN EDUCATION

Discover how Palo Alto USD used artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance productivity by simplifying complex tasks. Utilize practical AI tools to automate administrative tasks, aid in data analysis and personalize customer experiences. Adapt to cognitive load limits with AI assistance.

Don Austin, Superintendent, Palo Alto USD

Shounak Dharap, Board Member, Palo Alto USD

Derek Moore, Chief Technology Operations Officer, Palo Alto USD

Jeong Choe, Assistant Superintendent, Innovation and Agility, Palo Alto USD

❖ *Recommended for Executive Assistants*

Student Opportunities Through Army Career Pathways

❖ **Workshop – Room: 211 AB**

STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Join us for this session showcasing the powerful collaboration between county and district education leaders and the military to enhance student outcomes. Learn how Riverside COE's partnership with the Army has led to a remarkable 50 percent increase in students pursuing Army careers in Riverside County. Discover scalable strategies to expose students to military career pathway opportunities, including postsecondary education access and real-world training. Explore how interactions with professionals across various career fields, including career technical education (CTE) and STEAM-related ones, can benefit students and educators alike. Gain insights on leveraging Army resources to improve standardized testing results, exploring career pathways, accessing post military opportunities and ensuring long-term success for students.

Gilbert Compton, Director, College and Career, Riverside COE
Valerie Backus, CTE Coordinator, Murrieta Valley USD
Edgardo Alvarez, Commander, So Cal Army Recruiting Battalion
Kim Cousins, Board Member, Riverside COE

❖ *Recommended for County Offices*

Literacy for All: Aligning with the Science of Reading

❖ **Workshop – Room: 213 AB**

ACCESS FOR ALL

San Ramon Valley USD leaders will share their four-year journey to align K-5 instruction with the science of reading, informed by a collaborative process of understanding the fundamentals of literacy instruction and evaluating student reading data. See how to develop teacher understanding, build administrator capacity, evaluate programs, pilot, adopt and implement a new Tier 1 curriculum in grades K-3 as well as improvements the district has observed in student achievement, and its plans for grades 4 and 5.

Rachel Hurd, Board Member, San Ramon Valley USD
Deanna Zappia Cabral, ELA/ELD Coordinator, San Ramon Valley USD
Annabel Hurlburt, Director, Instruction (Elementary), San Ramon Valley USD
Courtney Fischer, Teacher, San Ramon Valley USD

Small School District Facilities

❖ **Workshop – Room: 213 CD**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

This workshop will focus on educating small and medium-size school district board members on the process, tools and opportunities available to improve their school district facilities. This workshop should be of great interest to school board members who often feel their status as a small or medium-size school district often leaves them left out of participating in the state school facility program.

Alan Reising, Chair, CASH, Assistant Superintendent, Long Beach USD
Jema Estrella, Chair, Small School District Committee, CASH
Julie Boesch, Administrator, Kern COE

Thursday, Dec. 5 | 3:30–4:35 p.m.

Maintaining Civility in Challenging Times

❖ **Critical Issue – Room: 201 AB**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

Almost every day the media covers disruptions during governmental meetings. Our board meetings are increasingly the target of vocal criticism by groups both inside and outside our communities. What is the impact of disruptive tactics on our boards and board members? What is it like to participate in such a meeting? How can we structure our meetings to allow the participation of the public and at the same time, allow our boards to do the business of the district?

Marla Strich, Board Member, Encinitas Union ESD; Delegate, CSBA

Andree Grey, Superintendent, Encinitas Union ESD

Rachel Locke, Director of the Violence, Inequality and Power Lab, University of San Diego

Rosanna Mucetti, Superintendent, Napa Valley USD

How Federal Policy, Budget and Elections Impact Education

❖ **Workshop – Room: 201 CD**

FISCAL STRATEGIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

This session will include an overview and discussion of recently enacted federal policies and regulations, the impact of a flat FY 2024 budget and what will be needed moving forward to promote student success. It will also delve into how elections have the potential to impact education policy with changes in Congressional leadership and possibly in the White House.

Erika Hoffman, Deputy Legislative Director, CSBA

We Received a Complaint...Now What?

❖ **Workshop – Room: 202 AB**

STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Are you confused about the complaint procedures in your local educational agency? In this workshop, presenters will break down the complexities of common complaint types and provide easy-to-follow guidance on how to respond to complaints, which procedures to follow, and how to comply with multiple procedures at one time. Attendees will learn about best practices and receive practical advice for preparing to work with coordinators, investigators and legal counsel to successfully resolve complaints and reduce liability for the LEA.

Alex Worthy, Senior Legal Services Attorney, CSBA

Show Me the Money!

❖ **Workshop – Room: 203 AB**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

What is the fiscal outlook for the state and schools in 2025 and beyond? How did the 2024–25 budget impact Proposition 98? What does the growth in the state's operational deficit mean for public education funding going forward? In this workshop, attendees will get insider perspectives on what to expect from Sacramento. The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office will present its most recent fiscal outlook for the California state budget with a focus on K-12 education. This session will include a frank discussion of what's on the horizon for the state budget.

Patrick O'Donnell, Chief, Governmental Relations, CSBA

Edgar Cabral, Deputy Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

Iván Carrillo, Senior Director, State and Federal Gov. Relations, ACSA

Change is Possible: Improving Attendance from Policy to Practice

❖ **Workshop – Room: 204 ABC**

STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Gain a deeper understanding of the attendance crisis facing K-12 education and its impact on districts. Learn key steps that board members and superintendents can take to address chronic absenteeism. Hear how the San Diego COE's Improving Chronic Absence Network (ICAN) is putting these policy recommendations into practice, building the capacity of districts and schools to improve student attendance, and decreasing chronic absenteeism.

Todd Langager, Director of Improvement & Impact, San Diego COE

Julia Bridi, Executive Leadership Coach, San Diego COE

Hedy Chang, Executive Director, Attendance Works

❖ **Recommended for County Offices**

Navigating the Instructional Materials Adoptions Process for Math and More

❖ **Workshop – Room: 205 AB**

STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

New instructional materials are a significant investment, and governance teams play an essential role in ensuring educators have the resources they need for effective instruction. The new California Mathematics Framework provides an opportunity to improve student outcomes, and governance teams can establish the foundation for successful implementation. Board members of all levels can learn from this session featuring curriculum experts and veteran board members sharing knowledge and resources to enhance decision-making in selecting educational materials for student success.

Mike Torres, Director, Curriculum Frameworks and Instructional Resources Division, California Department of Education

Alma Castro, Board Vice President, Lynwood USD

Tom Adams, Retired Deputy Superintendent, California Department of Education, Former Board Member, Davis Joint USD

Manuel Buenrostro, Director of Policy, Californians Together

Student Mental Health and Wellness: Multiple Paths, One Destination

❖ **Workshop – Room: 206 AB**

MENTAL HEALTH, WELLNESS AND STUDENT SAFETY

All good mental health programs have certain elements in common — good people, sufficient resources, consistent practices, strong relationships and open communication. This session will highlight practices integrating those key elements and will also provide a policy update on actions at the state level related to student mental health and wellness.

Loretta Whitson, Executive Director, California Association of School Counselors

Scott Kuykendall, Superintendent, Stanislaus COE

Marci McLean-Crawford, School Nurse, Fountain Valley High School, Huntington Beach Union HSD

Jeremiah Aja, Director of Communications, Wellness Together, Inc.

Public Opinion in Session: Prioritizing Communication

❖ **Workshop – Room: 207 AB**

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN EDUCATION

Join Beverly Hills USD to delve into the dynamic world of modern communication in education. Led by veteran board members, the superintendent and staff, this fast-paced and lively collaborative session includes interactive modeling and real-world examples. Attendees will learn how to communicate strategically, draft with diligence and gather feedback effectively. This is a can't-miss opportunity to elevate your local educational agency's communication skills and empower the governance team's leadership role.

Michael Bregy, Superintendent, Beverly Hills USD

Mandy Stern, Board Member, Beverly Hills USD
Rebecca Starkins, Executive Director, Communications, Beverly Hills USD
Noah Margo, Board Member, Beverly Hills USD

Strategies For Successful Labor Negotiations: Establishing and Maintaining Trust from The Board Dais to The Negotiations Table

❖ **Workshop – Room: 207 CD**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

When school boards and their bargaining teams have trust with labor partners, negotiations yield the best results to support student instruction and programs. To establish and maintain trust, a board must identify and establish their priorities and parameters for negotiations. The presenters, who have over 50 years of bargaining experience among them, will share best practices to establish and maintain trust with your labor partners, and discuss trends and hot topics in negotiations. Attendees will gain a greater perspective of the bargaining process and leave with practical tools that can be immediately implemented.

Karen Rezendes, Managing Partner, Lozano Smith
Roman Muñoz, Partner, Lozano Smith
Dulcinea Grantham, Partner, Lozano Smith

The School Board's Role in Decisions on Charter Schools and Renewals

❖ **Workshop – Room: 208 AB**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

Charter school renewals are back and the rules have changed. Charter oversight is under scrutiny. Join the California Department of Education-funded Charter Authorizer Support Initiative to discuss the school board's role in authorizing, especially high-stakes decisions with some risks and big implications for students. Attendees will learn about changes in law, board tips and successful authorizing practices and resources that districts and county offices, large or small, can replicate and adapt to local circumstances. Questions are welcome in this workshop.

Mefula Fairley, Executive Director, Charter Schools, Santa Clara COE
Tom Hutton, Executive Director, California Charter Authorizing Professionals
Michelle Johnson, Associate Director, Charter Schools, Santa Clara COE
Renee Regacho-Anaclerio, Board Member, Placer COE

❖ *Recommended for County Offices*

Building a Unified Governance Team for Transformational Leadership

❖ **Workshop – Room: 209 AB**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

In this session, participants will learn the steps taken in Visalia USD to build a unified governance team that positioned the district for transformational change resulting in receiving the 2023 CSBA Governance Team of the Year Award. The transformational journey focused on engaging various stakeholders, transparency and developing foundational policies to build unity and a vision for success that has become a reality and permeated the culture for the betterment of all.

Kirk Shrum, Superintendent, Visalia USD
Jacqueline Gaebe, Board President, Visalia USD
Megan Macy, Attorney, Lozano Smith
Andre Pecina, Superintendent, Corcoran Joint Unified USD

Student Wellness: Mental Health and Community Schools

❖ **Workshop – Room: 210 AB**

MENTAL HEALTH, WELLNESS AND STUDENT SAFETY

During this workshop, attendees will learn how a diverse K-8 district leveraged its commitment to the community school approach to build its capacity to support student wellness. Learn how creating an in-house counseling program, expanding a long-term partnership with Stanford University and strengthening systems for data collection, analysis and reporting are resulting in improved capacity to support wellness and promote positive and equitable student outcomes.

John Baker, Superintendent, Redwood City SD

Michelle Griffith, Director, Community Schools and Partnerships, Redwood City SD

Ana Paula Garay, Lead Mental Health Counselor, Redwood City SD

Families First: GGUSD's Family Resource Centers

❖ **Workshop – Room: 210 CD**

ACCESS FOR ALL

Part of caring for the whole child is caring for the whole family. Leaders from Garden Grove USD, a diverse urban district, will present how they increased the level of assistance and care available to GGUSD families through five Family Resource Centers (FRCs). Attendees will walk away with a deep understanding of how GGUSD planned, funded, implemented and expanded this program to connect families to trusted community partners that can meet their unique needs.

Gabriela Mafi, Superintendent, Garden Grove USD

Teri Rocco, Board President, Garden Grove USD

Lorena Sanchez, Assistant Superintendent, K-12 Educational Service, Garden Grove USD

Teresa Jackson, Coordinator, Parent and Community Outreach, Garden Grove USD

❖ *Recommended for Large and Urban School Districts*

Future-Proofing Education: Long-Term AI Impacts on EL Students

❖ **Workshop – Room: 211 AB**

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN EDUCATION

Artificial intelligence (AI) offers transformative potential for underserved English learners (EL) students. This workshop will explore the long-term implications of AI from a social justice and equity perspective, focusing on personalized learning opportunities. Expert panelists will discuss AI's challenges and benefits, incorporating AI skills into curricula and addressing ethical and social impacts. Learn how AI can create a more equitable educational landscape for EL students and understand its long-term impacts on their learning experience.

Ivan Chaidez, Superintendent, Oak Grove SD

Mark Wojciechowski, CEO and President, Remarkable, Inc.

Teresa López Alonzo, Associate Director, School Networks for Education Leadership & System Design, WestEd

Ruben Fernandez, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, Los Gatos-Saratoga Union HSD

Million Dollar Gift Certificate: Deep Resources for Careers

❖ **Workshop – Room: 213 AB**

ACCESS FOR ALL

This session will explain how foundation and industry partners worked with great curriculum writers for free career resources, from manual labor jobs to graduate school, for grades 3-12 in Napa County. Curricula includes virtual field trips, pre-built PowerPoints, interactive apps and videos, many of which are in multiple languages. Attendees will leave with resources for teachers, families and after-school programs. Students have the chance to ignite their passion through interviews with diverse professionals and visits to their workplaces.

*Barbara Nemko, Superintendent, Napa COE
Hall Davidson, Chair, California Student Media Festival Foundation*

❖ *Recommended for County Offices*

Enhancing Student Futures: Building a Partnership with JROTC and ROTC

❖ ***Workshop – Room: 213 CD***

ACCESS FOR ALL

Explore how school districts partner with Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) and Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps (SROTC) to enhance students' futures through leadership training, scholarship opportunities and career pathways. Attendees will learn about program implementation, governance challenges, effective solutions and tangible outcomes like improved attendance, academics and college readiness and discover replicable strategies and actionable steps to implement similar partnerships.

Stephen Nellman, Superintendent, Centinela Valley Union HSD

Clark Burke, Superintendent, Manteca USD

Rob Cancio, Board Member, Norwalk-La Mirada USD

Victor Shen, Detachment Chief, U.S. Army Cadet Command

Friday, Dec. 6 | 9:00–10:05 a.m.

From Awareness to Action: Tackling Human Trafficking Together

❖ **Workshop – Room: 201 AB**

MENTAL HEALTH, WELLNESS AND STUDENT SAFETY

Join Monterey County Board of Education and MCOE team members as they share about their annual Human Trafficking Symposium. This presentation will outline the urgent need to address human trafficking, highlight the key partnerships formed, and the impactful strategies used to inform and engage the community. Learn how this symposium not only raises awareness but also empowers participants to take actionable steps toward eliminating this critical issue.

John McPherson, Board Member, Monterey COE

Annette Yee Steck, Board Member, Monterey COE

Janet Wohlgemuth, Board President, Monterey COE

Justin Parker, Program Coordinator, Foster Youth Services, Monterey COE

❖ **Recommended for County Offices**

Understanding the Revised Title IX Regulations

❖ **Workshop – Room: 201 CD**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

In April 2024, the U.S. Department of Education released revised regulations that support the implementation of Title IX, a federal law prohibiting sex discrimination in publicly funded educational programs and activities. In light of these revised regulations, CSBA issued a special policy update packet covering 10 impacted sample policies. This workshop will cover the important changes to those sample policies and what Board members need to know about the revised regulations.

Joshua Daniels, Chief, Policy and Governance Technology Services, CSBA

Barbara Laifman, Director, Policy Manual Development, CSBA

Ethan Retan, Deputy General Counsel, CSBA

The Board and Superintendent Relationship is Critical for a District's Success

❖ **Workshop – Room: 202 AB**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

In today's challenging political landscape, the relationship between the board and superintendent is key to success. This session will emphasize the pivotal bond between the board of trustees and the superintendent, which is essential for fostering a district culture focused on improvement and student success. Panelists will explore research-based best practices, culminating in actionable strategies for replicable success within your district.

Todd Cutler, Superintendent, Lake Tahoe USD

Amy Christianson, Chief, Member Services, CSBA

Valerie Mansfield, Board Member, Lake Tahoe USD

Teresa Schow, Executive Assistant, Lake Tahoe USD

❖ **Recommended for First-Term Board Members, Executive Assistants, Small and Rural School Districts**

Creating a Roadmap: Uplifting California's Black Students in Mathematics

❖ **Workshop – Room: 203 AB**

ACCESS FOR ALL

This panel will highlight the impactful work of school districts and statewide initiatives to empower California's Black students in mathematics. The California education community has spent the past few years in a renewed discussion of how to reduce gaps in

student outcomes and increase access to math pathways. While statewide policy discussions have progressed, this panel's districts have been developing their own programs to ensure access and equity in mathematics for their Black students.

Jeremy Anderson, Principal Research Manager, CSBA
Brynnda Collins, Board President, Emery USD
Quiauna Scott, Superintendent, Emery USD
John Ervin, Board President, Modesto City Schools

Repeating and Breaking Historic Cycles of Education Finance and Policy in California

❖ **Workshop – Room: 204 ABC**

FISCAL STRATEGIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Join this session to consider California's history of education finance and policy from people on the front lines of informing, making, and evolving such policy. Since the passage of Proposition 13 (1978), education funding has expanded and contracted, with major changes in policy along the way — like K-3 class size reduction, the Local Control Funding Formula and transitional kindergarten expansion. Is history a lesson or destined to repeat itself? This panel explores the lessons and opportunities that history has to offer for education finance and policy.

Jannelle Kubinec, Chief Executive Officer, WestEd
Alberto Carvalho, Superintendent, Los Angeles USD
Carl Cohn, Professor Emeritus, School of Educational Studies, Claremont Graduate University
Heather Hough, Senior Policy and Research Fellow, PACE, Stanford University

❖ *Recommended for First-Term Board Members*

How to Lead When You Don't Get Along

❖ **Workshop – Room: 205 AB**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

School boards are not immune from the fallout of elevated tensions and depleted emotional bandwidths impacting people today. In this environment, divergent viewpoints and opinions present extreme challenges for effective governance. In this session, attendees will learn best practices and the legal dos and don'ts for running meetings when you don't have a harmonious board as well as what you are allowed to say, what shouldn't you say and how to govern with people you don't like or agree with.

Sepideh Yeoh, Governance Educator/Consultant, CSBA
Robert Tuerck, Chief Legal Counsel, CSBA

❖ *Recommended for First-Term Board Members*

Effective Early Retirement Plan to Avoid Fiscal Upheaval

❖ **Workshop – Room: 206 AB**

FISCAL STRATEGIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Budgetary challenges are on the rise for school districts and many will need to evaluate the need to reduce budgets. Although more drastic measures like layoffs may become necessary, an early retirement incentive can offer an alternative path forward. By taking proactive steps to save and invest early on, you can avoid fiscal upheaval and help mitigate the pain of budgetary uncertainty.

Steven Keller, Senior Education Consultant, PARS
Blake Silvers, Superintendent, Wiseburn USD
Ryan Nicasio, Senior Vice President, PARS

Healthy Classrooms: Leveraging Federal and State Funds to Create Safer Classrooms

❖ **Workshop – Room: 207 AB**

STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Leaders at the state and national levels put an enormous emphasis on developing new avenues for public schools to embrace environmental leadership, innovations in safer, cleaner indoor air quality and funding for energy initiatives that impact students and staff. These experts will explore innovative ways to address the new imperative for environmental leadership in schools, indoor air quality for classrooms and efforts to reduce ongoing energy costs.

Kevin Gordon, President, Capitol Advisors Group

Ashley Lough, Director of Energy Services, Climatec

Arturo Jimenez, Superintendent, Calxico USD

Alan Reising, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities & Operations, Long Beach USD

Board Appeal Rising: A Guide to Navigating Unique Student Matters

❖ **Workshop – Room: 207 CD**

STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As community members become increasingly interested in interaction and communication with the board, appeals to the board in student and community relations policies have likewise increased, or arisen for the first time, often without a clear process. This session will review the various and unique appeals that may come before the board and best practices in navigating these matters effectively and defensibly.

Pamela Townsend, Attorney, Dannis Woliver Kelley

Meagan Kinsey, Senior Associate General Counsel, Long Beach USD

How to Best Leverage LEA Mental Health Services to Meet the Needs of the Whole Child

❖ **Workshop – Room: 208 AB**

MENTAL HEALTH, WELLNESS AND STUDENT SAFETY

School districts faced unprecedented challenges navigating student mental health issues exacerbated by the isolation and disruption of the pandemic. Districts have long supplemented their educational programs with an array of wraparound programs designed to meet the needs of the whole child. Presenters will discuss how school districts and county offices of education can utilize strategies such as coordination of services and a Multi-Tiered System of Supports, as well external resources, to meet these challenges.

Katie McEwen, Board Member, Irvine USD

Susan Henry, Board Vice President, Huntington Beach Union HSD

Michelle O'Connor-Ratcliff, Board President, Poway USD

John Yeh, Partner, Burke, Williams & Sorensen

Digital Wellness: Best Practices across IT, SEL and Digital Citizenship

❖ **Workshop – Room: 209 AB**

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN EDUCATION

Fullerton SD added a new Internet Safety Board Goal this year, and staff rose to the challenge with a complete revamp of the program to encompass all aspects of digital wellness. Learn how parent presentations, student focus groups with artificial intelligence (AI), new software, surveys and new lessons all contributed to greater digital wellness across the district. Learn how to collaborate across multiple departments so social-emotional learning (SEL), digital citizenship, California Healthy Kids Survey and more are included in your programs.

Jeremy Davis, Assistant Superintendent, Innovation, Fullerton SD

Exploring Mental Health Through "Anxious Nation" an Award-Winning Documentary

❖ **Workshop – Room: 210 AB**

MENTAL HEALTH, WELLNESS AND STUDENT SAFETY

Dive into a compelling exploration of mental health with the documentary film *Anxious Nation*. This workshop will feature a screening of the film, followed by an engaging discussion and Q&A session. *Anxious Nation* delves into the rising tide of anxiety affecting individuals and communities across the United States. Through personal stories, expert interviews and a comprehensive look at the societal factors contributing to this epidemic, the film sheds light on the challenges and potential solutions for managing anxiety in our modern world.

Laura Morton, New York Times Bestselling Author and Filmmaker, Anxious Nation
Debra Schade, Board President, Solana Beach ESD, Vice President, CSBA
Sevey Morton, Student and Youth Mental Health Advocate, Torrey Pines High School

❖ *Recommended for Student Board Members*

Empowering Student Voices: From Classroom to Boardroom

❖ **Workshop – Room: 210 CD**

STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Discover how San Bernardino City USD Student Board Member Program fosters inclusivity, equity and representation while amplifying authentic student voices. Learn how the program equips student board members with the knowledge and skills to contribute effectively, ask informed questions and represent their peers. Explore how the program engages students in meaningful district and community events and supports their growth through continuous coaching and development.

Felicia Alexander, Board Member, San Bernardino City USD
Ana-Victoria Chavez, Student Board Member, San Bernardino City USD
Jimena Preciado, Student Board Member, San Bernardino City USD
Tatiana Eden Ochoa, Student Board Member, San Bernardino City USD

❖ *Recommended for Student Board Members*

Data Dynamos: Unleashing the Power of Data for Educational Excellence

❖ **Workshop – Room: 211 AB**

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN EDUCATION

Learn from Modesto City Schools' journey to improve student outcomes via data-driven personalization. Uncover strategies for decision making, cultivating data culture and leveraging predictive analytics to drive systemic improvements and elevate educational outcomes to unprecedented heights. Experience data visualization and leave with replicable practices, clear takeaways and a readiness to ignite a data revolution in your district.

Ryan Reynolds, Senior Director, Assessment & Evaluation, Modesto City Schools
Russ Selken, Chief Technology Officer, Modesto City Schools
Sara Noguchi, Superintendent, Modesto City Schools
Shivani Stumpf, Chief Product and Innovation Officer, PowerSchool

Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing

❖ **Workshop – Room: 213 AB**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

In the face of pressures that can overwhelm educators and distract from the core work of instruction and student learning, school boards play an instrumental role in establishing and maintaining focus in a district's work. As a counterpoint to media reports that

highlight dysfunction and disruption, this workshop highlights practices and lessons learned from two districts whose collaborative and productive approaches to governance enable persistent attention to their highest priorities.

Rosanna Mucetti, Superintendent, Napa Valley USD

Robin Jankiewicz, Board Member, Napa Valley USD

Joel Knudson, Principal Researcher, American Institutes for Research

Jose Magana, Board Member, San Jose USD

Roadmap to the Future: Changing the Trajectory for Children and Youth in Yolo County

❖ **Workshop – Room: 213 CD**

ACCESS FOR ALL

Participants in this session will learn about Yolo COE'S role in launching its "Roadmap to the Future for Yolo County Children and Youth" countywide initiative, as well as the importance of collaborative leadership, effective governance, community engagement and the use of data in tackling this comprehensive project. By fostering collaboration among stakeholders, presenters will show how the Roadmap is ensuring equitable access to quality education and support services, thus building a brighter future for children, youth and families!

Garth Lewis, Superintendent, Yolo COE

Maria Arvizu-Espinoza, Deputy Superintendent, Yolo COE

Anthony Volkar, Public Information Officer, Yolo COE

Karleen Jakowski, Assistant HSSA Director/Mental Health Director, County of Yolo

❖ *Recommended for County Offices, Small and Rural School Districts*

Friday, Dec. 6 | 10:40–11:45 a.m.

Education Workforce Housing Research Release: Post-occupancy Outcomes

❖ **Workshop – Room: 201 AB**

FISCAL STRATEGIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

In recent years, interest among California LEAs in building education workforce housing (EWH) for their employees on property they already own has surged. The LEAs that have built such projects report higher staff retention, greater ease in recruiting new staff, and higher employee morale. To date, these results have been anecdotal, but today CSBA and its partners are releasing the first-ever research report on these outcomes. Join us to hear and discuss these findings.

Greg Francis, Senior Project Manager, Education Workforce Housing, CSBA

Dana Cuff, Founder and Director, UCLA cityLAB

Manos Proussaloglou, Assistant Director, UCLA cityLAB

Jeff Vincent, Co-Founder and Director of Public Infrastructure Initiatives, UC Berkeley Center for Cities + Schools

“First Amendment” Auditors — Is Your District Ready?

❖ **Workshop – Room: 201 CD**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

School districts throughout California have increasingly become a target for visits from self-proclaimed “First Amendment” auditors. During this interactive session, Lake Tahoe USD Superintendent Todd Cutler and attorneys Matt Juhl-Darlington and Bill Schuetz from Dannis Woliver Kelley will share their firsthand experiences, valuable insights and recommended proactive measures to implement now to be prepared and avoid catastrophe.

Todd Cutler, Superintendent, Lake Tahoe USD

Bill Schuetz, Shareholder, Dannis Woliver Kelley

Matthew Juhl-Darlington, Shareholder, Dannis Woliver Kelley

Reporting Gifts and Other Sources of Income: Form 700 Guidance and Reporting Under the Political Reform Act

❖ **Workshop – Room: 202 AB**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

Every elected official who makes governmental decisions, including school district and county office of education board members, is required to submit Form 700, Statement of Economic Interests. The completion of a Form 700 requires public officials to disclose information to the public about their personal financial interests, including the receipt of gifts. Learn from experienced legal practitioners what constitutes a reportable “gift” in this session.

Dana Scott, Associate General Counsel, CSBA

Lynn Beekman, Partner, Fagen Friedman & Fulfroost, LLP

Kathryn E. Meola, Partner, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

William B. Tunick, Shareholder, Dannis Woliver Kelley

❖ *Recommended for First-Term Board Members*

Youth Voting: It’s Now a Thing!

❖ **Workshop – Room: 203 AB**

STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In November 2024, for the first time ever in California, 16- and 17-year-olds voted in two school board elections. This was enabled by the passage of Measure Y1 in Berkeley in 2016 and the passage of Measure QQ in Oakland in 2020. This workshop will share the story

of how these two measures came to pass, the challenges that arose from implementation, and how youth voting affected both school board elections.

Joshua Daniels, Chief, Policy and Governance Technology Services, CSBA
Jennifer Shanoski, Board Member, Berkeley USD
Linh Le, Former Student Board Member, Californians for Justice
Max Simmons, Student Board Director, Oakland USD

❖ *Recommended for Student Board Members*

Proposition 98: What Is It, Why Do We Have It and How Does It Work?

❖ **Workshop – Room: 204 ABC**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

Thirty-six years have passed since California's voters passed Proposition 98. Join CSBA's Governmental Relations team and leading experts in Proposition 98 to answer these important questions about Proposition 98: What is it, why do we have it and how does it work? Recognized as one of the most quintessential initiatives in modern California history, Prop 98 has served as a keystone in statewide education funding. Not without its detractors, its funding methodology has withstood numerous attacks and its supporters, including CSBA, have invested significant political, legal and policy capital to ensure it remains the bedrock of education funding in California. A beneficial session for both veteran and new board members alike, attendees of this important workshop will learn how Proposition 98 functions, why it's important and how it serves California's future generations.

Patrick O'Donnell, Chief, Governmental Relations, CSBA
Chris Ungar, Board Member, San Luis Coastal USD, Delegate, CSBA
Edgar Cabral, Deputy Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office
Chris Reefe, Legislative Director, CSBA

AI: Promise, Peril, Policy and Performance

❖ **Workshop – Room: 205 AB**

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN EDUCATION

Join school board members, superintendents, and district IT chiefs in this session hosted by CSBA's AI Taskforce. Panelists will walk through critical policy areas and everyday scenarios related to AI management in schools. Participants will benefit from discussions on the implications of AI for privacy, student performance, accountability, equity, plagiarism, labor relations, due process, security and more.

Troy Flint, Chief, Communications, CSBA
Susan Markarian, AI Taskforce Chair, Immediate Past President, CSBA; Board Member, Pacific Union ESD
Soheil Katal, Chief Information Officer, Los Angeles USD
Arlene Perez, Board President, El Rancho USD
Nicolas Wade, Superintendent, Columbia Union SD
Stephanie Avera, Chief Technology Officer, Capistrano USD

Increasing Attendance and Student Connectedness

❖ **Workshop – Room: 206 AB**

MENTAL HEALTH, WELLNESS AND STUDENT SAFETY

In this interactive panel, experts will delve into the underlying causes of chronic absenteeism and how to leverage the flexibility of the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program funding to increase school connectedness and attendance. This panel will provide the most recent attendance data trends, implications on school financing and student achievement, and multi-tiered solutions that address a spectrum of barriers — from systemic challenges to individual student needs.

Hedy Chang, Executive Director, Attendance Works
Hector Bustos, Board Member, Santa Ana USD
Jorge Pacheco, Jr., Board Member, Oak Grove USD

Jessica Gunderson, Co-CEO, Partnership for Children & Youth

❖ *Recommended for First-Term Board Members*

Harnessing the Power of Artificial Intelligence for Operational Efficiency

❖ **Workshop – Room: 207 AB**

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN EDUCATION

School districts face increasing pressure to enhance operational efficiency while maintaining or improving educational outcomes. Artificial intelligence (AI) offers innovative solutions for streamlining administrative tasks, optimizing resource allocation and providing personalized learning experiences. This presentation explores the practical applications of AI, guiding school district leaders on how to integrate AI effectively to meet their strategic goals.

Allan Mucerino, Retired Superintendent, Alford USD

Robert Schwandt Jr., Educational Technology Director, Alford USD

Kerrie McNally, Partner, Adams Silva & McNally LLP

Teddy Daiber, CEO, AlwaysOn

❖ *Recommended for Executive Assistants*

Superintendent Evaluation Training – Best Practices

❖ **Workshop – Room: 207 CD**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

Among the most important tasks for school boards to complete each year is the evaluation of their superintendent. Yet, this is one task that is often ignored or performed in a manner that detracts from its importance. How the governance team functions together is one of the most critical factors in determining the success of the district and the achievement of its goals. This workshop session will provide written procedures for the best practices for conducting superintendent evaluations including timelines and evaluation formats to comply with Board policies and improve the function of the governance team.

Jenny Lam, Board President, San Francisco County & USD

Ron Carruth, Retired Superintendent, Concierge Consulting Services

Louis T. Lozano, Founding Partner, Lozano Smith

Tom Manniello, Partner, Lozano Smith

Working in a Resilience Environment (WIRE)

❖ **Workshop – Room: 208 AB**

MENTAL HEALTH, WELLNESS AND STUDENT SAFETY

Working In Resilient Environments (WIRE) uses experiential learning and arts integration techniques to engage participants in the discovery and practical implementation of tools and strategies that address stress and burnout, to foster a more resilient workforce. Participants can connect, identify challenges, and explore practical strategies that encourage workplace wellness.

Daniel Reano-Koven, Design & Delivery Consultant, Educational Theatre, Kaiser Permanente

Jacque Herman, Design & Delivery Consultant, Educational Theatre, Kaiser Permanente

Derricka Smith, Design & Delivery Consultant, Educational Theatre, Kaiser Permanente

Carlos Ramos, Design & Delivery Consultant, Educational Theatre, Kaiser Permanente

Cayla J. & LCAP: An Opportunity for Dialogue

❖ **Workshop – Room: 209 AB**

FISCAL STRATEGIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The California Collaborative for Educational Excellence's Data Research Learning Network brings together select districts from across the state for data innovation. In this session, attendees will learn about two districts' innovation journeys, Taft City and San Ysidro

school districts, with data protocols to enable authentic data discussions for improvement and impact on student learning. Participants will walk away with board member specific resources such as the 3D: Data, Discussion, Decisions protocol.

Ingrid Roberson, Senior Advisor, CCEE
Lori Slaven, Superintendent, Taft City SD
Luis Ramos, Director of Educational Services, San Ysidro SD
Sujie Shin, Deputy Executive Director, CCEE

❖ *Recommended for First-Term Board Members, Small and Rural School Districts*

Understanding CIF: A Guide for School Board Members on High School Athletics

❖ **Workshop – Room: 210 AB**

STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Discover the transformative power of high school sports in our engaging and relevant workshop for school boards. Learn about policies and practices from the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) that prioritize health and safety, equity, and school culture. Find solutions to governance challenges with replicable strategies that yield tangible results, including healthier, happier students and stronger communities. Don't miss out on this opportunity to make a real impact on student health, school culture, and high school sports.

Melissa Peters, Board Vice President, Los Molinos USD
Ron Nocetti, Executive Director, California Interscholastic Federation
Alex Vara, Board President, Redlands USD

Accessibility for Students to Dual Enrollment and CTE Pathways

❖ **Workshop – Room: 210 CD**

ACCESS FOR ALL

The session will provide a comprehensive overview of the Dual Enrollment and CTE Pathways in the ABC USD. It will delve into the development of these pathways at each high school, highlighting how they are tailored to meet the specific needs of unduplicated students. The session will explore recruitment strategies, CTE pathway alignment, student success stories, innovative approaches, and provide opportunities for Q&A. Interactive elements, such as small group discussions, case studies, and student-led presentations, will be incorporated to foster engagement and creativity. This session aims to provide a valuable and informative learning experience for participants.

Gina Zietlow, Superintendent, ABC USD
Alessa Bautista, Student Board Member, ABC USD
Diya Bhaichand, Student Board Member, ABC USD
Nikhita Guntupalli, Student Board Member, ABC USD

❖ *Recommended for Student Board Members*

Paving the Way to Successful Districtwide Dual Language Immersion Programs in Westminster SD

❖ **Workshop – Room: 211 AB**

ACCESS FOR ALL

Is your local educational agency thinking about starting a dual language immersion (DLI) program or strengthening one already in place? The success of the DLI programs involves community members' input and requires ongoing collaboration and support in making the decisions. Hear about the challenges and successes of the implementation of Westminster SD's infant-eighth grade Vietnamese and Spanish DLI programs.

Michelle Watkins, Senior Executive Director of Educational Services, Westminster SD
Domi Ellis, Principal, Willmore Language Academy, Westminster SD
Rick Nichols, Principal, Stacey Middle School, Westminster SD
Ken LoPour, Principal, Warner Middle School, Westminster SD

Think Outside the Box to Enhance School Attendance

❖ **Workshop – Room: 213 AB**

STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Join this engaging breakout session where presenters explore the impactful 'Every Day Counts Attendance Matters' campaign. A dynamic countywide initiative targeting improved school attendance. Discover innovative and creative strategies that have successfully boosted attendance across the region. Learn from real-life examples how effective communication and districtwide support contributed to raising attendance rates by 1 percent and more per district during the 2023–24 school year.

Judy Boring, Director II, Communications, Stanislaus COE

Scott Kuykendall, Superintendent, Stanislaus COE

Alice Pollard, Board Member, Stanislaus COE

❖ *Recommended for County Offices, Executive Assistants, Small and Rural School Districts*

Leveraging Billing to Sustain Student Mental Health and Wellness Programs

❖ **Workshop – Room: 213 CD**

MENTAL HEALTH, WELLNESS AND STUDENT SAFETY

Schools currently face the challenge of maintaining student mental health and wellness programs expanded in recent years. This workshop will describe three key billing strategies to sustain services that improve student outcomes: the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program, the Multi-Payer Fee Schedule and community-based partnerships. Presenters will discuss practice and policy considerations for expanding billing efforts and next steps for local educational agency leaders to effectively implement these strategies.

Lisa Eisenberg, Child and Youth Health Financing Project Director, WestEd

Jeremy Ford, School-Based Health Finance Associate, WestEd

Alicia Pimentel, Director of School Health Systems and Billing, Santa Clara COE

Karessa Paulino, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Santa Clara COE

❖ *Recommended for County Offices*

Friday, Dec. 6 | 3:45–4:50 p.m.

The Future is Here: Why AI Matters for Education and What Boards Need to Know

❖ **Critical Issue – Room: 201 AB**

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN EDUCATION

In today's rapidly evolving educational landscape, AI is no longer a distant possibility but a reality that demands our attention. This session offers an unfiltered, authentic conversation about why embracing AI in our schools is crucial to preparing students for a future that is already unfolding. You'll hear from experts, practitioners, and district leaders about the opportunities AI presents to enhance learning, promote equity, and develop the skills students will need in tomorrow's workforce. We'll tackle the tough questions: How do we navigate discomfort and fear of AI? What ethical considerations must be taken into account? And how do we ensure AI is used as a tool for innovation, not a shortcut to "cheating"? Join us for a conversation that will push you to think critically and act decisively, so our students aren't left behind in an AI-driven world. This panel is designed specifically for board members and district leaders who are ready to explore the transformative potential of AI, even if the idea feels unfamiliar or daunting. Don't miss this chance to engage in an honest discussion about why AI is not just a tool, but a necessity for the future of education.

Jerry Almendarez, Superintendent, Santa Ana USD

Eric Swanson, Board Member, Hesperia USD

Bianca Barquin, Assistant Superintendent, K-12 Teaching & Learning, Santa Ana USD

Katrina Palmarin, Teacher, Rancho Middle School, Hesperia USD

Education Legal Alliance 2024: Court Decisions with Statewide Implications for Board Members

❖ **Workshop –Room: 201 CD**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

What litigation matters of statewide importance did CSBA's Education Legal Alliance (ELA) initiate or support during the past year? What takeaways should board members have from the outcome of the litigation? Presenters will focus on ELA cases and the critical legal issues impacting school districts and county offices of education in the coming year that have arisen from the decisions in those matters.

Ethan Retan, Deputy General Counsel, CSBA

Sloan Simmons, Partner, Lozano Smith

Paul McGlocklin, Partner, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

The Power of Partnerships for Education Workforce Housing

❖ **Workshop – Room: 202 AB**

ACCESS FOR ALL

The scale and complexity involved in education workforce housing (EWH) has led many agencies to enter partnership agreements for new developments. In this session, attendees will hear about lessons learned from one of the most ambitious EWH developments underway and gain inspiration for ways they might work with nearby agencies and partners to develop great housing for their educators.

Greg Francis, Senior Program Manager, Education Workforce Housing, CSBA

Michelle Kai, Senior Program Officer, Housing Affordability, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative

Devon Conley, Board President, Mountain View Whisman SD

Alida Fisher, Board Member, San Francisco County & USD

❖ *Recommended for County Offices*

Brown Act Basics: Concepts of Transparency, Community Involvement, Government Accountability and More

❖ **Workshop – Room: 203 AB**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

California's open meeting law requirements in a nutshell, with answers to challenging questions by seasoned legal practitioners. Dos and don'ts related to serial meetings, closed sessions, public testimony, agenda-setting, social media and e-communications. This session is for newly elected board members or those in need of a refresher course. The session will help participants learn what a meeting under the Brown Act is, how the public must be informed of closed sessions, rules about public participation in open sessions, how the use of social media may involve the Brown Act, and how waivers operate during emergencies.

Bode Owoyele, Associate General Counsel, CSBA

Anthony P. De Marco, Senior Partner, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

L. Carlos Villegas, Partner, Fagen Friedman & Fulfrost, LLP

Karen Rezendes, Managing Partner, Lozano Smith

❖ *Recommended for First-Term Board Members and Executive Assistants*

Pure Politics: The Policy, Finance and Political Landscape Impacting Schools

❖ **Workshop – Room: 204 ABC**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

California's fiscal challenges follow the most ambitious investments in public K-12 education in decades. The ongoing threats to the significant progress made in the budget over the past five years is setting the stage for a major effort to protect these vital investments as legislative leaders start a fresh new session in both houses. Attendees will hear about how the highly charged national political environment following a very contentious election season will undoubtedly impact the politics of education as well.

Kevin Gordon, President, Capitol Advisors Group

Jack O'Connell, Partner, Capitol Advisors Group

Barrett Snider, Partner, Capitol Advisors Group

Mike Walsh, Board Member, Butte COE

Inclusive School Climate Strategies for Student Success

❖ **Workshop – Room: 205 AB**

MENTAL HEALTH, WELLNESS AND STUDENT SAFETY

CSBA's REPD Department/team staff will share emerging research on the loneliness epidemic, its role in student mental health and the need to build inclusive, supportive learning communities. Baldwin Park USD will share its journey supporting students' mental health using a universal screening tool, improving school climate, building strong community partnerships and best practices. Resources to support inclusive school climates and support student and staff well-being will be shared with attendees.

Dustin Bindreiff, Senior Policy Manual Consultant, CSBA

Angela Asch, Principal Research Manager, CSBA

Alicia Fields, Director of Student Services, Baldwin Park USD

Perla Mendez, School Psychologist, Baldwin Park USD

Electric School Buses: LEA Experiences and Insights in Meeting the State Mandate

❖ **Workshop – Room: 206 AB**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

Join a panel of superintendents who serve on CSBA's Superintendent Advisory Council as they share their insights and experiences in moving toward meeting the state mandate for school transportation fleets to be all electric or low emissions by 2035. They will discuss

their experiences in purchasing and maintaining electric buses and weigh in on the implications for adding charging capacities to their transportation hubs and in remote locations for longer-distance rural routes. They will also shed light on the demands of daily route scheduling, extracurricular transportation implications, and staffing.

Steven M. Ladd, Former Superintendent, Consultant, CSBA
Jeff Harris, Superintendent, Del Norte County & USD
Tom O'Malley, Superintendent, Modoc Joint USD
Ziggy Robeson, Superintendent, Ripon USD

Education Recovery and Renewal in California Schools

❖ **Workshop – Room: 207 AB**

FISCAL STRATEGIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

This workshop presents findings about education recovery programs in California, and discusses the results and outcomes for students, schools and budget implications. It showcases innovative practices and programs from nine diverse school districts by speaking to governance and policy challenges, presenting solutions implemented to improve student outcomes and addressing replicability/scalability. Attendees will leave with key takeaways and call to actions to support an equitable education recovery.

Julian Betts, Professor of Economics, UC San Diego
Jonathan Isler, Administrator, California Department of Education
Cheryl Jordan, Superintendent, Milpitas USD
Piper Stanger, Research Data Specialist, California Department of Education

Service Excellence Through Customer Care

❖ **Workshop – Room: 207 CD**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

Natomas USD's Golden Bell winning Constituent and Customer Services (CCS) department delivers top-notch support to students, parents, staff and the community by promptly addressing inquiries and concerns. Through a Path to Successful Communication process, CCS ensures efficient resolution of educational partner needs, fostering better interaction between stakeholders and the board. Learn how to boost responsiveness in school communities from this award-winning model.

Christina Huth, Chief of Staff, Natomas USD
Heidi Lattuada, Director, Natomas USD
Bill Young, Deputy Superintendent, Natomas USD
Susan Heredia, Board President, Natomas USD, Past President, CSBA

❖ *Recommended for Executive Assistants*

Promoting School Safety through Technology and Facilities

❖ **Workshop – Room: 208 AB**

ACCESS FOR ALL

New and emerging technology offers school districts several ways to bolster their school site security. However, security technology raises several legal issues, including privacy, due process, and free speech rights. Further, schools must ensure compliance with various laws, including the new requirement to develop a Workplace Violence Prevention Plan and a Comprehensive School Safety Plan. Finally, schools must also navigate funding and procurement issues associated with this new technology. This presentation will provide an overview of the current technologies available to schools to increase and support their facility security efforts, along with practical guidelines to help address the legal concerns associated with these technologies. We will also present a recommended plan to assess school sites to determine what specific technology can be used to increase security. Together, this discussion will help schools develop a plan to ensure their school sites both provide adequate security to protect students and staff while honoring the rights and concerns of all involved.

Beverly Ozowara, Partner, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

Collaborative Vision: Enhancing Education Programs Through Strategic Partnerships

❖ **Workshop – Room: 209 AB**

STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This workshop will guide participants in developing effective collaborations between corporate partners and school districts. Attendees will explore strategies to align educational goals and initiatives, fostering a unified approach to program development. Through an interactive session using real-world examples from Hayward USD, participants will gain practical insights into creating impactful and sustainable education programs.

Dawn Johnson, Director of Customer Engagement, ENGIE North America
Lea Pfeffer, Senior Customer Engagement Analyst, ENGIE North America
Nancy Wright, Science Content Specialist, Hayward USD

Thriving and Not Surviving: How Diverse Changes in School Communities Reach Students

❖ **Workshop – Room: 210 AB**

ACCESS FOR ALL

To ensure the success of all students, this session highlights effective strategies for meeting students' needs and fostering a welcoming learning environment. The presentation emphasizes key elements such as core curriculum, learning styles and language diversity to support student growth.

Scott Yamaoka, Student Board Member, Lake Tahoe USD
Mia Valenzuela, Student Board Member, Lake Tahoe USD
Lauri Kemper, Board Member, Lake Tahoe USD

❖ *Recommended for Student Board Members*

New Coalitions Coming Together to Counter Extremism, Support Students and Strengthen Community Bonds

❖ **Workshop – Room: 210 CD**

STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The last few years have seen new coalitions emerge to counter efforts to politicize school boards at the expense of student well-being. This panel will explore experiences of school board members from districts that faced challenges and ways that diverse coalitions within their community responded. The experiences of superintendents will be spoken about by the leader of the statewide administrators' organization.

Carl Cohn, Professor Emeritus, School of Educational Studies, Claremont Graduate University
Edgar Zazueta, Executive Director, Association of California School Administrators
Kris Erickson, Board Member, Orange USD
Deborah Bautista Zavala, Board Member, Woodland Joint USD

Crafting An Effective District Strategic Plan

❖ **Workshop – Room: 211 AB**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

In this workshop, attendees will discover how to design and implement a plan that creates clear organizational direction, aligns all stakeholders, and instills accountability in your senior leaders. Participants will take away actionable insights for authentic stakeholder

engagement and organizational leadership; explore strategies for listening tours, data gathering, focus groups, goal execution and more. Included is a workbook designed to guide participants in planning this process upon returning from the conference.

Josue Reyna, Director Communications and Community Engagement, Menifee Union SD
Jennifer Root, Superintendent, Menifee Union SD
Jacquelyn Johansen, Board Vice President, Menifee Union SD
Morgan Singleton, Board President, Menifee Union SD

CTE, ROPs and the Power of Work Based Learning Programs

❖ **Workshop – Room: 213 AB**

STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This session explores work based learning models in career technical education/regional occupational programs (CTE/ROP) courses, addressing governance, funding, access and stakeholder engagement challenges. Solutions include partnership models, funding strategies, curriculum development and community engagement, aiming to enhance student outcomes and local relationships. Key takeaways include policy recommendations, replication models, engagement strategies and a focus on continuous improvement.

Brian Dozer, Superintendent, Coastline ROP
Dana Lynch, Superintendent, North Orange County ROP
Leilani Aguinaldo, Director, Governmental Relations, School Services of California
Lauren Brooks, Board Member, Irvine USD

❖ *Recommended for First-Term Board Members, County Offices, Small and Rural School Districts*

No More Ballots: Secure Permanent Local Funding

❖ **Workshop – Room: 213 CD**

FISCAL STRATEGIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

As one of the lowest-funded districts, Davis Joint USD is increasingly dependent on local funding to provide the essential programs and services for all students to thrive. After 40 years of voter approved parcel taxes, in 2023–24, through budget presentations, strategic communications and community engagement, the board convinced the community to make the parcel tax permanent. This panel will share lessons and challenges and share how to build consensus and execute successful fiscal, political and engagement strategies.

Matt Best, Superintendent, Davis Joint USD
Joe DiNunzio, Board Member, Davis Joint USD
Hiram Jackson, Board Member, Davis Joint USD
Victor Lagunes, President, Davis Teachers Association, Davis Joint USD

Saturday, Dec. 7 | 9:00–10:05 a.m.

Advancing Educational Equity and Achievement for ALL Students: Starting with Baseline System Studies

❖ **Critical Issue – Room: 201 AB**

ACCESS FOR ALL

Dr. Robin Avelar La Salle will showcase how a Baseline Systems Study can help school and district leaders understand the systems and conditions that are producing current student outcomes, particularly for the most vulnerable students. Learn how to use these study results to leverage systemic changes within your school communities for tangible improved outcomes for ALL students.

Robin Avelar La Salle, Founder and President, Orenda Education; Author of Shattering Inequities

How the Science of Reading Impacts Your Board

❖ **Workshop – Room: 201 CD**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

Governance teams and staff need to be prepared to ask the right questions when selecting curriculum and understand the latest research, state regulations, associated costs and funding, required staff time and more. Attendees of this session will learn about the science of reading, why it's being mandated, related controversy and the role of the board and superintendent in its implementation.

Jefferson Crain, Governance Educator, CSBA

Todd Collins, Board Member, Palo Alto USD

Martha Martinez, Senior Director of Research and Evaluation, Sobrato Early Academic Language (SEAL)

❖ *Recommended for County Offices, Large and Urban School Districts, Small and Rural School Districts*

Advocacy 101: How to be an Effective Advocate

❖ **Workshop – Room: 202 AB**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

This session will cover the most effective advocacy strategies that new and veteran governing board members will find useful at the federal, state and local levels. Legislative advocacy is critical to public education. Join CSBA's advocacy team and school board members, to learn the ins and outs of legislative advocacy; how to build and maintain strong relationships with elected officials and their staff; how governing board members can build and maintain relationships with elected representatives and community leaders; and find resources to help governing board members advocate on behalf of their students, schools and programs, as well as CSBA.

Chris Reeve, Legislative Director, CSBA

Nancy Chaires Espinoza, Board President, Elk Grove USD

Alma Castro, Board Vice President, Lynwood USD

Denisse Lopez, Public Affairs and Community Engagement Representative - Riverside County, CSBA

Underutilized Real Estate: Tips and Best Practices for Workforce Housing and Surplus Property

❖ **Workshop – Room: 203 AB**

FISCAL STRATEGIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Join this session to learn best practices for navigating real property decisions including recommended process, governance, policy changes and legal considerations when deciding to buy, sell, lease or develop property. Panelists will present a strategic asset management approach to evaluate underutilized and surplus property, renegotiate long-term leases and swap property. The framework presented will provide necessary steps to place school district real estate in the service of academic outcomes.

Landis Graden, CEO and Founder, DCG Strategies/Property Planning Solutions

Brandon Myers, Board Member, Inglewood USD

Mastering Masbloom: The Power of Emotional Support and High Expectations in Creating Asset-Based District Cultures

❖ **Workshop – Room: 204 ABC**



STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Research has continually demonstrated that the most critical component in student success is a combination of emotional relevance and high expectations. Attendees of this session will gain insights into governance challenges, proven solutions and actionable takeaways for empowering students to overcome adversity. Participants will explore transformative educational practices to build asset-based systems that foster student success, family engagement, critical thinking and cultural relevance.

Victor Rios, Founder, Scholar System

A Quick Class on SaaS: Tips on Negotiating SaaS Agreements

❖ **Workshop – Room: 205 AB**

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN EDUCATION

Working with software companies is a requirement to successfully operate in today's world; however, agreeing to a "software as a service" vendor's proposed agreement is not. Districts that agree to a vendor's form agreement without reading the fine print may be agreeing to one sided terms that could subject them to liability or increased or wasted cost. This presentation will explore typical SaaS contract provisions and identify potentially problematic terms and conditions.

Christopher Fallon, Partner, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore
Victoria Gomez Philips, Associate, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

Charter Renewals and Board Decision Making

❖ **Workshop – Room: 206 AB**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

After several years of COVID-related term extensions, charter renewals are back. Much has changed in the last few years. Is your district prepared? What type of communication is happening with your approved charter schools? What are the most relevant questions a governing board should ask staff during the charter renewal process? Hear from a statewide expert on charter authorizing, a veteran large school district board member, and a county charter authorizing leader.

Jeffrey Hunt, Director of Charter Schools, Fresno COE
Keshia Thomas, Board Member, Fresno USD
Stephanie Farland, Director of Education Policy, Capitol Advisors Group

❖ *Recommended for County Offices*

Diversity in Action: Crafting Our District's DEI Roadmap

❖ **Workshop – Room: 207 AB**

STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Explore one district's evolving diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) plan, which promotes professional learning, facilitates inclusion of partner voice and champions anti racist policies. Natomas USD representatives will outline the district's attempts over time and present a roadmap for future initiatives. Learn about innovative programs that are boosting student achievement and discover how they achieved early successes with strategies. Attendees will leave equipped with tools, budget considerations and insights needed to replicate their own roadmap.

Angela Herrera, Chief Academic Officer, Natomas USD
Tonja Jarrell, Associate Superintendent, Natomas USD

Maximizing Governance Efficiency: Navigating Process Challenges and Solutions

❖ **Workshop – Room: 207 CD**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

This session will emphasize the crucial role of executive assistants (EAs) in educational leadership. Two districts EAs will offer strategies to optimize operations and boost efficiency, empowering EAs to support superintendents, leadership teams and governing boards. Attendees will learn how to leverage resources to uncover strategies to optimize operations and enhance efficiency and gain insight into best practices, while providing systems and tools to aid EAs in elevating excellence in educational administration.

Tricia Zarevich, Executive Assistant, Los Gatos Saratoga Union HSD

Victoria Webber, Executive Assistant, Laguna Beach USD

❖ *Recommended for Executive Assistants*

Safe and Sound: School Security on Campus and Online

❖ **Workshop – Room: 208 AB**

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN EDUCATION

School safety is the top priority in every district and requires comprehensive, ongoing effort. These experienced presenters will cover cybersecurity, including safe and responsible use of AI, policy and practice guidance for cell phone use by students and staff, state regulations for safety plans and the latest legal news on student discipline.

Gretchen Shipley, Partner, Fagen Friedman & Fulfrost LLP

Matthew Vance, Partner, Fagen Friedman & Fulfrost LLP

Sandy Lyon, Retired Superintendent, Palm Springs USD; Consultant, Fagen Friedman & Fulfrost LLP Law Next Level Client Services

Investing in Talent: Making Every Hire Count in a People-Heavy Budget

❖ **Workshop – Room: 209 AB**

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNANCE

Does your board want to improve your district, regardless of where you are on the improvement continuum? Of course! One key step you can take is to establish a clear, rigorous, and intentional hiring process for all new employees (certificated, classified, management, and unrepresented). A former superintendent with 16 years of experience will join the current superintendent of Redondo Beach USD in this session to guide participants through this unique and easily replicable hiring process.

Steven Keller, Retired Superintendent/Consultant, Redondo Beach USD

Nicole Wesley, Superintendent, Redondo Beach USD

Raymur Flinn, Board President, Redondo Beach USD

❖ *Recommended for First-Term Board Members*

Connect for Change: Fostering Collaboration Between Adult and Student Board Members

❖ **Workshop – Room: 210 AB**

STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

While both adult and student board members work toward the same goals, they are not often trained on intergenerational collaboration. Students are the primary stakeholders of our education system, and it is necessary to build opportunities for their voices to create an

impact. This session offers an opportunity for student board members and school leaders to reflect on their environments and identify key practices to cultivate strong, collaborative relationships that can lead to positive change.

Allyson Chan, Former Youth Commissioner Liaison, San Mateo COE
Anika Yu, Student Board Member, Dublin USD
Chris Funk, Superintendent, Dublin USD
Ronit Peswani, Student Board Member, Dublin USD

❖ *Recommended for Student Board Members*

Workforce Housing Wisdom: What We've Learned. What You Should Know

❖ **Workshop – Room: 210 CD**

FISCAL STRATEGIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Employee workforce housing is one way to give a district a competitive advantage for securing and retaining top talent, addressing a significant hurdle faced by many districts in California in hiring educators who are able to afford to live in the communities in which they work. Presenters will share key considerations, obstacles and opportunities gleaned from their own experiences to help your district consider workforce housing.

Tracy Smith, Superintendent, Novato USD
Julie Jacobson, Board President, Novato USD
Derek Knell, Director of Education Workforce Housing, Novato USD
James Traber, Attorney, Fagen Friedman & Fulfrost LLP

Enhancing School Safety Protocols Through Strategic Communication and Training: A Swatting Call Lockdown Case Study

❖ **Workshop – Room: 211 AB**

MENTAL HEALTH, WELLNESS AND STUDENT SAFETY

A swatting call turned into the most authentic test of La Cañada USD's emergency preparations. The district's response revealed the value of robust communication strategies in emergency situations. Presenters will explore the challenges faced during the incident, particularly in areas where certain communication protocols were untested or underdeveloped. They will also share their experience as a case study revealing the tools, systems and training that worked well and the needed adjustments uncovered in the after action reviews.

Jamie Lewsadder, Associate Superintendent, Technology Services, La Cañada USD
Wendy Sinnette, Superintendent, La Cañada USD
Josh Epstein, Board President, La Cañada USD

Developing a Shared Vision and Coherence for MLLs

❖ **Workshop – Room: 213 AB**

ACCESS FOR ALL

Using Simon Sinek's "Golden Circle" framework, the Delhi USD governance team has developed and refined a coherent core instructional vision to improve outcomes for multilingual learners (MLLs). This was done by integrating the English Learner Roadmap and Multi-Tiered System of Supports frameworks. Learn about the process the board used to develop their framework, create a shared vision and understanding, and monitor progress through transparency and inclusive decision making.

Jose Miguel Kubes, Superintendent, Delhi USD
Cynthia Caldera, Board President, Delhi USD
Ariel Gonzalez, Board Vice President, Delhi USD
Xilonin Cruz-Gonzalez, Deputy Director, Californians Together, Past President, CSBA

❖ *Recommended for Small and Rural School Districts*

Tomorrow's Leaders: State Seal of Civic Engagement

❖ **Workshop – Room: 213 CD**

ACCESS FOR ALL

This session will present the pressing need for comprehensive civic education and showcase practical approaches to implementing the California State Seal of Civic Engagement, emphasizing the scalability of this initiative across diverse school settings. Anaheim Union HSD will share data-backed results over three years, highlighting return on investments achieved by prioritizing civic education. Join this session to cultivate active citizens!

Alison Yoshimoto-Towery, Member, State Board of Education

Michael Matsuda, Superintendent, Anaheim Union HSD

Annemarie Randel-Trejo, Board President, Anaheim Union HSD

Esther Soliman, Vice President, Pathway Development, Linked Learning Alliance

❖ *Recommended for Student Board Members*