



**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

**BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – OCTOBER 28, 2022**

TO: Members of the Board of Education  
FROM: Superintendent, Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

**SUPERINTENDENT – Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.**

S-1 Robert G. Nelson Superintendent Calendar Highlights

**BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES – Santino Danisi, Chief Officer**

BFS-1 Kim Kelstrom School Services Weekly Update Reports for  
October 20, 2022

BFS-2 Kim Kelstrom High School Class Sizes for Core Classes

**INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION – Dr. Natasha Baker, Chief Officer**

ID-1 Yolanda Jimenez-Ruiz Fresno Adult School Licensed Vocational  
Nursing Cohort 31 Graduation

Fresno Unified School District  
Board Communication

**BC Number S-1**

From the Office of the Superintendent  
To the Members of the Board of Education  
Prepared by: Robert G. Nelson, Superintendent  
Cabinet Approval:

Date: October 28, 2022  
Phone Number: 457-3884

Regarding: Superintendent Calendar Highlights

The purpose of this communication is to inform the Board of notable calendar items from October 10, 2022 – October 28, 2022:

- Participated in the “Gettysburg Strategic Ride Along” with Diamond 6 in Washington DC
- Attended the Council of the Great City Schools Annual Conference
- Spoke at the Principals’ Meeting
- Met with Executive Cabinet
- Participated in call with Fresno County School Superintendents
- Attended meeting as part of the Central Office and Principal Pipeline studies of the Wallace Foundation Equity Center Pipeline Initiative
- Attended event at Duncan High School for delivery of their Fully Electric Semi Truck
- Attended Xfinity/Comcast Liftzone event at St. Rest Church with students from Gaston Middle School and Columbia Elementary School
- Met with district staff and Fresno Housing Authority regarding displaced students
- Attended Farber Campus Community Meeting
- Participated in coaching call with district team and Battelle for Kids as part of the Urban District Cohort
- Gave interview with Shayla Girardin, ABC30
- Participated in triad call with Denver Public Schools and Sacramento City Unified School District as follow up work from PELP training at Harvard that took place last summer
- Met with Jose Escobedo, Executive Director of the National Center for Urban School Transformation, to discuss findings of Equity and Excellence Audits conducted

Approved by Superintendent  
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 10/28/2022

Fresno Unified School District  
Board Communication

**BC Number BFS-1**

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



Date: October 28, 2022

Phone Number: 457-3907

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for October 20, 2022

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board a copy of School Services of California's (SSC) Weekly Updates. Each week SSC provides an update and commentary on different educational fiscal issues. In addition, they include different articles related to education issues. The SSC Weekly Update for October 20, 2022 is attached and includes the following articles:

- September Revenue Collections Down – October 18, 2022
- Preliminary Glimpse at Test Scores Shows Steep Declines in Reading, Math – October 18, 2022
- California to End the COVID State of Emergency – October 17, 2022

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Kim Kelstrom at 457-3907.

Approved by Superintendent  
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 10/28/2022



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www.sscal.com

DATE: October 20, 2022

TO: Robert G. Nelson  
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

RE: *SSC's Sacramento Weekly Update*

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## **GOP Lawmakers Call for the Legislature to Reconvene**

It was another fairly quiet week in Sacramento with lawmakers on recess and in their districts campaigning. However, on Tuesday, 26 (out of 28) Republican lawmakers submitted a [letter](#) to Democratic leadership requesting that legislators be recalled from joint recess to consider approving legislation on three specific issues:

1. Suspension of the state gas tax, establishing a gasoline supply reserve, and expediting permitting to increase supply
2. Reclassifying crimes such as domestic violence, human trafficking, and rape of an unconscious person as “violent” felonies under California penal code; and restoring harsher penalties for retail theft and smash and grab robberies
3. Declaring a homelessness emergency in California and banning homeless encampments within 1,000 feet of sensitive areas, including schools and childcare facilities

These members are requesting the Assembly and Senate to reconvene under a legislative rule that allows ten or more lawmakers to request that legislative leadership recall the Legislature from its joint recess. The rule stipulates that Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon have ten days to consider the request once it is made. If they deny the request, a group of at least ten members can ask the rest of their colleagues to override the rejection, which would require an approval of two-thirds of both the Assembly and Senate.

Since Republicans make up less than one-fourth of the 120 members that comprise the Legislature, the most likely scenario is that Democratic leadership will deny the request and the GOP will not come close to garnering enough votes to override that denial. It is highly unlikely that Democrats will want to return to Sacramento with the November General Election less than three weeks away, especially with Governor Gavin Newsom poised to call for a special session in December to consider a new tax on oil company profits (see last week's *Sacramento Update* for more details).

What this letter really does is highlight the issues that the GOP thinks that Democrats are vulnerable to in this upcoming election. Unsurprisingly, these are also the same issues that we are seeing Republicans highlight nationally as they look to take back Congress.

While the national results are a crapshoot, the likely scenario for the California legislative elections is that the Democrats retain their supermajority in both the Assembly and Senate heading into the beginning of the 2023-24 Legislative Session, which begins on December 5, 2022. This will also likely be the date that the Governor calls the Legislature into special session to discuss taxing oil profits.

*Leilani Aguinaldo*

## September Revenue Collections Down

By Patti F. Herrera, EdD  
School Services of California Inc.'s *Fiscal Report*  
October 18, 2022

State tax collections for September 2022 were down \$2.8 billion from June Budget Act projections, painting a sober start for the fiscal year. For the 2022-23 fiscal year, total revenues are \$4.8 billion lower than anticipated and, when combined with the shortfall from fiscal year 2021-22, state tax collections are down nearly \$7.0 billion from projections.

Although not as significant as April, September is an important month for personal income tax (PIT) receipts, as filers who anticipate tax liabilities pay their third quarter estimated taxes. On the whole, PIT generates two-thirds of the state's General Fund revenues. For September, PIT revenues came in \$3.0 billion (22%) below estimates, and estimated payments were significantly below projections by \$2.2 billion, or 42.3%. Year-to-date, PIT is underperforming by 16.1%, or by \$4.7 billion.

These monthly and annual figures are offset by stronger performance in corporation tax receipts, which came in \$160 million above monthly estimates and is up \$93 million for 2022-23. Sales and use tax collections were down modestly in September and are below Budget Act annual estimates by \$280 million.

### Big Three Tax Collections (in millions)

	September 2022	2022-23 Year-to-Date
Personal Income Tax	-\$3,045	-\$4,708 (-16.1%)
Corporation Tax	\$160	\$93 (2.6%)
Sales and Use Tax	-\$2.0	-\$280 (-3.3%)

The latest state revenue data signals that the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee could fall below 2022-23 levels in 2023-24. The 2021-22 minimum guarantee is likely to be reduced from Budget Act estimates by approximately \$830 million. The 2022-23 minimum guarantee, which was estimated to be \$110.4 billion in June, is currently down \$1.8 billion, making the combined downward adjustment to the minimum guarantee across the two fiscal years \$2.6 billion.

Meanwhile, macroeconomic indicators are trending downward, as well. The most concerning is headline and core inflation, which continue to be well above the Federal Reserve's (Fed) target rate of 2.0%. U.S. employment remains a bright spot; however, with the Fed likely to increase interest rates again next month (and perhaps more aggressively), economists fear that we may see unemployment rise and housing activity fall in 2023.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis will release its advance estimate of the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) on October 27, 2022, leaving many wondering if we will see a third consecutive quarter of decreased GDP—our traditional bellwether of U.S. economic health.

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*Note: Recently released test scores from some of the state's larger districts show sharp declines in all grade levels from 2019, before COVID forced the closure of most campuses to in-person learning, and 2022.*

## **Preliminary Glimpse at Test Scores Shows Steep Declines in Reading, Math**

By Carolyn Jones and Daniel J. Willis  
*EdSource*  
October 18, 2022

Recently released test scores from some of California's largest school districts — representing more than 1 million students — offer a preview of what's likely to be steep drops in reading and math scores statewide in the wake of Covid.

The scores, which districts released individually at the request of EdSource, show sharp declines in all grade levels from 2019, before Covid forced the closure of most campuses to in-person learning, and 2022.

The California Department of Education has delayed releasing the full statewide results from the 2022 Smarter Balanced assessments, which are given annually to third-through-eighth graders and 11th graders to measure progress in English language arts and math. Under pressure from EdSource and other media outlets, the department recently agreed to release the scores by the end of October.

Meanwhile, EdSource has collected individual results from 10 large districts, including Los Angeles Unified, San Diego Unified, Fresno Unified, Lodi Unified, Long Beach Unified, Sacramento City Unified, Sweetwater Union High School District, San Ramon Valley Unified, Bakersfield City School District and Mt. Diablo Unified.

The results show consistent declines in all categories from 2019, but some variations among districts and subgroups:

- Only 13% of students in Bakersfield met the state standard for math.
- Reading scores in Los Angeles Unified only dipped slightly from 2019 to 2022. Still, only 41% of students in 2022 were proficient in reading.
- Math scores in Fresno dropped by a third. In 2022, only 21% of students met the math standard.
- Reading scores in Long Beach dropped 11 points, but declines were less steep in math. Math scores fell only 4 points.
- In Mt. Diablo Unified, one of the few districts to break down the results by subgroup, Black, Latino, English learner, foster and homeless students had far lower scores compared with 2019 than their white and Asian peers. For example, among English learners, 96% did not meet the math or reading standards.

By and large, scores show little change from 2021, the first results after the state suspended the 2020 tests due to Covid. The 2021 test was optional for schools to administer, so results were limited and likely not an accurate reflection of students' progress overall. Just under 25% of students took the test in 2021.

Lodi Unified saw scores in both math and reading improve from 2021, but they still lag significantly from 2019. That's not a surprise, considering the difficulties teachers and students faced as they returned from

“Last year, even though we were back in person, it was very challenging,” he said. “Teachers and support staff were working very hard to address learning loss while also responding to the social-emotional impacts on learning and socializing at school.”

Like other districts, Lodi has hired more tutors and teachers to help students catch up, beefed up summer school and after-school academic offerings, adopted new curricula and taken other steps to bring students to proficiency.

Heather Hough, director of Policy Analysis for California Education, said the preliminary results are actually better than she expected. Because 2022 is the first year all schools were required to give the test, she anticipated a significant drop from 2021.

“We thought 2022 would be a recovery year, but there was so much chaos — teacher shortages, students missing school — that it turned out to be another pandemic year,” she said. “If the scores are the same (as 2021), that's actually encouraging.”

When the state releases the full data, Hough and her colleagues will pay close attention to differences among subgroups and statistical anomalies. If one district, for example, shows good results for students in special education, it would be worth researching what special steps that district has taken.

She also noted that some students thrived during remote learning, so she expects some good news, as well. In any case, schools and districts, as well as statewide policymakers, should use the scores to shape their allocation of resources in the coming years.

“When we get this data, we'll finally be able to see how California is doing, what challenges we're facing, and how we can best help students as we move forward,” she said.

In anticipation of the statewide release of test scores, the state last week launched a push for schools to help students regain skills they lost during Covid. The state is emphasizing accelerated learning, rather than remedial lessons, to speed up the process.

Steps like that could be the most useful result of the Smarter Balanced scores, said Lucrecia Santibañez, associate professor of education at UCLA. Closely analyzing the data and using it to forge a path forward — specifically for certain groups of students — is more useful than assigning blame, she said.

“Covid was tough for everyone, and it's not worth putting blame on anyone. Everyone was trying the best they could. But these scores signal that we need to make a personalized, intensive effort to help kids catch up and recoup what they've lost,” she said.

Although the scores are disappointing, they can be an important tool to help schools pinpoint resources in the future, she said. The scores can provide a window into what exact content students have missed, where they're lagging and which students need the most help, she said.

At Mt. Diablo Unified, Raymond Tjen-A-Looi, director of assessment, research and evaluation, told the school board that comparisons with 2021 aren't helpful because education was still so disrupted due to Covid.



“We’re concentrating on using 2022 as a baseline, with the expectation that everything will stay the same going forward — testing will be in person, instruction will be in person,” he said. “So moving forward, hopefully, we’ll be able to do more comparisons and see how well we are making up for what we’ve lost.”

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*Note: Governor Newsom announced that he will end California’s COVID-19 state of emergency on February 28, 2023, nearly three years from its initiation.*

## **California to End the COVID State of Emergency**

By Kristen Hwang and Ana B. Ibarra  
*CalMatters*  
October 17, 2022

California’s COVID-19 state of emergency will end Feb. 28, 2023, nearly three years from its initiation, officials from Gov. Gavin Newsom’s office announced today.

The announcement came as new variants spur concerns that there will be another deadly winter surge across the country and as test positivity rates plateau in California following a nearly three-month decline. More than 95,000 Californians have died as a result of COVID-19, according to state data.

The state of emergency gave Newsom broad, often controversial, powers to issue masking and vaccination mandates and temporary stay-at-home orders in an effort to slow the spread of the virus. It also enabled the governor to enter into nearly \$12 billion dollars worth of no-bid emergency response contracts with testing facilities, personal protective equipment suppliers and temporary workforce agencies. Some of those contracts were with untested vendors who failed to deliver services.

Today, 27 provisions from the 74 executive orders issued under the state of emergency remain in effect, officials said. More than 500 provisions have already ended. The Newsom administration would not allow the press to name the senior officials who participated in an embargoed media briefing about ending the state of emergency.

“The State of Emergency was an effective and necessary tool that we utilized to protect our state, and we wouldn’t have gotten to this point without it,” Newsom said in a statement. “With the operational preparedness that we’ve built up and the measures that we’ll continue to employ moving forward, California is ready to phase out this tool.”

Newsom has extended the state of emergency five times over the course of the pandemic, most recently in June.

The federal government most recently extended its own COVID-19 public health emergency through Jan. 11. Federal officials have said they will give states a 60-day notice before the federal emergency order is lifted. Some pandemic-era expansions and protections that Californians have benefitted from come from the federal order — like expansions in telehealth services and Medi-Cal’s renewal freeze, which has helped keep thousands insured throughout the pandemic.

The duration of the state of emergency has been controversial among state Republican leaders who attempted to overturn the governor's power during a Senate emergency meeting in March. The resolution to terminate the state of emergency was voted down 8-4, with senators voting along party lines.

At the time, representatives for frontline health workers, including the California Hospital Association, stated flexibilities allowed under the executive orders were critical to expanding capacity. It allowed health care officials to hire thousands of out-of-state workers who typically need to be licensed in California to practice, among other emergency measures.

The state's early adoption of stay-at-home orders, which lasted on-and-off for 10 months, were successful in delaying spikes in case and hospitalization rates, but the first winter surge in January 2021 saw more than 21,000 hospitalizations at its peak. Since that time, hospitals across the state have repeatedly warned of impending collapse as various waves of the pandemic intensified worker burnout and shortages.

California is currently reporting a 14-day average of 1,854 COVID hospitalizations, two-and-a-half times fewer hospitalizations than the same time last year during the tail end of the delta variant surge.

In February, the administration unveiled the SMARTER plan, its \$3.2 billion long-term strategy for combating COVID-19. The strategy outlined preparedness measures such as stockpiling 75 million masks, increasing testing capacity to half a million tests per day and investing in the health care workforce and local community health organizations. The SMARTER plan's rollout has been a key component in eliminating the need for emergency provisions, officials said.

"The administration has determined that rolling back the remaining 27 executive order provisions will have largely minimal operational impact," an unnamed official said.

The duration of the state of emergency through the winter months is "no accident," officials said, emphasizing that it will ensure flexibility through a winter surge. However, hospital association President Carmela Coyle said her organization is "deeply concerned" about the announcement and was not consulted about the end date of the state of emergency.

"It forces California hospitals to scale back on our capacity to care for people at a time of high uncertainty about the future," Coyle said. "We find ourselves in the month of October as we are approaching the winter months, which typically are challenging because we see more people in need of care for things like the flu, on top of the pandemic. It's really a bad time to think of scaling back on the capacity we have available."

Flu season typically lasts until May.

In addition to eliminating workforce flexibility, ending the order will also eliminate hospitals' "space waivers," which grant hospitals permission to create temporary additional beds, Coyle said.

Officials emphasized that the state has four months to prepare for the end of the order and any potential changes.

The administration plans on pursuing permanent legislative changes for two temporary provisions allowed under the executive order: allowing nurses to order and administer COVID-19 antiviral treatments like PAXLOVID and allowing laboratory assistants to process COVID-19 tests.

In recent months, as the “crisis” phase of the pandemic petered out, legislators abandoned attempts to make the COVID-19 vaccine mandatory for school children and to allow teenagers to get vaccinated without parental consent. Vaccine and testing requirements for some workers like teachers have also been lifted. A high percentage — 72% — of eligible Californians have been vaccinated against COVID-19, according to state data.

Senate Republican Leader Scott Wilk of Santa Clarita has been outspoken in his criticism of Newsom’s unfettered ability to issue no-bid contracts during the state of emergency, characterizing it as “one-man” rule. In response to the automatic renewal of the state’s controversial \$1.7-billion COVID-19 testing contract with Perkin Elmer, Wilk authored a measure requiring no-bid contracts larger than \$75 million to undergo legislative review before renewal.

Fresno Unified School District  
Board Communication

**BC Number BFS-2**

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



Date: October 28, 2022  
Phone Number: 457-3907

Regarding: High School Class Sizes for Core Classes

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board information on high school core class sizes. The collective bargaining agreement with the Fresno Teachers Association (FTA) includes staffing ratios for grades K-12. For grades 9-12, the ratio is 1:29. Staff monitors classes to ensure class sizes stay at a reasonable and equitable level.

In the past, teachers in core classes with enrollment greater than 37 received additional mitigations. Beginning in the 2019/20 school year, the class size that included these mitigations was reduced to 36 and Career Technical Education and Visual Arts were included along with core classes.

The chart below shows the number of classes over 36 for 2019/20 – 2022/23 and over 37 for 2018/19. To ensure consistency, the data was pulled for each year based on the California enrollment census date, which is always in early October. The Board's additional investments and staff diligence to balance core classes have resulted in only five classes over 36 for 2022/23.

	2018/19 Over 37	2019/20 Over 36	2020/21 Over 36	2021/22 Over 36	2022/23 Over 36
# of High School Core Classes Over 36 or 37	2	3	11	3	5
Total High School Core Classes	2,453	2,681	2,937	3,404	3,479
% of High School Core Classes Over 36 or 37	0.10%	0.11%	0.37%	0.09%	0.14%
% Change from Prior Year	(92%)	50%	240%	(76%)	60%

Class sizes over 36 are a result of scheduling constraints and the limited availability of certain class sections which have caused these three class sections to be over capacity. Three classes have 37 students (Social Science), one class has 38 students (Math), and one class has 39 students (Social Science).

In addition, staff monitors core classes with less than 20 students. The chart below indicates the number of core classes each year with less than 20:

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
# of High School Core Classes 20 and Under	177	286	270	634	680
Total High School Core Classes	2,453	2,681	2,937	3,404	3,479
% of High School Core Classes 20 and Under	7.2%	10.6%	9.2%	18.63%	19.55%
% Change from Prior Year	42%	61%	(13%)	102%	5%

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Kim Kelstrom at 457-3907.


Approved by Superintendent  
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 10/28/2022

Fresno Unified School District  
Board Communication

**BC Number ID-1**

From the Office of the Superintendent  
To the Members of the Board of Education  
Prepared by: Yolanda Jimenez-Ruiz, Administrator, and  
Rodney Branch, Principal IV  
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: October 28, 2022

Phone Number: 457-6024

Regarding: Fresno Adult School Licensed Vocational Nursing Cohort 31 Graduation

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board information about the graduation of the 31<sup>st</sup> Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) cohort from Fresno Adult School.

- The graduation ceremony will take place on Friday, November 4, 2022, at 4:00 pm at the Sunnyside High School theater.
- Fresno Adult School is graduating 24 of 24 students from the Cohort 31 LVN class.
- These 24 students will go on to take and pass their National Counsel Licensure Examination state boards to receive their LVN state license over the next few months.
- The LVN training program has been in existence at Fresno Adult School (FAS) since 2001.
- Length of training is 53 weeks (approximatley14-month program with holidays/breaks).
- A new cohort of 24 students begins approximately every 26 weeks.
- Instruction includes a combination of classroom theory instruction, hands on skills practice, and clinical experience in 11 key areas of practice.
  - Fundamentals, Pharmacology, Nutrition, Gerontology, Medical-Surgical I, II, II, Mental Health, Leadership, Maternity and Pediatrics.
  - Prerequisite classes include Certificated Nursing Assistant training, Medical Terminology, Anatomy and Physiology, Medical Math, and Medical Study Skills.

Board Members are welcome to attend the graduation ceremony. Please contact Gary Schlueter, Vice Principal II, at 457-6220 if you wish to attend or participate in the ceremony.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Rodney Branch, Principal IV, Fresno Adult School at 457-6024.

Approved by Superintendent  
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 10/28/2022