Sessions and room locations are subject to change. Last updated on 11/18/26.

Thursday, Dec. 3 | 10:55 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

STRAND: EMPOWERING ALL STUDENTS AND LEAS IN A DIGITAL WORLD

AI in Education: Preparing Students for a Changing World

- ***Workshop – Room: 4***

As we enter an era of exponential change, the debate is no longer about if we should use artificial intelligence (AI), but how we use it to elevate the human experience in our schools. This session explores Desert Sands USD's journey in moving from AI-aware to AI-augmented, providing a multidimensional roadmap that balances operational efficiency with instructional transformation. The district didn't just deploy tools; it built a culture of responsible innovation. Attendees will dive into specific implementation strategies, including the development of a districtwide Ethical AI Framework, leading to students prepared for the world of work and a tiered rollout strategy that empowers educators as lead learners.

Humberto Alvarez - Board President, Desert Sands USD
Kailee Watson - Board Vice President, Desert Sands USD
Patricia Pearce - Board Trustee, Desert Sands USD
Kelly May-Vollmar - Superintendent, Desert Sands USD

STRAND: FOSTERING STRONG COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Come Together: Elevating Student Voice Across Systems

- ***Workshop – Room: 9***

Boards collaborate across districts, but how do leaders create that same opportunity for students? Learn how a five-district coalition representing 62,000 students developed a leadership summit to elevate authentic student voice. Hear how governance challenges can be addressed through strategic networking, a robust planning process and student-led structures. Discover how school teams benefit through cross-district collaboration and empowering young people to provide feedback on student needs and systems change. Participants will leave this session with a scalable model to replicate in their own community settings.

Lena Kortoshian - Senior Director, Glendale USD
Brian Landisi - Director, Student Intervention and Accountability, Glendale USD

AB 181 and What Comes Next: Building a System of Reciprocal Accountability in California

- ***Workshop – Room: 6A***

Starting in January 2027, a governor-appointed Education Commissioner will manage the California Department of Education under the State Board of Education. By October 1, 2027, the Commissioner must deliver recommendations for a second phase of governance reform to the Governor and Legislature. Those

recommendations will determine the real design choices. While accountability has traditionally taken a to-down approach, this process opens the door for the state to examine its own practices and become a true partner with LEAs. This session explains what AB 181 changes, what it leaves open, and CSBA's vision of true state-level accountability for student outcomes. CSBA staff from our communications, research, and governmental relations teams will present CSBA's priorities for the new Governor and Education Commissioner.

Troy Flint - Chief, Communications, CSBA
Carlos Machado – Legislative Advocate, Governmental Relations, CSBA
Jeremy Anderson – Principal Research Manager, Research and Education Policy Department, CSBA

Countywide Partnerships for Foster Youth Wellness in San Bernardino County

- ***Workshop – Room: 14AB***

Foster youth in San Bernardino County face high school mobility, disrupted enrollment and fragmented services, leading to lower attendance, academic gaps and unmet mental health needs. This session explores how board leadership can improve outcomes through policy, resources and collaboration under Assembly Bill 490. Through real-world scenarios, participants examine system breakdowns and how coordinated, cross-agency approaches can better support student stability and success.

Maria Gomez - Educational Liaison, San Bernardino County CFS, Board Member, Hesperia USD
Ilinanoa Suliafu - Foster Youth Services Program Specialist, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools

Parent Rights in Schools: Current Landscape of the Law

- ***Workshop – Room: 6D***

Parents' rights in public education continue to evolve through new legislation and significant court decisions, creating complex legal and operational challenges for California school districts. This session provides school board members with a practical overview of the legal framework governing parental rights and the obligations of local educational agencies. Participants will examine the foundations of parental rights in California, including access to student records, parent volunteers and legal requirements related to student progress and curriculum. The session will also explore recent developments involving parental notification policies and analyze the impact of the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions in Mahmoud v. Taylor and Mirabelli v. Bonta. Attendees will leave with practical guidance and best practices for navigating these rapidly evolving issues while maintaining compliance and supporting their educational communities.

Emaleigh Valdez - Senior Associate, AALRR
Sara Young - Partner, AALRR

Teaming Up for Success

- ***Workshop – Room: 15AB***

Endless opportunities are possible for students in Lake Tahoe USD through creative partnerships in the rural town that allow students to pursue their passions both in and outside the classroom. Community connections include, but are not limited to: an innovative, entrepreneurial makerspace with the Marcella Foundation; an in-depth sports medicine program with internships at Barton Hospital; and Forest Service employment achieved through Lake Tahoe Community College courses.

Miri Lucksinger - Student Board Member, Lake Tahoe USD
Todd Cutler - Superintendent, Lake Tahoe USD
Isabella Mendiola - Student Board Member, Lake Tahoe USD

STRAND: HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLNESS

AI Can Answer: But Who Listens? Safeguarding Human Connection in Schools

- ***Workshop – Room: 6C/F***

Chatbots are changing how students seek support, but at what cost? Hear from experts in counseling and education on why human interaction remains essential and how schools can develop policies to protect students. New California Youth and Behavioral Health Initiative funding also makes expanding mental health staffing more attainable. As artificial intelligence (AI) and chatbot technologies rapidly expand into educational spaces, schools face urgent questions about how these tools intersect with student mental health, counseling and overall well-being. While AI can increase access to information and simulate support, it cannot replace the nuance, trust and ethical responsibility inherent in human relationships.

Ed Manansala - Superintendent, El Dorado COE
Scott Kuykendahl - Superintendent, Stanislaus COE
Loretta Whitson - Executive Director, California Association of School Counselors
Marlon Morgan - Founder and CEO, Wellness Together

The Compassion-Compliance Paradox: A Governance Approach to Educator Wellness

- ***Workshop – Room: 1AB***

California local educational agencies face rising educator burnout, workforce shortages and student mental health needs that strain school climate and outcomes. Compliance systems create a paradox that contributes to turnover and stress. Grounded in Peter Senge's Compassionate Systems work through a partnership with the Center for Systems Awareness, this session highlights a replicable Ventura County model serving 19 districts and over 40 charter schools and regional agencies, integrating wellness and trauma-informed practices across four distinct teams to improve retention, strengthen climate and reduce turnover costs.

Joy Springer - Executive Director, Educator Support, Ventura COE
Chris Ridge – Director, Comprehensive Health, Ventura COE
James Koenig – Director, Local District Support Services, Ventura COE
Alicia McFarland – Director, Early Childhood, Ventura COE

STRAND: PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE, CAREER AND BEYOND

Access to Degrees: A New College Pathway

- ***Workshop – Room: 5A-B***

Attendees will learn how one unified school district expanded college access by embedding a cohort-based dual enrollment model directly on its comprehensive high school campus. Faced with access gaps, the district chose an on-campus approach over a traditional middle college. This session highlights the governance decisions, systems design and student supports that led to increased college completion, including students earning associate degrees, becoming the first in their families to complete college coursework, and how this model can be replicated.

Christine Ventrella - UCollege Academy Coordinator, Upland USD
Shinay Bowman - Chief Academic Officer, Upland USD
Mary Locke - Board President, Upland USD
Isabella Leiva - Alumni Student, Upland USD

Breaking Zip Code Destiny with Career Literacy

- ***Workshop – Room: 8***

How do boards disrupt "Zip Code Destiny" and ensure all students see a viable future? Learn how Cajon Valley Union SD scaled the World of Work system by embedding the RIASEC framework TK-12 to build identity, agency and career direction. Explore governance decisions, policy shifts and implementation structures that connect academics to future self, with multi-year outcomes in engagement, attendance and future readiness in this session.

David Miyashiro - Superintendent, Cajon Valley Union SD
Karen Mejia - School Board President, Cajon Valley Union SD
Christopher Collins - Coordinator, Data & Assessment, Cajon Valley Union SD
Nerel Winter - CEO, Bostonia Global

STRAND: STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE FOR ORGANIZATIONAL SUCCESS

Authorizing in Context: Balancing Law, Local History and Board Discretion in Charter Decision-Making

- ***Workshop – Room: 11A***

Charter school authorizing presents ongoing governance and policy challenges, particularly in balancing statutory compliance with local context, board discretion and long-term system impact. This session highlights how Alameda COE addressed these challenges by implementing a structured board capacity-building strategy, including a targeted study session to clarify roles, strengthen governance and ground decisions in evidence and local context. Participants will engage with navigating competing priorities between legal requirements and board discretion in high-stakes authorizing decisions and strategies and explore tools that can be adapted across authorizing contexts in service of improved board coherence and stronger alignment between policy and practice.

Alysse Castro - Superintendent, Alameda COE

Board Leadership During Impasse, Fact-Finding, and Strikes

- ***Workshop – Room: 6E***

This session is designed for experienced board members navigating the increasingly complex landscape of labor negotiations. Focusing on impasse, fact-finding and strike scenarios, the workshop provides practical guidance on the board's role at each phase of the process. Participants will gain insight into how to plan effectively, support their leadership teams, anticipate challenges and approach communications with clarity and consistency. Topics covered will include the board's role during impasse, fact-finding and strike situations; planning and preparation at this most challenging stage of negotiations; communications with staff, families and community; supporting district leadership, maintaining appropriate governance boundaries; and anticipating negotiating strategies and responses.

Roman Munoz - Attorney, Lozano Smith
Dulcinea Grantham - Associate, Lozano Smith
Manuel F. Martinez - Attorney, Lozano Smith

Building and Sustaining Collaborative Labor-Management Partnerships

- ***Workshop – Room: 11B***

Following a six-day strike, this session shares how a superintendent, board member and labor partners addressed governance breakdowns through a structured labor-management approach. Learn the solutions implemented, which resulted in improvements in staff culture, stability and student conditions, and how this scalable model strengthens decision-making. Leave with clear takeaways and actions to build collaborative, effective governance systems.

Gustavo Morales - CA LMI Director, CDE Foundation
Maite Iturri - Superintendent, Cotati Rohnert Park USD
Michelle Wing - Board Member, Cotati Rohnert Park USD
Lisa Bauman - RPCEA Union President, Cotati-Rohnert Park USD

School Boards and Charter School Renewals: Tips, Traps and Tools

- ***Workshop – Room: 3***

This year, school boards statewide face their highest number of charter school renewal decisions, as rules and interpretations of rules continue to evolve. Politics remain polarized, enrollment continues to decline and a mediocre renewal process puts students, charters, districts, counties, taxpayers and budgets at risk. But there are excellent practices and tips, as well as free resources, toolkits and supports to help even the smallest district plan well, put things in place and face the challenge competently and confidently. In this session, gain a better understanding of roles, make or update local educational agency plans and be fully prepared for different contingencies, scenarios, pitfalls and opportunities that can arise.

Louise Johnson - Board Member, Nevada COE
Michelle Johnson - Director, Charter Schools Department, Santa Clara COE
Jeffrey Hunt - Director of Charter Schools, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools

The Board-PR Partnership: Protecting Your Brand During Crises

- ***Workshop – Room: 2***

Crisis communication is often viewed solely as the superintendent's responsibility, but a board's response can either stabilize or escalate a situation. In this session, communication is reframed as a strategic responsibility of the entire governance team. Trustees will learn to navigate the high-stakes intersection of the Brown Act and digital communication while establishing "Single Voice" protocols. Participants will explore strategies for managing social media "firestorms" and leave with a practical "Crisis Cheat Sheet" designed to help board members support local educational agency response efforts effectively without overstepping into daily operations.

Jessica Hull - ED, Communication and Community Engagement, Roseville City SD
Trinette Marquis - Executive Director, California School Public Relations Association

STRAND: STRATEGIES FOR FINANCIAL RESILIENCE

Four Simple Questions Board Members Should Be Asking About Their #2 Expenditure

- ***Workshop – Room: 10***

School board members are entrusted with approving major investments in facility maintenance and improvements but may feel uncertain about the intricacies of facility planning and budgeting. This session will equip attendees with the right questions to ask to have confidence in facility plans by helping to identify key conversations that decision-makers need to have regarding facilities projects; use data to make informed decisions about strategic long-term capital planning; assess the alignment of facilities with the evolving educational and community needs and learn about engaging stakeholders in meaningful dialogue to ensure transparency and community involvement.

Inbar Blankenship - Head of Engineering, SitelogIQ

Show Me the Money!

- ***Workshop – Room: 6B***

What is the fiscal outlook for the state and schools in 2027 and beyond? How did the 2026–27 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, including a presentation from the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office on its most recent fiscal outlook for the California state budget with a focus on TK-12 education, and frank discussion of what's on the horizon for the state budget.

Edgar Cabral - Deputy Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office
Patrick O'Donnell - Chief, Governmental Relations, CSBA
Ivan Carillo - Senior Director, Association of California School Administrators

Small District Budgets, Big Board Responsibilities: What Every Board Member Should Know

- ***Workshop – Room: 16AB***

Small school district budgets present unique challenges. Limited staffing, declining enrollment, unpredictable revenue, rising personnel costs and the loss of one-time funding can quickly affect a district's financial stability. Yet lengthy and highly technical budget documents can make it difficult for board members to identify the information that matters most.

Matt Phillips - CPA, Associate Vice President, School Services of California
Jeff Bowman - Superintendent, Orchard ESD

Thursday, Dec. 3 | 2:15 p.m.–3:20 p.m.

STRAND: EMPOWERING ALL STUDENTS AND LEAS IN A DIGITAL WORLD

AI in Action: From Guidance to Student Voice

- ***Workshop – Room: 8***

Students are growing up with artificial intelligence (AI). Now what? Learn how El Segundo USD moved beyond guidance into practice through ethical AI routines, staff learning and student leadership. These efforts culminated in a student-led AI conference and led to recognition with the AI K-12 Student Agency Award for leadership in AI integration. Grounded in student voice and supported by clear governance, attendees will gain practical tools to build AI literacy, build student AI agency, and implement scalable systems across schools.

Jason Johnson - Superintendent, El Segundo USD
Olivia Yaung - Assistant Superintendent, El Segundo USD
Frank Glynn - Board Member, El Segundo USD
Dieema Wheaton - Board Vice President, El Segundo USD

STRAND: FOSTERING STRONG COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Board Appeal Rising: A Guide to Navigating Challenging Student Matters

- ***Workshop – Room: 6C/F***

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 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 - Shareholder, Dannis Woliver Kelley
Sharon Casey - Assistant Superintendent, Student Services, Chula Vista ESD
Mary Nishikawa – Director, Student Support Services/Alternative Education, Grossmont Union HSD
Meagan Kinsey - Senior Associate General Counsel, Long Beach USD

From Policy to Partnership: Boosting Outcomes for Young Men of Color

- ***Workshop – Room: 3***

Attendees will learn how the eight-year partnership between Natomas USD and Improve Your Tomorrow resulted in a 99 percent graduation rate, notable GPA improvements and a 92 percent college-going rate, compared to California's 55 percent average, for off-track young men of color in the state. The session will also highlight how board policy changes contributed to these outcomes and provide attendees with a replicable framework for building community partnerships that effectively support off-track young men of color.

Micah Grant - Board President, Natomas USD
Robyn Castillo - Superintendent, Natomas USD
Ray Green - Executive Director, Improve Your Tomorrow

Stronger Together: County-District Partnerships That Support Small Schools

- ***Workshop – Room: 16AB***

Small school districts bring unique strengths to their communities, but they also face challenges that can be difficult to address with limited staff, capacity, and resources. Strong partnerships between county offices of education and local school districts can help bridge those gaps and ensure small districts have access to the expertise, services, and support they need to thrive.

Mike Walsh - At-Large Trustee of Area 2 (Oroville), Butte COE

STRAND: HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLNESS

CIF Sports - Promoting Health, Safety and Wellness

- ***Workshop – Room: 2***

Discover the transformative power of education-based athletics in this engaging and relevant workshop for school boards. Learn about policies and practices that prioritize health, safety, wellness, equity and school culture, and find solutions to governance challenges. These replicable strategies yield tangible results, including healthier, happier students and stronger communities. Don't miss out on this opportunity to make a real impact on student wellness, school culture and high school sports.

Chris Clark - Board Member, Folsom-Cordova USD
Melissa Peters - Board Vice President, Los Molinos USD
Ron Nocetti - Executive Director, California Interscholastic Federation

Daily Huddles: Scalable Safety and Proven Results

- ***Workshop – Room: 1AB***

Hemet USD transformed campus safety through a data-driven "Daily Huddle" system. To solve challenges with suspension, expulsion and chronic absenteeism, leadership implemented 15-minute virtual huddles to reallocate resources in real-time. This no-cost, scalable model uses transparent logs to address root causes and foster a nurturing culture. Attendees gain a roadmap to replicate this agile system, meeting governance goals for student outcomes and safety district wide.

Christi Barrett - Superintendent, Hemet USD
Jennifer Martin - Assistant Superintendent, Hemet USD
Stacey Bailey - Board Member, Hemet USD

Digital Wellness - Ensuring a Focus Across Multiple Departments

- ***Workshop – Room: 5A-B***

Districts face growing governance and policy challenges in digital wellness. Learn how a TK-8 district aligned its education services, social-emotional learning, IT and innovation departments to implement cohesive policies, curriculum, staff training and family engagement. Participants in this session will explore solutions and measurable impacts on student well-being, digital citizenship and safety, and leave with scalable strategies, key takeaways and clear actions to strengthen digital wellness while navigating the impacts of artificial intelligence.

Jeremy Davis - Assistant Superintendent, Innovation, Fullerton SD

Ruthi Hanchett - Board President, Fullerton SD

STRAND: PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE, CAREER AND BEYOND

Building High Quality Mathematics Programs

- ***Workshop – Room: 10***

Building a high-quality district mathematics program requires more than purchasing materials. Across California, county offices of education are supporting districts through comprehensive adoption processes aligned to the California Mathematics Framework and grounded in the idea that the adoption process is a lever to improve mathematics instruction. In this session, attendees will hear how these efforts strengthen math programs, improve equity and drive better student outcomes. Presenters will share lessons learned and highlight how school boards can support the process, from exploration through implementation and sustainability. Participants will leave with a clear understanding of the policies and resources needed, and why adoption is a multi-year commitment to continuous improvement.

Bobbie Kirkpatrick- District Support Coordinator, Lassen COE
Audrey Mendivil - District Advisor, Curriculum & Instruction, San Diego COE
Cara Hetrick - Mathematics Coordinator, San Diego COE
Jodi Neuenschwander – District Support Coordinator, Lassen COE

Redesigning Schools So Every Student is Future Ready

- ***Workshop – Room: 14AB***

School boards and district leaders must oversee a growing set of important initiatives - community schools, dual enrollment, Golden State Pathways, student wellness and artificial intelligence (AI)-related readiness. Too often these efforts remain siloed. Join this panel examining how school redesign can help districts create and sustain student-centered systems change that strengthens relationships, deepen learning, improve engagement and attendance, and better prepare students for an uncertain future.

Linda Darling-Hammond - President, California State Board of Education, Chief Knowledge Officer, Learning Policy Institute
Michael Matsuda - Executive-in-Residence, Loyola Marymount University
David Miyashiro - Superintendent, Cajon Valley Union SD

STRAND: STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE FOR ORGANIZATIONAL SUCCESS

Comms Strategies for a New Collective Bargaining Landscape

- ***Workshop – Room: 4***

A statewide marketing campaign combined with a new, cross-district approach to collective bargaining has increased the visibility and intensity of collective bargaining in California school districts. As more local educational agencies face the threat of labor action or experience teacher strikes, governance teams, staff and communications professionals may find themselves challenged to effectively articulate the district's position in an unfavorable public relations environment. This session offers strategies for responding to escalation in a way that respects the essential role of teachers and need for improved compensation and conditions, while balancing the need for preserving student support, programmatic options, and long-term solvency and sustainability at the district level.

Troy Flint - Chief, Communications, CSBA

Conducting Investigations: Practical Tools for UCP and Title IX Investigators

- ***Workshop – Room: 6E***

Conducting thorough complaint investigations is the cornerstone to reducing complaint appeals and minimizing local educational agency liability under the Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) and Title IX. This training is designed to equip LEAs with the knowledge and skills needed to confidently navigate complaint investigations from start to finish. Participants will learn how to structure investigations and conduct interviews in a way that promotes thorough fact-finding and compliance. This workshop will highlight best practices for documentation, evidence evaluation, credibility determinations and report writing, with a focus on defensibility and compliance. Participants will leave with practical tools and increased confidence to conduct investigations within educational settings.

Alexandra Worthy - Senior Legal Services Attorney, CSBA

Current Legal Issues Facing Governing Boards: Guidance for Board Members

- ***Workshop – Room: 6A***

What are the current legal issues affecting California schools and governing board members right now? Attorneys from CSBA's gold law firms will participate in an informative and engaging panel discussion on the latest critical legal issues confronting school districts and county offices of education. They'll provide the most up-to-date information about the dynamic and changing legal environment, including practical takeaways from recent case law, statutes, and other legal authority.

Bob Tuerck - Chief Legal Counsel, CSBA
L. Carlos Villegas, Partner, Fagen Friedman & Fulfrost
Anthony De Marco, Partner, AALRR
Karen Rezendes, Attorney, Lozano Smith
Candace Bandoian, Managing Shareholder, Dannis Woliver Kelley
Marley Fox, Partner, Orbach Huff & Henderson

Policy Development: Importance and Process

- ***Workshop – Room: 11B***

Board policy sets the direction of a district or county office of education. It also conveys expectations for actions, clarifies roles and responsibilities, and communicates a district's and county office's philosophy and positions. In sum, policy development is 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 COE adoption and implementation.

Barbara Laifman - Director, Policy Manual Development, CSBA
Tezeta Stewartz - Senior Director, Policy & Governance Technology, CSBA
Nicholas Heiman - Policy Manual Consultant, CSBA

SHINES in the Boardroom: Integrating Student Voice into Strategic Governance and LCAP

- ***Workshop – Room: 15AB***

How do leaders move student representation from a "token seat" to a strategic governance partner? This session showcases the San Bernardino City USD "SHINES" model, where student board members are fully integrated into the district's Vision 2030 roadmap. Attendees will learn how the district utilizes a multi-tiered Student Leadership Advisory Council to funnel authentic data from more than 46,000 students directly into Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) funding priorities. This workshop provides a replicable framework for ensuring student preferential votes are backed by rigorous peer-to-peer data and fiscal training.

Mayra Ceballos - Board President, San Bernardino City USD
Aidan Hurtado - Student Board Member, San Bernardino City USD
Aremy Martinez Sosa - Student Board Member, San Bernardino City USD

Supporting the Superintendent-Principal

- ***Workshop – Room: 11A***

The role of the superintendent-principal is a unique leadership position. Districts, especially small and/or rural, tend to use this dual-role administrator position to reduce human resources expenses. Because scant research exists about this dual-role administrator, CSBA conducted a statewide survey to learn more about what challenges and opportunities exist to support this local educational agency leader. Learn about the results in this session, hear from two LEA leaders who have experience in this position, and how board members can best support this busy dual-role administrator.

Angela Asch - Principal Research Manager, CSBA
Crystal Castaneda - Superintendent, Byron Union ESD
Gina Murphy - Superintendent, Happy Valley Union ESD

STRAND: STRATEGIES FOR FINANCIAL RESILIENCE

Passing a First-Ever Parcel Tax

- ***Workshop – Room: 9***

School districts are struggling to build fiscal stability. One solution is a local parcel tax, one of the hardest ballot measures to pass, with a 66.67 percent yes vote required to pass. Find out how San Bruno Park SD passed its first ever parcel tax in this session. Starting with survey data that showed a potential path forward, the district set out to educate the community on the needs facing local schools. Learn how board members came together to define the need, focus on early parent engagement, conduct community outreach and discover a path to success.

Kingsley Ma - Board President, San Bruno Park ESD
Raymond Giusti - Board Vice President, San Bruno Park ESD
Joy Kimmer - Partner, TeamCivX

Strengthening Trust by Design: Reimagining Budgeting Through Partnership

- ***Workshop – Room: 6B***

Facing budget pressures and declining trust, Folsom-Cordova USD launched a Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee including board members, labor, parents and students. This session shares how governance teams can increase transparency, identify efficiencies and build trust through inclusive budget review. Participants will gain replicable strategies, lessons learned and actionable steps to strengthen fiscal decision-making and community confidence.

Sean Martin - Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services, Folsom-Cordova USD
Jennifer Laret - Board President, Folsom-Cordova USD
Jeannette Sansenbach - President, Folsom Cordova Education Association
Erik Swanson, Superintendent, Folsom-Cordova USD

Surplus Property and Housing/Development Projects: They are NOT the same.

- ***Workshop – Room: 6D***

While surplus property and housing/development projects are often discussed together, they are distinct concepts. This panel will clarify the key differences between the two topics but also consider how the two can intersect in practice. Experts will provide real-world examples of successful strategies and common pitfalls when navigating property disposition and workforce housing opportunities. Audience will be invited to ask questions and to provide input. Attendees will leave the presentation with a better understanding of complex legal and practical considerations for real property use and development. Attendees will be able to ask questions about specific options for real property use and development. Attendees will learn about the evolving, nuanced and complex statutory requirements related to real property use and development. Attendees will get a better idea of the first steps and strategic considerations in these situations.

Sarine Abrahamian - Partner, Orbach Huff & Henderson

Thursday, Dec. 3 | 3:50 p.m.–4:55 p.m.

STRAND: EMPOWERING ALL STUDENTS AND LEAS IN A DIGITAL WORLD

The First Grade Promise: How High-Dosage Tutoring and Systemwide Alignment Accelerate Early Literacy Outcomes

- ***Workshop – Room: 1AB***

Fallbrook Union ESD faced persistent early literacy gaps and a need for coherent, board-driven policy. In this session, learn how the board reframed reading as a core obligation, implementing systemwide solutions including teacher training, classroom investments and high-dosage tutoring. Results show accelerated student growth and strong engagement with strategic budget alignment. Attendees will learn scalable, replicable strategies and leave with clear governance actions to advance early literacy in their districts.

Monika Hazel - Superintendent, Fallbrook Union ESD
Tavga Bustani - Assistant Superintendent, Education Services, Fallbrook Union ESD
Ana Arias - Principal, Fallbrook STEM Academy
Jessica Sliwerski - CEO, Ignite Reading

STRAND: FOSTERING STRONG COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Lynwood Redesign: Community Schools to Future

- ***Workshop – Room: 2***

Lynwood USD will share how it is reimagining secondary schools through community schools, Loyola Marymount University and cross sector partnerships. Learn how leaders created design space, addressed governance and policy barriers, and used structural pre-distribution to redesign rules, resources and support for equity. Participants will leave with practical steps to expand real world learning and build student centered, future ready systems.

Maribel Martinez - Assistant Superintendent, Lynwood USD
Alma Castro - Board Member, Lynwood USD
Michael Matsuda - Executive-in-Residence, Loyola Marymount University

Meeting the Needs of Asian American Multilingual Students

- ***Workshop – Room: 14AB***

Asian Americans have long fought against invisibility in public education due to the model minority myth and harmful stereotypes. Chinese for Affirmative Action's "A New Blueprint for Success: Meeting the Needs of Asian American Multilingual Student" provides a comprehensive, policy-focused approach for school districts to support Asian communities marginalized by language-based barriers and provides tangible policy solutions that support inclusion, learning and whole-child wellness.

Emily Fung - Manager, Education Equity Policy, Chinese for Affirmative Action
Asia Lee - Policy Advocate, Chinese for Affirmative Action
Andrea Yamasaki - Board Vice President, Orange USD
John Yeh - Partner, Burke, Williams & Sorensen

Who Decides? Parent Rights, Board Authority, and the New Fight Over School Technology

- ***Workshop – Room: 6C/F***

As parent groups increasingly challenge the use of technology in schools, governing boards are being asked to answer a fundamental question: Who gets to decide how students are educated? This timely session examines the legal tension between parental rights and board authority, including technology opt-out demands, digital curriculum, student privacy and instructional decision-making. Through real-world scenarios and emerging trends, attendees will learn how to navigate community pressure, respond to increasingly vocal stakeholders, and exercise their governance responsibilities while maintaining compliance with California law.

Namita Brown - Partner, F3 Law
Elizabeth "Lisa" Mori - Partner, F3 Law
Gretchen Shipley - Partner, F3 Law

Making of the Documentary Movie *Forgotten Schools:* Bringing Rural Education to the Big Screen

- ***Workshop – Room: 6B***

Watch selected scenes from *Forgotten Schools: America's Quiet Crisis*, a semifinalist at the World Fil Festival in Cannes, France. The documentary follows students, families, educators, and district leaders as they navigate staffing shortages, transportation needs, and aging facilities in small and rural districts. After the clips, join executive producer Dr. Jeremy Brooks for a live audience Q&A about making the film and how school boards can advocate for rural students. District leaders featured in the film may also join the discussion. This session will conclude at 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Jeremy Brooks – Executive Producer, Brooks Broadcasting LLC
Louise Simsoni - Superintendent, Mark Twain Union ESD
Dr. Ron Estes – Interim Superintendent, Linden USD

STRAND: HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLNESS

California's Student Homelessness Crisis: A Critical Issue for School Board Members

- ***Workshop – Room: 15AB***

Nearly 300,000 California students were identified as experiencing homelessness in 2024-25, a number that has reached its highest level in more than a decade. Drawing on six years of research by UCLA's Center for the Transformation of Schools, this session will examine what the data reveal about who is experiencing homelessness, where students are most affected, and how housing insecurity is shaping attendance patterns, academic achievement, graduation, and student well-being. The session provides school board members with actionable strategies to strengthen student identification, support educational stability, and push new thinking around cross-system collaboration for young people experiencing homelessness.

Joseph Bishop, Ph.D. - Executive Director & Co-Founder, Center for the Transformation of Schools, UCLA
Margaret Olmos, Senior Director, Education Resource Opportunity and Equity, National Center for Youth Law
Susie Terry, MPH – Coordinator, Homeless Education Services, San Diego COE

Safe Harbor: Redesigning for Belonging & Community

- ***Workshop – Room: 10***

Wheatland High School, grounded in the district vision and "Every Day, Every Child, Whatever It Takes" commitment, has redesigned from a place students attend to a community where they belong. Safe Harbor connects at-promise youth with caring peers and adults through nurturing affinity groups, strengthening school connections, and improving whole child outcomes. This scalable model reduces anxiety and helps students thrive academically and socially. Board policy and procedure supporting affective development is essential.

Aleia Van Dyke - Director, Community Schools and Mental Health, Wheatland Union HSD
Heaven Ortega Ramirez - Student Board Member/Safe Harbor Participant, Wheatland Union HSD
Ryan Belflower - Board Member, Wheatland Union HSD

When Disaster Strikes: Schools as Community Hubs

- ***Workshop – Room: 11B***

Learn how California County Superintendents is building the California Student Emergency Response Network, a statewide model integrating TK-12 schools into disaster management frameworks. This session addresses governance, policy and equity challenges in school emergency preparedness, shares solutions underway and equips board members and administrators to replicate this approach. Every California county has faced a presidentially declared disaster in the last three years. School boards must be ready.

Jeff Harris - Superintendent, Del Norte County & USD
Michael Greer - Board Member, Del Norte County & USD
Kindra Britt - Director, Communications & Strategy, California County Superintendents
Jake Wolf - Assistant Secretary of Emergency Services, CA Government Operations Agency

STRAND: PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE, CAREER AND BEYOND

96 Percent of Employers Believe Professional Certificates in AI Strengthen Job Applications: Is Your District Preparing Your Students?

- ***Workshop – Room: 6A***

Employers are looking for ability to use artificial intelligence (AI) on the job and 90 percent say they will pay higher salaries. Eighty-one percent of teachers feel AI is fundamental, but 50 percent don't feel equipped to use or teach it. Districts must have a policy that includes standards and academic integrity. This session will provide attendees with the tools to help develop, implement and evaluate the integration of AI throughout K-12 as well as a process that will help to bring all members of the district, including teachers, administrators, unions and the parents on board. Prepare students for the workforce they want to be part of and watch enrollment and attendance increase.

Hall Davidson - Senior Director, Global Initiatives, Discovery Education

STRAND: STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE FOR ORGANIZATIONAL SUCCESS

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

- ***Workshop – Room: 5A-B***

This session will dive into essential requirements of California's open meeting law, with guidance on notices, agenda setting, serial meetings, closed session, public participation, disruption and prohibitions related to board member use of social media and e-communications. While designed primarily for new board members, this session is useful also for experienced board members in need of a refresher. The session will help participants learn what gathering of board members the Brown Act deems a meeting, how the public must be informed of closed sessions, rules guiding public participation in open meetings, how board member use of social media may involve the Brown Act, and recent updates to the Brown Act.

Carlos Villegas - Partner, F3
Anthony De Marco - Partner, AALRR
Karen Rezendes - Managing Partner, Lozano Smith
Bode Owoyele, Associate General Counsel, CSBA

Current Issues Impacting Board Policy

- ***Workshop – Room: 6E***

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 policies. This informative workshop, which highlights significant changes impacting policy over the past year, is presented by CSBA policy writers who will explain the most noteworthy changes and what local educational agencies need to do to comply.

Joshua Daniels - Chief, Policy & Governance Technology Services, CSBA

From Plan to Impact: Governing for Student Success Through the LCAP

- ***Workshop – Room: 9***

The Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) is more than a compliance document; it is a strategic plan for creating equitable outcomes for all students. This session equips governance teams with the knowledge and practical strategies needed to effectively lead, monitor and align LCAP efforts from the boardroom to the classroom. Participants will explore the board's role in setting direction, using data to guide decisions and ensuring that resources, including supplemental funding streams, are aligned to student needs and measurable outcomes. Through real-world examples and interactive dialogue, participants will strengthen their capacity to govern with clarity, coherence and a relentless focus on equitable student success.

Deborah Hernandez - Director, Continuous Improvement LCAP, San Diego COE
Thelma Stevenson - Coordinator, LCAP and Differentiated Assistance, San Diego COE
Gregg Robinson - Board President, San Diego COE

How to Lead When You Don't Get Along

- ***Workshop – Room: 6D***

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 there is tension among trustees, as well as what is allowed to be said, what shouldn't be said and how to govern with people we don't like or agree with.

Bob Tuerck - Chief Legal Counsel, CSBA
Sepideh Yeoh - Senior Governance Consultant, CSBA

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

- ***Workshop – Room: 11A***

Every elected official who makes governmental decisions, including school board and county office of education members, is required to submit Form 700, Statement of Economic Interests. The completion of Form 700 will require public officials to disclose information to the public about their personal financial interests including the receipt of gifts and various other forms of income earned. Learn from experienced legal practitioners what constitutes a reportable "gift" and other requirements related to Form 700.

Dana Scott - Associate General Counsel, CSBA

STRAND: STRATEGIES FOR FINANCIAL RESILIENCE

Education Workforce Housing: Road to a Successful Feasibility Study

- ***Workshop – Room: 4***

California's housing crisis is threatening school employee recruitment and retention. This session addresses the critical first step to solving workforce housing: a feasibility study. Presenters will discuss the purpose of a feasibility study, how to get prepared and what outcomes to expect. Learn from leaders at Davis Joint USD who used a feasibility study to evaluate options and set their project on a successful course. Attendees will leave with the knowledge to launch their own efforts to address this crisis within their districts and actionable steps to move forward.

Matthew Best - Superintendent, Davis Joint USD
Chris White - Principal, Rivercrest Partners

Practical Tools, Governance Considerations, and Best Practices for Executive Assistants Interfacing with School Boards

- ***Workshop – Room: 3***

This session will explore the question: Why does artificial intelligence (AI) matter for school governance and how can executive assistants use it? Presenters will review the basics of understanding AI, everyday uses for executive assistants and demonstrate five practical examples. Also covered will be the legal and governance risks of using AI, developing good AI habits, and creating district policies and governance frameworks.

Tempestt Tatum - Partner, Orbach Huff & Henderson
Stan Barankiewicz - Partner, Orbach Huff & Henderson

Turning CYBHI Into Sustainable Funding

- ***Workshop – Room: 8***

School districts across California are finding real, lasting ways to fund student wellness through the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI). In this session, attendees will hear directly from district leaders who have figured out how to expand their billing practices and tap into unrestricted, sustainable dollars and leave with practical strategies that work no matter the size of a district.

Jesus Chavarria - Superintendent, Anaheim ESD
Ana Martinez Goodlander - Board Member, Orange USD
Dr. Rachel Monarrez - Superintendent, Orange USD
Jackie Filbeck - Board Member, Anaheim ESD

Friday, Dec. 4 | 9:00 a.m.–10:05 a.m.

STRAND: EMPOWERING ALL STUDENTS AND LEAS IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Beyond Devices: How Governance-Driven Innovation Expanded Student Opportunity Through Supports, STEM/CTE and Responsible AI

- ***Workshop – Room: 6A***

Rural districts face governance challenges in moving beyond devices to create equitable, future-ready learning systems. This session shares how board-aligned policy, student supports, expanded learning, STEM, career technical education and responsible artificial intelligence literacy were integrated into one strategy. Presenters will highlight implementation, student outcomes, budget/value considerations and practical steps attendees can replicate and scale in their own local educational agencies.

Nicolas Wade - Superintendent, Columbia Union SD
Erik Segerstrom - Board President, Columbia Union SD
Rebekah Wood - Principal, Columbia Union SD

Innovative Teaching to Retain Student Engagement and Promote Appropriate Technology Usage

- ***Workshop – Room: 16AB***

Engagement in learning environments can be difficult for students under current classroom norms and standards, which leads to the utilization of personal technology as a response. Crafting an appealing atmosphere in the classroom prompts creativity and allows students to stay on track, leading to academic success. This session explores the role of technology in current school culture and what educators can do to convert the classroom and lessons into enjoyable and attention-grabbing events.

Adam Auerbach - Principal, Lammersville Joint USD
Aryan Agarwal - Student Board Member, Lammersville Joint USD

STRAND: FOSTERING STRONG COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Partnering with Probation for Student Success

- ***Workshop – Room: 11B***

Schools work to support students in a number of areas that often intersect with juvenile justice. Probation departments can be critical prevention and early intervention partners to curb chronic absenteeism, suspension rates and harmful behaviors. Attendees will learn how Del Norte County & USD and County Probation Department work together to support students and families, divert youth from the judicial process, co-manage grants and provide opportunities that lead to overall student success.

Jeff Harris - Superintendent, Del Norte County & USD
Lonnie Reyman - Chief, Probation, County of Del Norte

Two Languages, One Future: The Power of TK–12 Immersion

- ***Workshop – Room: 3***

Ready to turn vision into a bilingual powerhouse? See how Garden Grove USD capitalized on strong community partnerships to launch award-winning Spanish and Vietnamese TK-12 dual immersion pathways. Discover the policies, funding moves and partnerships driving biliteracy, engagement and results. Leave with scalable strategies, bold takeaways and a clear call to action to build systems that produce multilingual students who are ready to lead in a global workforce.

Lorena Sanchez - Associate Superintendent, Garden Grove USD
Lan Nguyen - Board Vice President, Garden Grove USD
Tanya Avina - Assistant Superintendent, K-12 Educational Service, Garden Grove USD

STRAND: HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLNESS

REFOCUS Academy: Restorative Student Support

- ***Workshop – Room: 5A-B***

When students struggle, traditional discipline often falls short. REFOCUS Academy, which stands for Reflective Education for Future-Oriented Choices and Understanding Self, offers a restorative approach that builds accountability, self-awareness and connection. In this session, attendees will hear about how this model improves student outcomes, supports wellness, and creates safer schools with practical strategies to replicate and a call to rethink discipline systems.

Diana Dietz - Principal, Mitchell Senior Elementary School, Atwater ESD
Christy Lobao - Superintendent, Atwater ESD
Michele McCabe - Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, Atwater ESD

Safe and Supportive Schools Act in Action

- ***Workshop – Room: 9***

Assembly Bill 5, the Safe and Supportive Schools Act, took effect in July 2025, stating local educational agencies shall provide and require LGBTQ+ cultural competency training annually for a five-year period to all teachers and other certificated employees serving pupils in grades 7 to 12. This presentation will describe how California is leading the way in preserving the rights of LGBTQ+ students across the state and various practices school districts implemented in addition to the requirement.

Ryan LaLonde - Board President, Alameda USD
Jen Corn - Board Member, Berkely USD
Regina Chagolla - Board Member, Emery USD
Stephanie Loredo - Board President, Culver City USD

STRAND: PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE, CAREER AND BEYOND

Aligning Expanded Learning for Student Success

- ***Workshop – Room: 8***

Despite significant state investment, expanded learning programs vary widely across local educational agencies, creating governance challenges in alignment, oversight and impact. This session highlights strategies such as

braiding funding through a single comprehensive program, aligning with Local Control and Accountability Plan goals, and leveraging positive childhood experiences to buffer adverse childhood experiences. Attendees will explore scalable practices and leave with clear actions to strengthen implementation and maximize impact.

Christopher Stephens - Coordinator, Expanded Learning, San Diego COE
Liza Flowers - Director, Expanded Learning, San Diego COE
Michael Funk - Director, Expanded Learning Division, CDE

California's Safety Net for At-Promise Youth: Understanding County-Operated Court and Community Schools

- ***Workshop – Room: 10***

Nearly 34,000 California students are served annually in county-operated court and community schools, yet these programs remain largely invisible to most trustees. This session introduces CSBA's new research brief "Court and Community School Students in Focus: Understanding California's Safety Net for At-Promise Youth" and explores what district and county board members need to know about programs serving students who have been expelled, are involved with juvenile justice or need intensive alternative settings.

Gary Waddell - Governance Consultant, Creative Spark Consulting
Mike Walsh - At-Large Trustee of Area 2 (Oroville), Butte COE
Susan Connolly-Fox – Associate Superintendent, Student Services, Placer COE
Michelle-Zevely, Deputy Superintendent, Butte COE

Expanding Access, Advancing Equity: Scaling Dual Enrollment Through Strategic Governance

- ***Workshop – Room: 15AB***

This session explores how governance teams can expand equitable access to dual enrollment by aligning policy, partnerships and funding. Participants will examine strategies to remove barriers, target underrepresented students and ensure programs reflect district priorities. Grounded in CSBA's Professional Governance Standards, the session connects board decision-making to improved access, outcomes and resource allocation.

Maura Downing - Superintendent, San Gabriel Valley ROP
Monica Carmo - Vice President, Educational Partnerships, Get Focused Stay Focused
Karen Miles - Executive Director, Get Focused, Stay Focused
Gary Thomas Scott - Board Member, San Gabriel Valley ROP

STRAND: STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE FOR ORGANIZATIONAL SUCCESS

Brown Act Compliance and Proactive Issue-Spotting for Executive Assistants

- ***Workshop – Room: 6C/F***

Executive assistants are central to the planning and coordination of board meetings, from preparing agendas and board packets to coordinating calendars, communications and meeting logistics. These everyday responsibilities can present Brown Act questions that are easy to overlook. This interactive session will examine everyday situations where Brown Act concerns may arise and provide proactive strategies for identifying potential issues and avoiding missteps. Attendees will leave with practical insight to support transparent and compliant board operations.

Anne Collins - Attorney, Lozano Smith
Megan Macy - Partner, Lozano Smith

Recent Changes in Federal Elections, Policies and Funds

- ***Workshop – Room: 4***

Federal policy decisions, congressional action, funding shifts and election outcomes can shape the future of public education and have a direct impact on local educational agencies. This session will examine the evolving federal landscape and what it means for California's schools, from funding and accountability to student services, special education and federal oversight. Attendees will gain a clearer understanding of key federal developments, how they may affect their districts and county offices of education, and what education leaders can do to prepare, respond and advocate for the needs of their students and communities.

Marissa Vismara - Legislative Advocate, CSBA

From Lawsuit to Nuclear Verdict: What School Board Members Should Know

- ***Workshop – Room: 6E***

School districts face an increasingly complex litigation environment where high-stakes claims can result in significant financial, operational and reputational consequences. This session will examine the factors that can cause litigation to escalate into a "nuclear verdict" and the critical role school board members play in managing litigation risk. Through real-world examples and practical insights, presenters will explore emerging litigation trends, common risk factors, decision-making considerations and strategies districts can use before and during litigation to reduce exposure. Attendees will leave with a better understanding of how informed governance, effective communication and proactive risk management can help protect their districts and the communities they serve.

Marlon Wadlington - Partner, AALRR
Mike Davis - Partner, AALRR
Scott Danforth - Partner, AALRR

In Case It Goes to Court: Investigation Protocols as a Strategic Governance Imperative in K-12 Schools

- ***Workshop – Room: 11A***

Sound governance isn't just about policy, it's about execution. Most district investigations fall short not because anyone acted in bad faith, but because of procedural gaps that are entirely preventable. Left unaddressed, these gaps create legal exposure that undermines organizational stability and erodes board and community confidence. This session will review common failure points, including documentation and interviewing errors, to equip K-12 administrators with the practical tools and investigative framework needed to conduct investigations that stand up to scrutiny. This session provides the tools necessary for legally defensible investigations, which are not merely a compliance function, they are a cornerstone of risk management and institutional trust.

Liz DeChellis - Partner and Title IX Director, Van Dermyden Makus Law Corp
Jennifer Doughty - Partner and Director of Client Services, Van Dermyden Makus Law Corp

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

- ***Workshop – Room: 6B***

Join CSBA's Government Relations team and leading experts in Proposition 98 to answer the all-important questions: what is it, why do we have it and how does it work? Thirty-seven years have passed since California's voters passed Prop 98. Recognized as one of the most quintessential initiatives in modern California state history, it has served as a keystone in statewide education funding. Not without its detractors, its funding methodology has withstood numerous attacks and its supporters, namely CSBA, have invested significant political, legal and policy capital to ensure it remains the bedrock of education funding in California.

Roger Snyder - Board Member, Scotts Valley USD
Patrick O'Donnell - Chief, Governmental Relations, CSBA
Dan Merwin - Legislative Advocate, CSBA

Redefining College and Career Success with the UC System

- ***Workshop – Room: 14AB***

You're invited to join a listening session on a question that sits at the heart of our work: what does it really mean for a student to be ready for college and career today? The University of California is rethinking how readiness is defined, and the perspectives of board members who lead in our counties and districts are central to that conversation. In this facilitated session, you'll work through a short set of prompts with colleagues - naming what readiness looks like, what a changing world demands, what you're seeing in your district, and where current expectations help or get in the way. Come as you are, speak candidly, and help shape what comes next. Your voice will directly inform the effort.

Shelli Kurth - Chief Innovation Officer, Thrive
Meg Ramey - Principal Consultant, Ramey Education Consulting
Nicole Allard - Senior Consultant, Thrive
Pete Cordero - Senior Consultant, Thrive

Superintendent Evaluation: Beyond a Legal Requirement - It's an Investment for Success

- ***Workshop – Room: 2***

Join two Superintendents who serve on the CSBA Superintendents Advisory Council, and Researcher and CSBA Fellow from UC Riverside as they engage in a discussion that illuminates professional insights, valuable practices, and current research findings that impact superintendent evaluations. Also be prepared to ask questions and offer thoughts about your own processes. Your attendance at the session will add to your understanding and satisfaction in completing this required and valued professional responsibility. The Superintendent Evaluation, done right, is a great investment in your District's, Superintendent's, and Governance Team's success.

Kimberly McGrath - Superintendent, Reed Union SD
Ambrosia Solis - UC Riverside Doctoral Candidate, CSBA Fellow, UC Riverside
PK Diffenbaugh - Superintendent, Monterey Peninsula USD
Dr. Steven Ladd, CSBA's Superintendents Advisory Council Facilitator

Valuing Leadership: Rethinking School Board Compensation in California

- ***Workshop – Room: 1AB***

This panel explores the evolving role of school board members and the growing conversation around fair compensation. With increasing responsibilities and time commitments, current local stipend levels may limit who can realistically serve. Using Assembly Bill 1390 as a starting point, panelists will discuss how compensation impacts board diversity, governance and public trust, and what thoughtful implementation could look like at the local level.

Carlos Machado - Legislative Advocate, CSBA
Assemblymember Solache - CA State Assemblymember, D-Lynwood
Deborah Bautista Zavala, Principal Lobbyist, Bautista Zavala Government Relations & Ball/Frost

STRAND: STRATEGIES FOR FINANCIAL RESILIENCE

Real Estate: A Strategic Tool for Academic Success

- ***Workshop – Room: 6D***

California districts hold an underutilized asset: their real estate. When boards strategically align property decisions with their LCAP, Strategic Plan, and community needs, whether navigating school consolidation, repurposing closed campuses, monetizing surplus sites, or retaining land for future use, they unlock resources that directly benefit students. Learn how Ventura USD turned real estate decisions into academic and fiscal wins. Leave with a framework for effective real estate decisions.

Landis Graden - CEO, DCG Strategies, Inc.
Dr. Antonio Castro - Superintendent, Ventura USD
Kelly M. Rem - Attorney at Law, Lozano Smith

Friday, Dec. 4 | 10:40 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

STRAND: EMPOWERING ALL STUDENTS AND LEAS IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Reimagining Schools Through Student Voice

- ***Workshop – Room: 15AB***

In this session, student board members will engage in a workshop led by students demonstrating a method for elevating authentic student voice in governance. By using creative engagement pathways, student board members can learn about a low-cost, scalable approach for expanding equity in student engagement by using practical facilitation methods that easily translate broad student input into actionable board discussions and planning.

Euri Kim - State President, CASC
Ethan Duncan - GOALL Director, California Association of Student Councils (CASC)

Teaching in the Ruins -What It Means to Learn, Grow, and Find Ground When AI Changes Everything

- ***Workshop – Room: 1AB***

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a "space race" level shift that challenges traditional school governance. This session presents a balanced navigation framework piloted in Sonoma COE that helps boards govern through discernment, salvaging practices like critical reasoning and personal voice while abandoning what never worked as promised. Attendees will explore what's worth carrying forward, what losses deserve to be grieved, what was never as good as we were told, and which "dropped threads" may matter most going forward.

Derek Rouch - Director, AI, Sonoma COE

STRAND: FOSTERING STRONG COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Inside Education Monterey County

- ***Workshop – Room: 8***

How do we turn passive critics into active champions of public education? The answer isn't in a press release, it's in the classroom. County offices of education are ideal regional hubs for this shift. This session explores "Inside Education Monterey County," a replicable model that invites leaders and taxpayers behind the scenes. Through monthly "tour and learn" sessions, Monterey COE demystifies complex topics like career technical education and special education by putting stakeholders directly in front of the work.

Annette Yee Steck - Board President, Monterey COE
Deneen Guss - Superintendent, Monterey COE
Heather Owen - Board Member, Monterey COE

STRAND: HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLNESS

Updating Expulsion Practices to Implement New Assembly Bill 1230

- ***Workshop – Room: 4***

Assembly Bill 1230 (Bonta) became effective Jan. 1, 2026. This new law is intended to enhance expulsion rehabilitation plans, streamline readmission procedures and improve outcomes for expelled students. This session will dig into the new law's goals and key provisions and offer ideas for adapting current expulsion practices to successfully implement it.

Lucy Salcido Carter - Director, Policy and Governance, Alameda COE
Jaime (Jim) Perez - Principal, Quest Academy, Alameda COE
Heather Little - Board President, Alameda USD

STRAND: PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE, CAREER AND BEYOND

California Education After Newsom: What's Next?

- ***Workshop – Room: 2***

As California approaches a historic gubernatorial transition, four of the state's most trusted voices in equity-centered education assess what's ahead. You will hear an honest examination of the Newsom administration's K-12 legacy, funding, early childhood, student equity, an emerging agenda to support adolescent thriving and local control, and a frank look at what the next governor must prioritize to serve California's nearly 6 million

diverse public school students. Participants will leave with governance strategies to lead their district through this pivotal moment.

Sophie Fanelli - President, Stuart Foundation
Jackie Thu-Huong Wong - Vice President, CSBA; Board Member Washington USD
Linda Darling-Hammond - President, California State Board of Education, Chief Knowledge Officer, Learning Policy Institute

From Fragmentation to Alignment: How Regional Consortia Connect K-12, Community Colleges and Workforce for Student Success

- ***Workshop – Room: 11B***

California's education and workforce systems are complex and fragmented. The eight regional consortia align K-12, higher education, workforce and industry to create equitable career pathways. This session highlights the K-12 Strong Workforce Program and the consortia's role in administering grants and supporting aligned pathways. Participants will gain insight into regional structures and leave with strategies to strengthen partnerships, reduce duplication and align programs to high-wage, in-demand careers.

Leslie Wisdom - K14 Technical Assistance Provider, San Diego & Imperial Regional Consortium
Danene Brown - Regional Consortium Chair, San Diego & Imperial Counties Community College

Learning In Initiative - From Voice to Action: Building Civically Engaged Students Through Schoolwide Systems

- ***Workshop – Room: 14AB***

How can school boards/districts/schools move beyond isolated programs to ensure 100 percent of students engage in meaningful civic learning? This session highlights an award-winning school-wide model embedding civic engagement across instruction, leadership and partnerships that improves engagement, climate and achievement. Participants will learn how governance teams can support systems that shift classrooms from teacher-directed instruction to student-driven inquiry, where students lead discussions on real-world issues, participate in simulations of democratic processes and influence school decision-making. Attendees will leave with practical strategies to implement scalable, low-cost civic engagement structures in their own districts.

Raquel Topete - Principal, August Boeger Middle School
Elida MacArthur - Superintendent, Mt. Pleasant SD
Melissa Got-Lopez - Board Member, Mt. Pleasant SD

Transforming Comprehensive High Schools to Full-Scale Early Colleges

- ***Workshop – Room: 6E***

McFarland USD is leading the state in a bold new effort to expand equitable access to college credit opportunities to high school students. The new McFarland Dual Enrollment Hub will support K-12 districts from across the state in implementing "wall-to-wall" dual enrollment pathways that enable all students to graduate with at least 12 college credits. This session will showcase the initiative's comprehensive implementation model for K-12 leaders including college partnerships strategies, pathway design and systems-level planning. Presenters will discuss strategies for scaling equitable access for historically underserved students and provide practical tools for building sustainable dual enrollment systems. Attendees will gain insight into timelines, staffing structures, partnership development and outcome goals.

Aaron Resendez - Superintendent, McFarland USD
Kylie Campbell - Assistant Vice Chancellor, California Community College Chancellor's Office

STRAND: STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE FOR ORGANIZATIONAL SUCCESS

Before, During and After a Superintendent Search

- ***Workshop – Room: 9***

Superintendent searches impact board governance at every stage. Drawing on California searches across districts of all sizes, from single-school to large urban, this session addresses governance and policy challenges before, during and after a search. Learn how structured processes, including leveraging the superintendent's executive assistant, drive smoother transitions, stronger long-term retention and reduced costs. Participants will leave with practical tools replicable in any district.

William Banning - Board President, Santa Barbara USD
Kris Erickson - Board Member, Orange USD
Blanca Cavazos - Senior Partner, Leadership Associates

Education Legal Alliance 2026: Court Decisions with Statewide Implications for Board Members

- ***Workshop – Room: 6D***

What litigation matters of statewide importance did CSBA's Education Legal Alliance (ELA) support during the past year? What should board members know about the outcome and impact of these important litigation matters? Presenters will focus on ELA cases and the critical statewide legal issues affecting school districts and county offices of education that have arisen from these decisions. Attendees will leave with knowledge of how these decisions impact their local educational agencies, along with practical takeaways for governing board members as to how the cases impact their work moving forward.

Rachel Disario - Deputy General Counsel, CSBA
Sloan Simmons - Partner, Lozano Smith
Keith Yeomans - Shareholder, Dannis Woliver Kelley

The CPRA Challenge: Managing Requests, Records, & Responses

- ***Workshop – Room: 6C/F***

As soon as a public records request arrives, the clock starts ticking. An effective response requires coordination across departments, careful attention to records and deadlines, and an understanding of when a seemingly routine request may become a larger administrative or board-level issue. This practical session explores strategies for triaging requests, coordinating records searches, working with staff and legal counsel, and communicating with requesters. Attend to learn how to avoid common missteps, manage resources, maintain compliance and protect public trust.

William Tunick - Shareholder, Dannis Woliver Kelley
Tricia Zarevich - Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & Board, Los Gatos-Saratoga Union HSD
Patty Sandoval - Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & Board, Fremont USD
Jessica Hull – Executive Director, Communication and Community Engagement, Roseville City SD

Governing AI in K-12: West Covina USD's Playbook

- ***Workshop – Room: 6B***

School boards are being asked to govern artificial intelligence (AI) without a roadmap. West Covina USD built one. This session walks through the full model: board policy adopted ahead of state guidance, a five-pillar safety framework, professional development for every adult in the system, parent workshops, student AI camps and student rollout gated on teacher readiness. Five school staff were initially trained and the full district will receive training by December 2026. Budget and replicability will be addressed.

Emy Flores - Superintendent, West Covina USD
Eileen Miranda-Jimenez - Board Member, West Covina USD
Joe Magallanes - Board President, West Covina USD

How Updated Policies Protect Your District: The Power of the PDW

- ***Workshop – Room: 5A-B***

Effective policies serve as the core of successful governance by providing long-term direction and defining implementation processes. The Policy Development Workshop (PDW) is a service offered by CSBA that supports effective policy development by combining the expertise and experience of district or county office administrators and/or board members with CSBA consultants. The result is a comprehensive set of updated policies that complies with state and federal law and meets local needs. Come learn about whether a PDW is right for your district or county office of education.

Virginia Shedd - Policy Consultant, CSBA
LaNaya Blackwell - Policy Consultant, CSBA

Supporting Stronger Governance with the CSBA Policy Toolkit

- ***Workshop – Room: 16AB***

Does your board want to keep your local policies current, compliant and community-driven? This interactive session unpacks CSBA's new Board Policy Development Toolkit for new and experienced board members. Presenters will explore the policy development cycle, best practices for review and adoption and how to reduce legal risk while strengthening governance for student success. Attendees will also hear from Pasadena USD board member Kim Kenne on the promise of policy subcommittees and leave with practical tools to improve their board's policy culture.

Mary Gardner Briggs - Senior Director, Research, CSBA
Tezeta Stewartz - Senior Director, Policy & Governance Technology, CSBA
Kimberly Kenne - Board Member, Pasadena USD

Taking the Governance Team to the Next Level

- ***Workshop – Room: 10***

Explore how high-performing districts expand governance beyond the board and superintendent through leadership development. This session addresses governance challenges in today's highly engaged communities, outlines a clear, practical process and shares results, including stronger board-cabinet partnership, clearer

objectives and improved alignment for student success. Learn how this scalable model builds capacity from board to school sites.

Bill Farris - Board Member, Sierra Sands USD
April Moore - Superintendent, Sierra Sands USD
James Warrick - Leadership Development Specialist, Warrick Company

STRAND: STRATEGIES FOR FINANCIAL RESILIENCE

Aligning Budgets, Workforce, and Future

- ***Workshop – Room: 3***

With federal relief dollars fading and budget uncertainty growing, California school districts face difficult decisions that will ultimately impact people, programs and communities. This session explores how early retirement incentives can offer a proactive path forward by reducing costs, aligning staffing and avoiding/reducing drastic layoffs. Discover how thoughtful planning can protect what matters most while building lasting fiscal stability for the road ahead.

Eric O'Leary - Executive Vice President, PARS
Steven Keller Ed.D. - Senior Education Consultant/Retired Superintendent, PARS
Julienne Lee Ed.D. - Superintendent, Buena Park School District

Politics, Money & Policy: Impact on Schools

- ***Workshop – Room: 6A***

Politics and school funding and policy can't be separated in California and that's the focus of this session. With new state leadership, presenters will examine the agendas of the governor and state superintendent, along with the fiscal outlook following historic TK-12 investment. Looking ahead to 2026-27, shifting priorities, national dynamics and ongoing debates around curriculum, culture and funding will shape California's evolving education landscape.

Moises Aguirre - Superintendent, Sweetwater Union HSD
Jack O'Connell - former California State Superintendent and Partner, Capitol Advisors Group, LLC
Lee Angela Reid - Partner, Capitol Advisors Group, LLC

Friday, Dec. 4 | 3:55 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

STRAND: EMPOWERING ALL STUDENTS AND LEAS IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Humanizing AI: Governance for Student Success

- ***Workshop – Room: 2***

You will learn how Anaheim Union HSD leveraged artificial intelligence (AI) to expand student voice, personalize learning, and measure whole-child outcomes while addressing governance challenges around privacy, equity and ethics. Through board resolutions and policy, partnerships and Local Control and Accountability Plan alignment, the district implemented AI tools that analyze student work and provide real-time feedback. Explore results, safeguards and scalable strategies to ensure responsible, equitable AI use in schools in this session.

Jessica Guerrero - Board President, Anaheim Union HSD

Annemarie Randle-Trejo - Board Member, Anaheim Union HSD
Amy Kwon - Assistant Superintendent, Anaheim Union HSD

STRAND: FOSTERING STRONG COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

When Partnerships Work: An Award-Winning Case Study in School Funding

- ***Workshop – Room: 14AB***

Recognized by the California Association of Local Economic Development with an Award of Merit, this session explores a school facilities agreement between a district, city and developer that funded a school and community amenities without relying on traditional financing. Presenters will explore creative strategies for leveraging statutory fees, joint use and diverse financing tools to deliver facilities that benefit students and the broader community. This workshop addresses governance and policy considerations, community expectations and ways to reach agreement to meet the interests of students, the community and development. Attendees will gain practical, replicable strategies to combine public and private resources and align development with community priorities.

Jason Price - Board Member, Western Placer USD
Kerry Callahan - Superintendent, Western Placer USD
Cathy Dominico - Managing Partner, Strategic Consulting Services, Capitol Public Finance Group
Megan Macy - Partner, Lozano Smith

STRAND: HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLNESS

E-Bike Safety Through Governance & Partnerships

- ***Workshop – Room: 1AB***

Learn how Rocklin Unified partnered with law enforcement to tackle e-bike safety challenges on campuses and within the community. With rising youth incidents and a gap in state law, presenters explain how they leveraged board policy to protect students. Rocklin USD's policy restricts high-speed electric transport on K-8 campuses. This session will detail the phased "Education, Warning, Enforcement" strategy and show how to align local policy with state law to ensure a safer commute for every student.

Roger Stock - Superintendent, Rocklin USD
Marty Flowers - Associate Superintendent, Rocklin USD
Rustin Banks - Police Chief, City of Rocklin
Julie Hupp - Board President, Rocklin USD

Inspired to Succeed: Foster Youth Initiatives That Work

- ***Workshop – Room: 5A-B***

In this session, attendees will learn about the award-winning and innovative programs that support foster youth. Learn from Antelope Valley Union HSD's Independent City and Riverside COE's Foster Youth Success Initiative, and the creative approaches they have taken to engage, educate and empower foster youth. Hear the latest data regarding foster youth and learn about recommendations that local educational agency leaders and policymakers can take to support foster youth so they can learn, grow and thrive!

Amanda Corridan - Chief Academic Officer, Riverside COE
Demontea "Tae" Thompson, Ph.D - Researcher and CEO, Twinspire
Justin Prewitt - Coordinator, Guidance Services, Antelope Valley Union HSD

STRAND: PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE, CAREER AND BEYOND

Leveraging Regional Infrastructures to Grow CTE Programs

- ***Workshop – Room: 11B***

Board members play a crucial role in championing CTE pathways as a viable future-ready option for ALL students. The Inland Empire/Desert Regional Consortium (IEDRC) is committed to expanding the college and career readiness discussion to include how community colleges can partner with K12 districts and County Offices of Education to improve student outcomes. This presentation will focus on how to leverage regional partners and resources to inform career pathways that meet labor market demands.

Mike Walsh - At-Large Trustee of Area 2 (Oroville), Butte COE
Lori Sanchez – Executive Director, Chair, Inland Empire Desert Regional Consortium
Cristina Flores – K12 CTE Director, Inland Empire Desert Regional Consortium

Redefining Equity: The Compton USD Blueprint for College & Career Success

- ***Workshop – Room: 3***

Learn how Compton USD redefined equity with a College & Career Program that leads the state, having raised grad rates from 60 percent to 95 percent, increased A-G completion to 80 percent and expanded AP/dual enrollment access by over 8,000 courses. Backed by board-led policy, data-driven strategies and sustainable funding, this replicable model delivers real outcomes for historically underserved students. Gain actionable steps to drive systemic change in your district in this session.

Darin Brawley - Superintendent, Compton USD
Micah Ali - Board President, Compton USD

STRAND: STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE FOR ORGANIZATIONAL SUCCESS

Advocacy 101: How to be an Effective Advocate

- ***Workshop – Room: 6E***

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. This presentation, featuring CSBA legislative advocates, PACERs and school board members, will help attendees learn the ins and outs of legislative advocacy. Hear about how to build and maintain strong relationships with elected officials and their staff. Learn how governing board members can build and maintain relationships with elected representatives and with community leaders, and what resources are available to help board members advocate on behalf of their students, schools and programs, as well as CSBA.

Chris Reefe - Legislative Director, CSBA
Chris Ungar - Board Member, San Luis Coastal USD
Denisse Lopez - Public Affairs and Community Engagement, CSBA

Mirabelli: What Does it Mean?

- ***Workshop – Room: 10***

The recent Supreme Court opinion in Mirabelli v. Bonta held that the federal constitution provides parents/guardians with certain rights when LEAs maintain policies concerning student gender identity. This workshop will review the Court's decision, discuss its implications, and examine potential impacts on CSBA sample policies and local governance practices.

Joshua Daniels - Chief, Policy & Governance Technology Services, CSBA
Ethan Retan – Senior Legal Services Attorney, CSBA

Bridging Innovation and Governance: AI in Education Board Policy

- ***Workshop – Room: 15AB***

Pleasanton Unified recognized the need to responsibly integrate artificial intelligence (AI) into teaching and learning. Faced with the governance challenge of how to respond to rapid AI adoption in classrooms while ensuring alignment with board policy, academic integrity and student privacy laws, the district sought to create a board policy through a structured development process. Attendees will gain a replicable model for developing AI policy grounded in practice and governance, with actionable steps to align their own policy.

Ed Diolazo - Superintendent, Pleasanton USD
Kevin Kiyoi - AI Leadership Lead - ICT Pathway Lead, Pleasanton USD
Jr Yee - Assistant Director of Educational Technology, Pleasanton USD
Laurie Walker, Board Member, Pleasanton USD

Investing in Governance

- ***Workshop – Room:9***

This session will present how two school districts addressed their respective governance challenges by investing in board development. By implementing processes for establishing governance agreements and conducting a board self-evaluation, these boards and superintendents strengthened their capacity to identify issues and develop solutions tailored to their specific needs. Attendees will learn replicable strategies that they can implement in their own local educational agencies.

Francisca Briones - Board Member, Delhi USD
Angelena Pride - Governance Consultant, CSBA
Dr. Monica Oviedo, Superintendent, Whittier Union HSD
Sepideh Yeoh - Senior Governance Consultant, CSBA

From Policy to Partnership: A Unified Leadership Team

- ***Workshop – Room: 4***

Governance breakdowns, micromanagement, misaligned expectations, avoidance of hard conversations, undermine student outcomes. Roseville Joint Union HSD transformed its board-superintendent partnership through policy governance, focused training and executive coaching. In this session, hear directly from the superintendent, a board trustee and their executive coach on what changed, what was hard and what made the difference, and come away with practical tools that can be replicated in your own district.

Pete Constant - Board Member, Roseville Joint Union HSD, Professor, Jessup University
John Becker - Superintendent, Roseville Joint Union HSD
James Warrick - Leadership Development Specialist, Warrick Company

LCAP in Focus: A CSBA Update for Governing Boards

- ***Workshop – Room: 6D***

Struggling with Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) planning and reporting? Join CSBA Legislative Advocate Carlos Machado and Senior Director of Research Mary Gardner Briggs to explore the latest developments, a new template, CSBA's advocacy efforts and local best practices. Regardless of their context, attendees will leave with an understanding of recent policy changes, new research, and strategies to streamline LCAP planning and strengthen board oversight.

Mary Gardner Briggs - Senior Director, Research, CSBA
Carlos Machado - Legislative Advocate, CSBA

Super Stressed: Supporting and Retaining Superintendents

- ***Workshop – Room: 11A***

Superintendent burnout and turnover is a rising concern across California. In this session, local educational agency leaders will explore current data trends around superintendent stress and turnover, evidence-based strategies for supporting and retaining superintendents, and perspectives from superintendents in the field. LEA leaders will leave the session with methods for assessing superintendent burden and guiding questions for board meetings examining budget allocations for payroll and support staff.

Morgan Garvey - Education Policy Analyst, CSBA
Gina Zietlow, Superintendent, ABC USD
Kelly Mays-Vollmar, Superintendent, Desert Sands USD
Ben Master, Senior Policy Researcher, RAND

STRAND: STRATEGIES FOR FINANCIAL RESILIENCE

Acting Before the Cliff: A Board Fiscal Playbook

- ***Workshop – Room: 6A***

This session will share how Morongo USD's board acted before fiscal distress forced their hand. Facing a structural deficit, a more than10 percent enrollment decline and diminishing reserves, the board commissioned a stabilization review across seven functional areas. The result: $3.8 million in annual savings and revenue, staffing realignment strategy, educational systems redesign and efficacy building as a means to realize fund balance projected growth rather than financial collapse. Attendees will leave with a replicable governance playbook for districts facing the same fiscal realities.

Stella Kemp - Senior Advisor, School Leaders
Patricio Vargas - Superintendent, Morongo USD
Christopher Claire - Board President, Morongo USD

Rainy-Day Funds for Uncertain Forecasts

- ***Workshop – Room: 6B***

California school districts are navigating a perfect storm with budget uncertainty, funding gaps and rising liabilities. Meanwhile, other post-employment benefits (OPEB) and pension costs remain unavoidable. A Section 115 Trust offers a path to financial resilience by reducing volatility, stabilizing budgets and building a rainy-day fund. Learn how this proactive strategy has worked for Salinas ESD to strengthen flexibility and protect resources.

Rebeca Andrade, Ed.D. - Superintendent of Schools, Salinas City ESD
John Gray - President/CEO, School Services of California
Rachael Sanders - Vice President, PARS

Special Education Financial Resilience Strategies

- ***Workshop – Room: 8***

Many districts are facing limited resources, declining enrollment reducing special education funding, rising service and labor costs, and a growing local share of the general fund. This session addresses governance and policy challenges and provides concrete strategies and practical tools, including budgeting templates and cost-saving approaches. Participants will gain replicable solutions to strengthen fiscal sustainability, support student services and guide board action.

Caryl Miller - Vice President, Special Education, Total School Solutions
Latanya Young - Board Member, Vallejo City USD
Eli Gallup - Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services, Nevada County Superintendent of Schools
Mays Kakish - Superintendent, Beaumont USD

What to Expect When You're Agenda Prepping: Agenda Requirements & Brown Act Compliance

- ***Workshop – Room: 6C/F***

Executive assistants play a critical role in preparing board meeting agendas that keep district business moving while ensuring compliance with California's open meeting laws. This practical session will walk through key Brown Act requirements that arise during the agenda-preparation process, from properly describing agenda items and meeting posting requirements to navigating common last-minute changes and other compliance pitfalls. Attendees will leave with practical guidance and strategies they can apply to confidently support their boards and help meetings run smoothly and lawfully.

Jonathan Salt - Partner, F3 Law
Anne Staffieri - Superintendent, San Dieguito Union HSD
Andrea Pizana - Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, San Dieguito Union HSD

Saturday, Dec. 5 | 8:35 a.m.–9:40 a.m.

STRAND: FOSTERING STRONG COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Attendance Recovery and Expanded Learning: A Profitable Partnership

- ***Workshop – Room: 11B***

Attendance has been a persistent problem since the pandemic. California's new Attendance Recovery policy is intended to recoup lost average daily attendance (ADA) dollars and learning. Despite districts' enthusiasm, the policy is tricky to implement. In this session, attendees will learn how three pioneering districts are leveraging their expanded learning platforms to recover funding and reconnect students to their school communities. Participants will have time to consider how school boards can effectively leverage this new policy during this session.

Erin Sipes - Director, Expanded Learning, Elk Grove USD
Omar Calleros - Director, Expanded Learning, Chula Vista ESD
Timothy Gloudeman - Coordinator, Expanded Learning, Ontario Montclair SD
Jessica Gunderson - CO-CEO, Partnership for Children & Youth

Ethnic Studies: Paving the Path from History to Inclusion

- ***Workshop – Room: 4***

Public education policy, curriculum and instruction have long struggled to capture the full experience and tell the complete story of the multifaceted Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community. UCLA's "Foundations and Futures: Asians American and Pacific Islander Multimedia Textbook" breaks new ground by providing a comprehensive curriculum of AANHPI history. This workshop explores how ethnic studies can be a valuable implement in school district toolkits for promoting inclusion and visibility for historically marginalized communities. We will discuss case studies showing how school districts have successfully implemented ethnic studies in conjunction with other programs and services to foster inclusivity.

Arlene Inouye - Outreach Co-Coordinator, Foundations and Futures, UCLA Asian American Studies Center
Rocio Rivas - Board Member, Los Angeles USD
Andrea Yamasaki - Board Vice President, Orange USD
Brian Batugo - Ethnic Studies Resource Teacher, San Diego USD

It Takes a Community to Build a Reader: Lessons from Folsom Cordova READS

- ***Workshop – Room: 2***

How can boards move beyond programs to build community-wide impact? Learn how Folsom Cordova READS addresses governance and policy challenges by aligning science of reading-based classroom practices with layered partnerships across families, community organizations, and local government. Explore solutions, student outcomes, budget implications, and leave with scalable strategies and clear actions for your district.

Channa Pitt - Assistant Superintendent, Student Services, Folsom-Cordova USD
Erik Swanson - Superintendent, Folsom-Cordova USD
Adonai Mack - Chief Executive Officer, Child Action

STRAND: HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLNESS

Governing for Belonging and School Climate

- ***Workshop – Room: 9***

Faced with rising concerns about school climate and student belonging, Antioch USD's governance team partnered with the University of Southern California to diagnose root causes and align policy, practice and accountability. Attendees will learn how board members and the superintendent co-led a multi-phase climate study, what the data revealed, and how it informed governance decisions, resource allocation and continuous improvement. Participants will leave with tools to replicate this work in their districts.

Dee Brown - Board Member, Antioch USD
Olga Cobos-Smith - Board Member, Antioch USD
Jose Banda - Interim Superintendent, Antioch USD
John Pascarella - Professor & Chief Academic Officer, University of Southern California

Maximize Student Engagement, Wellness, and Success: Building an Inclusive, Education-Based Athletics Model

- ***Workshop – Room: 14AB***

What if athletics became a driving force for student wellness, belonging and academic success? In this session, San Luis Coastal USD will share an equity-centered approach that redefines sports as a safe, inclusive, education-based system focused on whole-child development. Through intentional design, expert partnerships and continuous feedback, the program removes barriers, reflects student diversity and elevates student voice, offering practical strategies to boost engagement, mental health and long-term success.

Ellen Sheffer - Board Member, San Luis Coastal USD
Mark Buchman - Board Member, San Luis Coastal USD
Christine Robertson - Executive Director of SLCEF, San Luis Coastal USD

Recent Changes in School Health Policy - What School Board Members Need to Know!

- ***Workshop – Room: 1AB***

The imperatives for student health and well-being have never been clearer, but the obligations and responsibilities of schools are constantly evolving. This session will engage attendees in the latest updates on state policy and requirements of local educational agencies related to student health and well-being with experts involved in leading these issues, including an experienced school board member, a superintendent and a credentialed school nurse.

Bonnie Castrey - Board Member, Huntington Beach Union HSD
Carolee Ogata - Superintendent, Huntington Beach Union HSD
Katie Nilsson - President, California School Nurses Organization

STRAND: PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE, CAREER AND BEYOND

Students in Focus: Supporting African American Student Well-being and Achievement

- ***Workshop – Room: 6E***

African American students have long faced discrimination in the education system, including disproportionate discipline and reduced access to advanced learning opportunities. In this session, local educational agency leaders will explore current data on African American student outcomes, including achievement, discipline, college and career readiness and more. The panel will discuss underlying causes of the trends, as well as evidence-based strategies to improve outcomes and experiences for African American students.

Morgan Garvey - Education Policy Analyst, CSBA
Felicia Alexander, Board Member, San Bernardino City USD
Marcus Funchess, Superintendent, Palm Springs USD

Supporting Newcomers in California Schools

- ***Workshop – Room: 10***

Newcomers are immigrant students who are in their first three years of U.S. schooling. They are a diverse group of students, varying by home language, prior education and immigration status. Newcomers often have different academic needs than the average student classified as an English learner. In this session researchers and educational leaders will present data on newcomers, offer resources and discuss best practices to support them in their TK-12 career.

Sam Finn - Executive Director, California Newcomer Network
Xilonin Cruz-Gonzalez - Former Past President, CSBA

STRAND: STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE FOR ORGANIZATIONAL SUCCESS

Crisis to Cohesion: Strategic Governance and Teaming Through Superintendent Transition

- ***Workshop – Room: 15AB***

This session examines a school board's response to an abrupt superintendent departure amid conflict, inexperience and public scrutiny. Using Amy Edmondson's Teaming framework, it highlights strategies to restore stability, rebuild trust and align governance through clear roles, effective communication and psychological safety. Attendees will gain practical tools to navigate leadership transitions, strengthen board dynamics and sustain focus on organizational effectiveness.

Chris Cruz-Boone - Board Member, Bakersfield City ESD
Karling Aguilera-Fort - Superintendent, Bakersfield City ESD
Brooke Malley-Ault - Board Member, Bakersfield City ESD
Laura Guerrero-Salgado - Board Member, Bakersfield City ESD

Focus and Results: Governance Goal Setting

- ***Workshop – Room: 11A***

Boards often set too many goals, leading to fragmented effort and limited impact. Learn how Poway USD uses a disciplined framework to focus on a few board priorities and align superintendent evaluation, division work and school site goals. See a replicable model with scorecards and data that strengthens accountability, improves student outcomes and informs budget decisions. Aligned systems drive clarity, focus and results.

Benjamin Churchill - Superintendent, Poway USD
Michelle O'Connor-Ratcliff - Board President, Poway USD

Mastering Complaint Procedures: A Guide for Educators

- ***Workshop – Room: 6B***

Local educational agencies must comply with multiple complaint procedures under state and federal law, including Title IX, Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP), Williams Act and various others. Making sense of required complaint procedures can be a complicated process. This workshop 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. Presenters will provide best practices and practical advice to prepare attendees for working with complaint coordinators, investigators and legal counsel to successfully resolve complaints and reduce liability.

Alexandra Worthy - Senior Legal Services Attorney, CSBA

Tall/Grande/Venti: Successful Workforce Housing Plans for LEAs of All Sizes

- ***Workshop – Room: 3***

Education workforce housing isn't only for local educational agencies that are in urban areas, have lots of bond revenue or high enrollments. In fact, LEAs across the state have built workforce housing in rural areas, at tiny scales, and without having to raise money upfront. Attend this lively session to learn how Fall River Joint USD built a two-unit project in a very rural environment; how Monterey Peninsula USD cut their timeline to two years by buying a pre-existing development, and how San Diego USD became the country's leader in workforce housing by using a mixed-use model that gets large developments built faster. Attendees will leave with a decision tree they can use to accelerate their own exploration of this increasingly popular solution.

Morgan Nugent - Superintendent, Fall River Joint USD
PK Diffenbaugh - Superintendent, Monterey Peninsula USD
Sabrina Bazzo - Board Vice President, San Diego USD

Top 10 Dos/Don'ts for Successful Board Governance

- ***Workshop – Room: 6A***

Creating a supportive, educational environment for students requires an effective board governance team. This session will present practical tips from trustees, a superintendent and school lawyers, including strategies for resolving board conflict and having difficult conversations; managing community involvement and public comment; holding robust governance trainings and ensuring board norms; finding consensus for strategic decision-making; and establishing accountability systems.

Helen Tilley - Board President, Fairfield-Suisun USD
Suvarna Bhopale - Attorney, Dannis Woliver Kelley
Wes Smith, Superintendent, Newport-Mesa USD
Matt Juhl-Darlington, Attorney, Dannis Woliver Kelley

WASC Data Tool: From Data to Decisions

- ***Workshop – Room: 6C/F***

Attendees of this session will gain hands-on experience with the WASC Data Tool, which auto-populates statewide data into a single report for each California public K–12 school. Hear directly from a pilot school administrator on the tool's use and impact, explore how integrated artificial intelligence helps identify equity gaps and trends to inform board, superintendent and administrator decisions. Participants will leave ready to reduce data burden and lead evidence-based continuous improvement.

Christopher "Kit" Oase - Board Member, Ripon USD, Region 8 Delegate, CSBA
Barry Groves - President and CEO, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
Malia Pulido-Dahal - Vice President, Innovation, WASC

STRAND: STRATEGIES FOR FINANCIAL RESILIENCE

Governing Through Fiscal Reality: Transparency, Tradeoffs and Public Trust

- ***Workshop – Room: 8***

California school boards are being asked to govern through fiscal constraint, not growth. In this facilitated discussion, attendees will explore how boards and superintendents can lead transparent, values-driven budget decisions amid declining enrollment, rising costs and heightened public scrutiny. Presenters will examine real governance tradeoffs, board-superintendent alignment and how innovation and technology can support a more transparent budget process.

Jeff Pelzel - Director, Education Value & Leadership Strategy, PowerSchool
Tyler Hall - Fiscal and Financial Solutions Advisor, PowerSchool
Sulema Holguin - Education Leadership Advisor, Former CA CBO, PowerSchool