



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – MAY 05, 2023

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
S-2 Ambra O'Connor City of Fresno School Traffic Safety Meeting

BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES – Patrick Jensen, Interim Chief Officer

BFS-1 Kim Kelstrom School Services Weekly Update Reports for
April 28, 2023

COMMUNICATIONS – Nikki Henry, Chief Officer

C-1 Diana R. Diaz Recognition Plan for 2023 Scholarship
Recipients

ENGAGEMENT & EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS – Wendy McCulley, Chief Officer

EEP-1 Wendy McCulley Suit Drive
EEP-2 Wendy McCulley Roosevelt Teaching Award

INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION – Dr. Natasha Baker, Chief Officer

ID-1 Jeremy Ward Visitation to Eleven Historically Black College
and Universities
ID-2 Ed Gomes Elementary Science Textbook Adoption
ID-3 Ed Gomes World Language Textbook Adoption
ID-4 Jeremy Ward Summer Camps Outreach, Summer Program
Funding Resources, and Camp Registration
ID-5 Jeremy Ward Innovation Day 2023
ID-6 Marie Williams Edgenuity Board Meeting Update
ID-7 Marie Williams Dual Language Immersion Program Student
Demographics and Chronic Absenteeism

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: May 05, 2023

Phone Number: 457-3884

Regarding: Superintendent Calendar Highlights

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

- Held press event regarding Leased Fiber
- Met with Executive Cabinet
- Held Principal interviews
- Site visit to Wilson Elementary School to present the Golden Heart Service Award
- Participated in the Council of the Great City Schools Superintendents Monthly Call
- Held press event regarding Summer Camps
- Held bargaining session with Fresno Teachers Association
- Attended the Fresno Compact Meeting
- Met with Fresno State President, Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval regarding recruitment
- Met with the Westside Planning Committee


Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 05/05/2023

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number S-2

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Ambra O'Connor, Chief of Staff
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: May 05, 2023

Phone Number: 457-3838

Regarding: City of Fresno School Traffic Safety Meeting

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with information regarding a meeting which was held on April 19, 2023 to discuss a multi-agency approach to school traffic safety improvement. The meeting was convened by the Mayor's office and participants included Fresno Police Department, Superintendents and staff from Fresno, Clovis, Central and Sanger Unified as well as Public Works and other city staff members.

Meeting participants reviewed data, provided updates regarding their agency efforts to improve traffic safety and discussed next steps. Additionally, city staff reviewed the process of submitting requests and concerns via the GO Fresno app. The city provided the attached list of completed projects in locations adjacent to school campuses and shared that additional projects are in the queue, including an assessment of the area in front of Hoover High School. The group will convene again in August.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D. _____



Date: 05/05/2023

Capital Improvement Projects around schools

City of Fresno Capital Improvement Projects Near Schools

Capital Improvement Projects can include new sidewalks where there were none, the addition of bike lanes, crosswalks, traffic signals, HAWKS, street lights and other safety improvements.

Capital Improvement Projects and Schools Benefitting

- Polk Avenue Street Reconstruction & Traffic Signal - Shaw to Gettysburg - [Teague Elementary](#)
- Webster Neighborhood Canal Barricade - [Webster Elementary](#)
- TCC Fresno City College Satellite Campus Trail - [Gaston Elementary](#)
- Traffic Signal, Crosswalks, McKinley & San Pablo - [Heaton Elementary](#), [FCC](#)
- Traffic Signal, Crosswalks, Palm and Dennet - [Muir Elementary](#)
- Traffic Signal, Crosswalks Blackstone and Webster - [Susan B. Anthony Elementary](#)
- [Yosemite Middle School](#) Floradora Complete Sidewalks
- [Muir Elementary](#) Safe Routes to School Sidewalks
- McKinley and Blythe Traffic Signal, Left Turn Phasing, Crosswalks - [McKinley Elementary](#)
- Barton & Florence Sidewalks - [Calwa](#)
- Fresno & Browning Traffic Signal, Crosswalks - [Robinson Elementary](#)
- Tulare Complete Streets 6th to Cedar Sidewalks, Bike Lanes, Lighting - [Jackson and Rowell Elementary](#)
- [Ericson Elementary](#) Neighborhood Reconstruction ADA Improvements, Paving
- Palm / Belmont Class IV - [Fresno High](#), [John Muir](#), [Hamilton Elementary](#)
- Amador/Trinity and Church/Waldbury Traffic Signal, Crosswalks - [Columbia Elementary](#), [Story Elementary](#), [Phoenix Secondary School](#)
- Cedar and Teague Traffic Signal, Left Turn Phasing - [Clovis West](#), [Fort Washington Elementary](#), [Maple Creek Elementary](#)
- Citywide Pedestrian Countdown Heads - Replacing old technology with countdown technology when crossing a street - [all schools](#)
- First Street Class IV Bikeway Olive to Ventura - [Winchell Elementary](#), [Rowell Elementary](#), [Tehipiti Middle School](#)
- Butler & 8th Traffic Signal, Crosswalks, Sidewalks - [Winchell Elementary](#)
- Ashlan, Hayes to Cornelia Sidewalks, Bikelanes - [Teague Elementary](#)
- Midtown Trail Blackstone to Clovis Avenue - [Multiple Schools](#)
- Veterans Boulevard Interchange, Trail, Bicycle Facilities, ADA Features - [Multiple Schools in Central Unified](#)
- Clinton & Valentine Traffic Signal - [Hanh Phan Tilley Elementary](#)
- Orange and Central Traffic Signal - [Washington Union](#), [Orange Center](#)
- Fancher Creek Trail Clovis to Fowler - [Fancher Creek Elementary](#)
- Armstrong & Lane Traffic Signal - [Wash Elementary](#)
- MLK Center Active Transportation Infrastructure Trails, Class II Bike Lanes, Sidewalks - [Gaston Middle School](#), [West Fresno Middle School](#) and [Elementary](#), [Ivy EOC](#)
- Peach Avenue Butler to Florence Bike Lanes, Sidewalks - [Sunnyside High](#), [Ayer Elementary](#), [Greenburg Elementary](#)
- Fresno Street B Street to Friant Countdown Heads - [Multiple Schools FUSD/CUSD](#)
- [Bakman Elementary](#) Neighborhood ADA Improvements, Sidewalks
- Blackstone McKinley to Shields Bikelanes - [Heaton Elementary](#), [FCC](#), [Design Science Middle College High](#)



Operational Projects for Safety

Operational projects such as installing crosswalks repainting crosswalks, signage intallation and other safety improvements.

- Work Orders in Process at 11 School Sites for crosswalks at 3-4 locations per school
 - Burroughs
 - Lane
 - Leavenworth
 - Lowell
 - Robinson
 - Rowell
 - Susan B. Anthony
 - Tehipite
 - Vang Pao
 - Robinson
 - Webster
 - Winchell
- Other work orders in process include
 - Added signage
 - Contacting PD for Speeding
 - No U-Turn Signs
 - Contacting Parking Division about double parking

HAWKS

- California Ave - [Edison High](#)
- First & Home - [Mayfair Elementary](#), [San Joaquin Memorial](#)
- Peach & McKenzie Trail - [Kings Canyon Middle School](#), [Easterby Elementary](#)
- Grantland & Herndon - [Herndon Barstow](#)
- McKinley & Lafayette - [Addams Elementary](#)
- Fresno & Thomas - [Webster Elementary](#)
- Fresno & San Jose - [Robinson Elementary](#)

BEACONS

- Donner & Millbrook - [Thomas Elementary](#)
- Alluvial & Sierra Vista - [Mountain View Elementary](#)
- Browning & Maroa - [St. Anthony Elementary](#), [Baird Middle School](#)



Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number BFS-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education

Date: May 05, 2023

Prepared by: Kim Kelstrom, Chief Executive

Phone Number: 457-3907

Cabinet Approval:



Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for April 28, 2023

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 April 28, 2023 is attached and includes the following articles:

- 2023-24 Statutory COLA Released – April 27, 2023
- Senate Dems Want Corporate Tax Increase + Bill to Let Legislative Staff Unionize Advances – April 27, 2023
- Booting Disruptive, Defiant Students Out of California Classes and Out of School Could Get a Lot Harder – April 27, 2023

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: 05/05/2023



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DATE: April 28, 2023

TO: Robert G. Nelson
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

RE: *SSC's Sacramento Weekly Update*

Assembly and Senate Education Committees

Today, Friday, April 28, 2023, is the deadline for bills with any fiscal effects to clear first house policy committees. Wanting to be in their districts today, legislators were able to complete their business for this deadline by Thursday afternoon.

Both the Assembly and Senate Education Committees met on Wednesday to consider a combined 39 bills that needed to clear this important deadline. Some of the more significant measures that were approved by the committees and will be moving on in the legislative process are:

- Assembly Bill (AB) 5 (Zbur, D-Los Angeles) would require the California Department of Education (CDE) to finalize the development of an online training delivery platform and curriculum to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ+) cultural competency training for teachers and certificated employees by July 1, 2025, and would require schools to provide at least four hours of training to school staff in schools serving students in grades 7 to 12, every three years beginning in 2025-26
- AB 938 (Muratsuchi, D-Torrance) would establish new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) base grant targets for fiscal year 2030-31 and states that it is the intent of the Legislature to fully fund the LCFF target base grants in the years preceding the 2030-31 fiscal year and to spend those funds to increase school site staff salaries by 50% at local educational agencies (LEAs)
- AB 984 (McCarty, D-Sacramento) would, commencing with the graduating class of 2028-29, require students to complete a one-semester course in financial literacy in order to graduate from high school, and thus would require LEAs to offer a one-semester course in financial literacy commencing with the 2025-26 academic year

- AB 1078 (Jackson, D-Moreno Valley) would require the CDE to issue guidance related to how to help LEAs and school personnel manage conversations about race and gender and how to review instructional materials to ensure that they represent diverse perspectives and are culturally relevant, and would expand existing law, which requires governing boards, when adopting instructional materials for use in schools, to only include instructional materials that accurately portray the cultural and racial diversity of our society
- AB 1192 (McCarty) would delete the provision that school districts and charter schools admit a four-year-old child to a transitional kindergarten (TK) program only if they have their fifth birthday during the school year, delays the requirement for TK programs to provide one adult for every ten students and removes the contingency that this be subject to appropriation, and would require that teacher aides assigned to TK classrooms be provided at least 48 hours of professional development related to early childhood development
- AB 1517 (Gallagher, R-Yuba City) would require that when a LEA qualifies for Differentiated Assistance on the basis of the performance of students with disabilities, the county superintendent of schools include the administrator of its Special Education Local Plan Area on its expert technical assistance team and would require that the superintendent of a school district consult with its SELPA administrator prior to adoption of a Local Control and Accountability Plan
- Senate Bill (SB) 354 (Ochoa Bogh, R-Yucaipa) would require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to revise its administrative services credential standards and performance expectations with a focus on inclusive learning environments, and (2) require the CDE, in consultation with the CTC, to develop and disseminate guidance on the ways in which inclusive classrooms may be staffed
- SB 426 (Niello, R-Fair Oaks) would replace the term “nonclassroom-based instruction” with “flex-based instruction” throughout existing law and expand the description of flex-based instruction
- SB 739 (Alvarado-Gil, D-Jackson) would require all charter schools whose term expires between January 1, 2024, and June 30, 2027, to have their term extended by an additional year
- SB 767 (Rubio, D-Baldwin Park) would require, beginning with the 2024-25 school year, a student to have completed one year of kindergarten before being admitted to the first grade of a public school

All of the above bills will now go to their respective houses’ Appropriations Committee, where their fiscal implications will be scrutinized. Most of these bills will likely be sent to the committee’s suspense file, which effectively serves as a legislative ‘purgatory’ where legislation that has a fiscal impact is placed until all the measures having an impact on the state’s finances can be considered together.

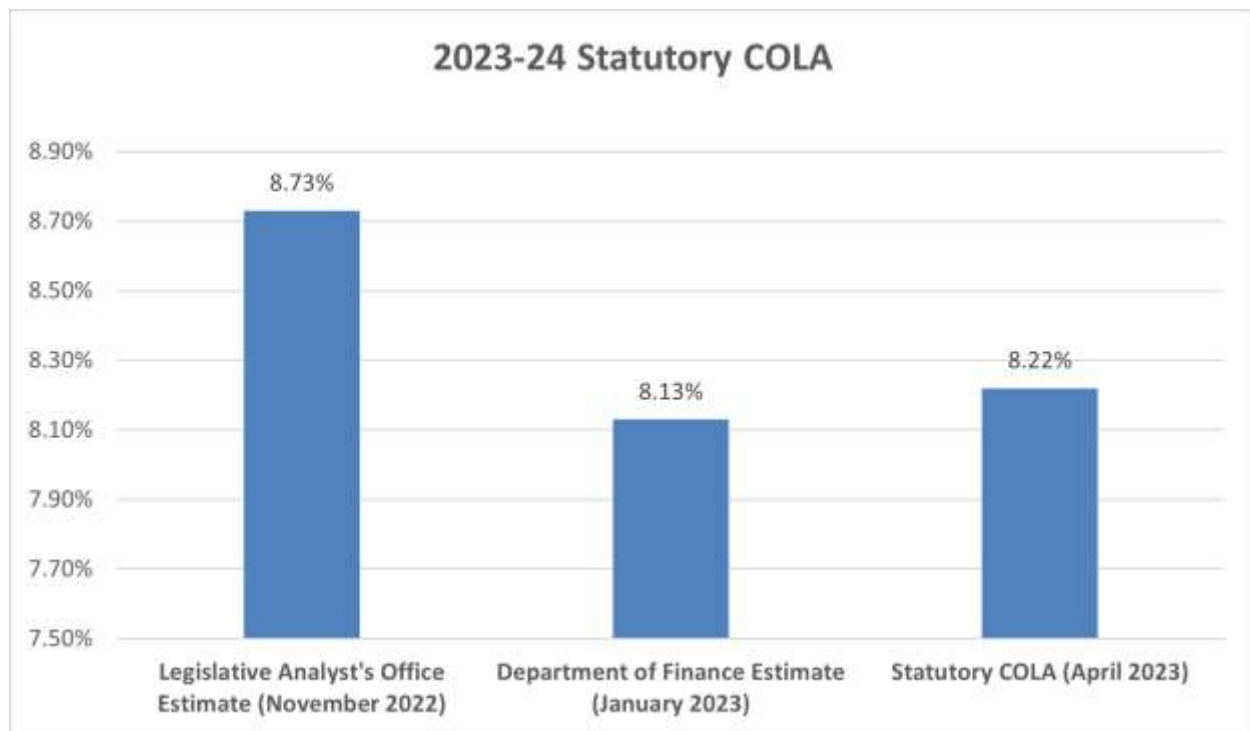
The suspense file hearing for both houses will likely take place on Thursday, May 18, 2023, since the deadline is on Friday, May 19, 2023, and members will want to be in their districts that day.

Leilani Aguinaldo

2023-24 Statutory COLA Released

By Matt Phillips, CPA
School Services of California Inc.'s *Fiscal Report*
April 27, 2023

Today, April 27, 2023, the U.S. Department of Commerce released the 2023 first quarter value of the implicit price deflator for state and local government goods and services, which provides the last data point needed to establish the 2023-24 statutory cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for K-14 education codified in [Education Code Section 42238.02\(d\)\(2\)](#).



Both the Legislative Analyst's Office and Department of Finance (DOF) provided their best estimates of the statutory COLA prior to the release of the seventh data point in January 2023, and it appears that the DOF's estimate was more accurate.

Although the statutory COLA is legally required to be applied to the base grants in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), the focus now shifts to whether the state can afford to fund the full statutory COLA. More specifically, what, if anything, will need to be cut to afford the impact of the statutory COLA? Recall that as part of the 2023-24 Governor's Budget released in January, he acknowledged that state revenues were below Enacted Budget projections, and proposed to reduce the Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials Discretionary Block Grant by \$1.2 billion, or 34% to help pay for the increased cost of the LCFF. Alternatively, law authorizes the Director of the DOF to reduce the funded COLA if Proposition 98 resources are insufficient to support the obligation.

The latest data from the *Finance Bulletin* shows that year-to-date tax revenue collections from the “Big Three” taxes are lagging behind Governor Gavin Newsom’s January projections by \$5.1 billion, which amounts to a commensurate Proposition 98 reduction of \$2 billion.

An additional layer of uncertainty stems from the actual impact on tax receipts due to the extension of the tax filing deadline from April to October. This extension begs the question, will the tax receipts for April, the most significant month for personal income tax receipts, meet the projections? And if they do not meet projections, how bad could it be? Due to the extension, Governor Newsom will have to make many assumptions when estimating 2023 tax receipts as he finalizes his May Revision budget proposal.

Note: In their 2023-24 State Budget plan released this week, Senate Democrats are proposing to raise state revenues by partially undoing the Trump corporate tax cuts by increasing California’s corporate tax rate from 8.84% to 10.99% for taxable income over \$1.5 million.

Senate Dems Want Corporate Tax Increase + Bill to Let Legislative Staff Unionize Advances

By Andrew Sheeler
The Sacramento Bee
April 27, 2023

SENATE DEMOCRATS CALL FOR CORPORATE TAX INCREASE

Sen. Nancy Skinner, D-Berkeley, on Wednesday called for a tax increase on major corporations, such as Coca Cola and Walmart, in order to fund middle- and lower-income tax cuts as well as critical infrastructure projects in the 2023-24 budget.

The chair of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee unveiled Senate Democrats’ budget priorities, which is intended to be a starting point for negotiations with the Assembly and Gov. Gavin Newsom’s office.

The Senate Democrats’ proposal includes \$26 billion “in solutions” to close the \$16.6 billion budget gap that Newsom’s office identified in January, and calls for a regular budget reserve of \$5.1 billion and total reserves of \$38.1 billion.

It also calls for rejecting Newsom’s proposed cuts to infrastructure spending, including mass transit, with Skinner saying “our intention is not to abandon transit at this time” during a Wednesday press conference.

In order to generate more revenue to close the budget gap without raising taxes on middle-class Californians, Skinner’s proposal calls for partially undoing the federal tax cuts for major corporations that President Donald Trump shepherded through Congress by increasing state taxes to make up the difference. The tax increase would affect about 2,500 businesses, Skinner said.

Revenue from that tax increase would pay for tax cuts for small businesses, renters, low-income Californians and union members, as well as creating targeted ongoing spending of \$1 billion each for schools, child care and homelessness reduction.

“Budget actions we take can either harm our economy or help economic conditions,” Skinner said.

The California Chamber of Commerce wasn’t a fan of the proposed tax increase, with CalChamber President Jennifer Barrera saying in a statement that it is unnecessary because the state has built up its “rainy day” fund.

“Increasing taxes,” she said, “will send the wrong signals to job creators and investors in the state’s economy. Now is not the time to test California’s ability to withstand the impact of an economic downturn or a recession by placing our economic success at risk.”

Others, including Chris Hoene, executive director of the California Budget & Policy Center, praised the proposal.

“The Senate’s plan for a graduated corporate tax will help ensure that large profitable corporations fairly contribute to California’s tax revenues and support the services we all benefit from.,” Hoene said. “This is exactly the kind of policy solution California needs to better support communities across the state.”

BILL TO LET LEGISLATIVE STAFFERS UNIONIZE PASSES FIRST COMMITTEE VOTE

California legislative staffers are one step closer to being able to unionize, after the Assembly Public Employment and Retirement Committee on Wednesday voted 6-1 to approve AB 1.

Assemblyman Vince Fong, R-Central Valley, was the lone no vote.

Recall that last year, a similar bill — AB 1577 — was very nearly blocked from receiving a vote by then-committee Chair Jim Cooper, D-Elk Grove; though Cooper later relented and let it go up for a vote, that bill failed, 2-4.

What changed?

For starters, that committee is now chaired by AB 1 author Assemblywoman Tina McKinnor, D-Inglewood.

For another, though committee Vice-Chair Tom Lackey, R-Palmdale, lamented that the bill didn’t include everything he asked for, it did include a provision that minority party (i.e. Republican) staffers will be permitted to form collective bargaining units without worrying about being excluded on the basis of their politics.

“Minority party staffers have been treated inequitably in this institution for many years, with unequal pay for the same titles, and ability to participate in certain legislative-sanctioned caucuses and equal access to committee consultants,” Lackey said during Wednesday’s hearing.

That was enough to get Lackey’s vote.

Assemblyman Matt Haney, D-San Francisco, said that last year’s bill failed due to “shenanigans.”

“I think it’s quite poetic that it’s AB 1, because we know that nothing happens in this building without our staff. And so if there were not our staff to do the incredible work that they do, there would be no AB’s after this,” Haney said.

In her closing remarks, McKinnor said “we’re setting an example for the rest of the country by working together, both Democrats and Republicans, to come up with a comprehensive solution for our employees to collectively bargain for wages, benefits and workplace conditions.

“You know what they say, ‘As California goes, so goes the nation,’” McKinnor concluded.

Several dozen lobbyists, advocates and legislative staffers spoke out Wednesday in support of the bill, while no one spoke in opposition to it.

AB 1 now moves to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Note: SB 274 (Skinner, D-Berkeley) would extend the prohibition against the suspension and expulsion of students in grades K-8, to K-12, for disrupting school activities or willfully defying the valid authority of school personnel to all grades.

Booting Disruptive, Defiant Students Out of California Classes and Out of School Could Get a Lot Harder

California lawmakers will weigh in on a bill banning “willful defiance” suspensions in the coming months.

By Elissa Miolene
The Mercury News
April 27, 2023

A proposed state bill could end suspensions for students who defy teachers’ orders, disrupt school activities, or engage in other types of behavioral misconduct – requiring teachers to de-escalate such incidents instead of forcing a child from the classroom.

The bill, which was introduced by State Sen. Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) earlier this year and will be heard by the appropriations committee next month, would extend an existing ban on so-called “willful defiance” suspensions.

Today, such a ban only applies to students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Senate Bill 274 would add middle and high schoolers to the mix, and dissolve the existing ban’s expiration date of 2025.

“SB 274 is based on a simple premise: Students belong in school,” said Skinner. “Suspending youth from school for low-level behavior issues leads to significant harm, including learning loss and a higher likelihood that affected students will drop out of school completely.”

When – and how – to suspend California’s children has been debated at the school, district, and state levels for years. Across the country, suspensions and expulsions measure higher for minority students, and in California, black students were suspended at more than double the rate of the overall student population during the 2021-22 academic year.

Students with disabilities and those who are experiencing homelessness or part of the foster system were also disproportionately affected. Dan Losen, senior director of education for the National Center for Youth Law, said those are the children who need additional support the most.

“Kicking kids out of school is a non-intervention,” said Losen. “It might relieve some immediate tension for the teacher, but it’s not solving anything. And it can actually make things worse.”

Bans on willful defiance suspension already exist across California. In 2016, the Oakland Unified School District began prohibiting such suspensions for children of all ages, along with involuntary transfers – moving students from one school to another – due to minor behavioral infractions. The district’s restorative justice department began to take center stage, training teachers on how to not only de-escalate disruptive students but utilize “community-building activities” to try and deter future incidents.

“When things go wrong in the classroom, we have a process for talking about what happened, and what was going on at the time and beforehand, to cause a trigger,” said David Yusem, the coordinator of the restorative justice program at Oakland Unified. “For adults, that’s also about understanding what triggers them, and figuring out how to respond in a way that does not escalate or re-escalate the student.”

The district’s suspension rate began to go down before its official policy was implemented, as schools made efforts to keep kids in class, dropping from 5.6% in 2012-13 to 4.6% in 2013-14, then leveling off at a fairly constant 3.9% through this last year.

Some teachers feel that Skinner’s ban on willful defiance suspensions will leave educators with little ability to control students that act out during lessons, and that it might make the classroom unsafe for teachers and the other students. Last week, Skinner amended the bill to specify that teachers could still remove students from the classroom and place them in a separate room with other students. But despite that change, neither of the state’s leading teachers’ unions – the California Teachers Association and the California Federation of Teachers – have endorsed the bill.

The CTA stated that they “do not have a position” on SB 274, and that they neither support or oppose it. The California Federation of Teachers could not be reached for comment.

California has taken other steps to decrease suspensions and expulsions. Earlier this year, State Superintendent Tony Thurmond’s office created a new hotline to expose excessive discipline and “masked” suspensions and expulsions, those which may involve sending a child home instead of reporting it through the proper mechanisms, or forcing a child to transfer to a different school because of behavioral issues.

The state has also poured \$140.8 million into programs to reduce suspensions and chronic absenteeism since 2016, and is working on expanding such programs with additional grant funding.

Senate Bill 274 will be considered by the state appropriations committee in mid-May. If it passes, it will head to the senate floor in the months to come.

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number C-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Diana R. Diaz, Director of Communications
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: May 05, 2023

Phone Number: 457-3733

Regarding: Recognition Plan for 2023 Scholarship Recipients

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information regarding the plan to recognize and celebrate the scholarship recipients for the 2022/2023 school year.

Students will be recognized and celebrated in four ways:

- (1) Individually recognized in their school awards ceremony and provided a printed award certificate.
- (2) A highlight in the graduation edition of the Faces of Fresno Unified digital magazine that will be published first of July.
- (3) Given a swag bag filled with a variety of Fresno Unified branded items.
- (4) Mailed a printed version of the graduation edition of the Faces of Fresno Unified digital magazine.

School awards ceremonies will take place throughout the month of May (with the exception of Phoenix Secondary). The College and Career Readiness team is working closely with school sites to ensure they have names of scholarship winners.

If you have questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Diana Diaz at (559) 803-9599.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 05/05/2023

LIST OF SCHOOL AWARD CEREMONIES

SITE	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Bullard High	5-22-23	7:00-8:30 p.m.	Quad
Cambridge High	5-25-23	2:00-5:00 p.m.	DoubleTree Hotel
Design Science High	5-22-23	6:30 p.m.	Fresno City College OAB
DeWolf High	will recognize them in graduation program		
Duncan Polytechnic High	5-31-23	6:00-7:00 p.m.	Cafeteria
Edison High	5-17-23	6:00 p.m.	Gym
eLearn Academy	5-25-23	12:30-1:30 p.m.	Quad
Fresno High	5-18-23	6:30-8:00 p.m.	Royce Hall
Hoover High	5-16-23	5:00-6:30 p.m.	Cafeteria
JE Young	will recognize them in graduation program		
McLane High	5-24-23	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Gym
Patino High	5-25-23	5:30 p.m.	Cafeteria
Phoenix Secondary	6-8-2023	12:00 p.m.	Cafeteria
Roosevelt	5-30-23	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Auditorium
Sunnyside	5-23-23	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Gym

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number E&EP-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Wendy McCulley, Chief of
Engagement & External Partnerships
Cabinet Approval: *Wendy McCulley*

Date: May 05, 2023

Phone Number: 457-3749

Regarding: Suit Drive

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information about the Suit Drive which occurred over a two-week period between March 20-31, 2023.

The Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools organized a Suit Drive for Fresno Unified graduating high school students in need of business attire for summer internships, job interviews, collegiate and other professional opportunities.

Over 2000 items were donated and will help our students dress for success. With the volunteer support of our Steve's Scholars, we have been able to sort and organize these many donations for delivery to our high schools. Our Transportation department partnered with the Foundation at each pop-up location to gather donations and then take them to storage for sorting.

Thank you to every donor who made our Suit Drive a success! We want to give a special thanks to our pop-up locations: PNC Bank, McCormick Barstow LLP, City of Fresno, Fresno Unified School District, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, incorporated, Iota Omicron Omega Chapter of Fresno. We are thankful for our community partners and the support of our Board of Education and Foundation Board members. Also, a big thank you to Derrel's Mini Storage, who generously donated all the collection boxes.

The schools that have asked to be included in the suit distribution are: Edison, Fresno, Hoover, McLane, Roosevelt, Sunnyside, Design Science, Duncan, Patino, Cambridge, DeWolf, J.E. Young, Phoenix Secondary, Fulton, RATA and CART.

To ensure schools received items they needed and alleviate the burden of storage, the Foundation gave schools the opportunity to designate clothing preferences and quantities.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Wendy McCulley at 457-3749.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.

Robert G. Nelson

Date: 05/05/2023

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number E&EP-2

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Wendy McCulley, Chief of
Engagement & External Partnerships
Cabinet Approval: *Wendy McCulley*

Date: May 05, 2023

Phone Number: 457-3749

Regarding: Roosevelt Teaching Award

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information on the Joy A. and Gayland P. Smith Teaching Award. The annual \$5,000 award will honor an inspirational teacher from Roosevelt High School. The teacher will be selected by the graduating senior class, through a voting process, and announced at an awards ceremony in May each year at Roosevelt High School. The electronic voting process was developed by school staff and has been tested and used during ASB elections. The first award will be presented this May with Mr. Smith in attendance.

The teaching award was developed in collaboration with the Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools and will be supported by an endowment fund donated by Gayland P. Smith. Mr. Smith will fund the award until his separate donations to the endowment fund total reaches \$200,000, at which time the Foundation will draw upon the interest to pay out the award.

Mr. Smith established the teaching award to pay tribute to his wife, Joy, and their nearly five decades of marriage. Gayland and Joy Smith are both graduates from the Roosevelt High School class of 1960. The personal story of the Smith's and the award is highlighted in the April 2023 edition of the FACES Magazine. Link to the magazine is below, the story begins on page 68:

<http://www.magazine.fresnounified.org/>

This award is believed to be the first teaching award of its kind in our district. We hope that the example of Mr. Smith's vision is just the beginning of how our alumni can give back to their former schools.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Wendy McCulley at 457-3749.


Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.

Robert G. Nelson

Date: 05/05/2023

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: Jeremy Ward, Assistant Superintendent
College and Career Readiness
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: May 05, 2023

Phone Number: 248-7534

Regarding: Visitation to Eleven Historically Black College and Universities

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board with information regarding the fifty eleventh-grade students in the Step-Up Program that visited Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina from April 01, 2023, through April 09, 2023. Throughout the nine-day educational field trip, students were exposed to financial aid resources, admissions, opportunities, and the rich history that exist in HBCUs. In addition, students learned of the various academic programs and future educational venues, scholarships, and land grant opportunities.

Visitations included stops at the following HBCU's:

- Emory University, Atlanta GA.
- Morris Brown College, Atlanta, GA
- Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, GA
- Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA
- Ft. Valley University, Ft. Valley, GA
- Albany State University, Albany, GA
- Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University (FAMU), Tallahassee, FL
- Benedict College, Columbia, SC (FUSD Dual Enrollment partnership)
- South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC
- Claflin University, Orangeburg, SC
- Paine College, Augusta, GA

As a component of the campus visits, students were welcomed and spoken to by different University Presidents, Provosts, Vice Presidents, Deans, and Department heads. Other trip highlights include Benedict's and South Carolina State University Bands performing for Fresno Unified students and meeting one of the original Freedom Writers at Morehouse College.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Jeremy Ward, Assistant Superintendent at 248-7534.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 05/05/2023

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number ID-2

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Ed Gomes, Instructional Superintendents &
Marie Williams, Ed.D., Instructional Superintendent
Cabinet Approval:

Date: May 05, 2023

Phone Number: 457-3781



Regarding: Elementary Science Textbook Adoption

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board information regarding the elementary science textbook adoption process, and to update classroom instructional materials in alignment with state science standards. This includes general education, special day class courses, and Dual Immersion courses to reach all elementary students in grades kindergarten through sixth.

Fresno Unified's process for this adoption began in 2021/22 school year.

Highlights of each phase are outlined below:

In the Pre-Screen Phase the Curriculum and Instruction Science Team reviewed and scored each material option using rubrics from the Next Generation Science Standards Toolkit for Instructional Materials (NGSS TIME) protocol. The purpose of this phase was to reduce material choices by eliminating any options that did not meet district criteria. Materials were narrowed from twelve to eight.

In the Paper-Screen Phase, an Adoption Team comprised of district-wide classroom teachers and Instructional Division Teachers on Special Assignment (TSAs) from diverse backgrounds reviewed a full unit from the remaining eight instructional material options. Teachers worked in mixed teams to review material and submit scores using the NGSS TIME series of rubrics. Materials were narrowed from eight to the final two choices.

The Material Review Phase included full digital access to teachers, students, and parents, with physical textbook samples provided in each elementary campus library, Parent University, the Center for Professional Development, and the Education Center. From November to March teachers had the option to review individually, collaboratively, and to teach lessons with students to provide more specific feedback about each material choice. Teachers provided written feedback from 86% of elementary school sites throughout the district. Students also provided written feedback to help inform the selection process, totaling 4,023 student responses.

Parents and community members were invited to participate in the review process through a variety of presentations and workshops. Input was collected from the Community Advisory Committee, representing parents of students with special needs, through partnership with the Special Education Department. These sessions provided rich dialogue in review of instructional material and how well content meets the needs of diverse learners. Material follows the Universal Design for Learning approach, with differentiated instruction, technology features that accommodate diverse learners, and other guidance documents to make learning accessible to all students.

Parent and community feedback was also collected in partnership with Parent University from meetings with their advisory committee and additional workshops held in English, Spanish, and Hmong languages. These sessions addressed parent questions and provided an overview of the instructional

material. Feedback showed a parent emphasis on student access to real-world application and careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. These components are addressed in the instructional material through use of real-world, local, and relevant phenomena that invite learners to think critically and solve problems. Instructional design follows the NGSS, which requires students to engage in deep conversation, exploration, and investigation. These skills support cultural relevance during science instruction by providing an equitable learning environment for students to learn about and advocate for real-world issues, and to include diversity of thought and experience to solve problems.

Partnership with the English Language Services Department provided an opportunity to present at the sixth annual Dual Language Immersion Family Conference, with presentations in both English and Spanish languages. Parents represented students from various native languages who are enrolled in a Dual Language Immersion school in Fresno Unified. Questions and concerns during these sessions revealed a parent desire for more hands-on learning. Instructional material addresses this concern through differentiated instruction. Students will engage in lab activities, virtual interactivities, literacy development, and collaborative and independent tasks. They will be supported through program resources that include graphic organizers, student rubrics, instructional strategies, and language glossaries built to engage and support all learners.

We look forward to sharing this recommendation with the board at the May 24th board meeting.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Ed Gomes at 457-3781.


Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 05/05/2023

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number ID-3

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Ed Gomes, Instructional Superintendent,
Marie Williams, Ed.D., Instructional Superintendent, and Edith Navarro,
Administrator
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: May 05, 2023

Phone Number: 457-6470

Regarding: World Language Textbook Adoption

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board an update regarding the World Language Textbook Adoption. The textbook adoption will support students in becoming multilingual and to foster an appreciation of and engagement with diverse cultures and peoples. Fresno Unified World Language teachers reviewed State Board of Education adopted materials aligned with the California World Language Standards and Framework. This adoption will impact 158 teachers and over 10,000 students.

As a district, we commit to providing students with rigorous, inclusive, and comprehensive curriculum in all contents. Below are highlights of each phase of the adoption:

- The World Language Textbook Adoption Team (WLTAT) met for fourteen hours of professional development, rubric development, and unit reviews. Spanish and French teachers from different middle and high schools representing various course levels participated.
- Teachers on Special Assignment from English Learner Services, Special Education, and Teacher Development provided reviews of the materials to ensure support for all students.
- During the Paper Review Phase, WLTAT reviewed similar units in both print and digital form analyzing the alignment of the materials to the Cultures, Communications, and Connections World Language standards. At the completion of this phase, teachers identified two materials to move forward into the In-Class Review Phase.
- All Spanish, Native Speaker Spanish, and French teachers had access to physical and digital samples for classroom use. Teachers and students provided feedback via Microsoft Forms. Eighty-six percent of comprehensive high schools responded to the survey.
- Textbook displays at Parent University translated into Spanish and Hmong supported parent feedback. Hoover High School hosted a textbook night for parents, which included videos and surveys translated into Spanish that resulted in sixty parent responses.

We look forward to sharing this recommendation with the board at the May 10th board meeting.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Ed Gomes at 457-3781.


Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 05/05/2023

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number ID-4

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Jeremy Ward, Assistant Superintendent
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: May 05, 2023

Phone Number: 248-7534

Regarding: Summer Camps Outreach, Summer Program Funding Resources, and Camp Registration

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board the College and Career Readiness/Extended Learning Department outreach and registration support plan for Summer Camps 2023. The purpose of these outreach efforts is to improve awareness and guarantee access to free summer camp programs now available for Fresno Unified students. The College and Career Readiness/Extended Learning Department will partner with Education & Leadership Foundation (ELF) and High Performance Academy (HPA) to provide recruitment outreach and registration support to all elementary schools in Fresno Unified. The outreach will take place during the May 08 to May 19 registration window. Multilingual staff from ELF and HPA will be present on two separate days at each of the assigned school sites during school arrival and dismissal. Summer camp catalogs will be provided, assistance with registration, and parent support will be provided. In addition, teams will assist parents with accessing the summer camp website where parents can learn more about available programs, transportation, and meals.

Fresno Unified School District utilizes the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) resources to fund all summer programs. The allotment of ELOP funding that Fresno Unified receives is based on the number of students that are identified as Unduplicated Pupil Percent (UPP). Students are identified as UPP if they are English learners, if they meet income or categorical eligibility requirements for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program, or if they are foster youth.

ELOP funding criteria requires that Local Education Agencies must prioritize access to comprehensive after school and intersessional (summer and winter) expanded learning opportunities to all unduplicated pupils. In keeping with these requirements, registration will open for UPP students on Monday, May 08, 2023. Registration will open for all students on Tuesday, May 09, 2023.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Jeremy Ward, Assistant Superintendent at 248-7534.


Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D. _____



Date: 05/05/2023

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number ID-5

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Jeremy Ward, Instructional Superintendent
College and Career Readiness
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: May 05, 2023

Phone Number: 248-7465

Regarding: Innovation Day 2023

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board information on Innovation Day 2023 scheduled for Thursday, May 25, 2023, from 3:00 – 7:00 pm at the Save Mart Center. Fresno Unified and The Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship collaborate on unique curricula for all of our students in third through sixth grade classrooms. Teaching How Innovation Nurtures Knowledge is hands-on educational program designed to engage students in monthly career-based challenges that allow students to solve problems in science, engineering, and entrepreneurship by using creative and innovative activities. The curricula approach Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics teaching by having students work in small teams to design, build, test, and document solutions to engaging problems. Schools receive teacher training and ongoing classroom support for each grade level curriculum.

As a culminating activity, The Lyles Center and Fresno Unified will host Innovation Day at the Save Mart Center. Each of our elementary schools are invited to bring one four-member third grade team, one four-member fourth grade team, one four-member fifth grade team and one four-member sixth grade team to participate in a “surprise challenge” on May 25th that will allow students to apply their learning in a competition format. This year, the surprise challenges will have a first responder theme. Additionally, first responder agencies will provide information and hands-on demonstrations to participants and their families at the event.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Jeremy Ward at 248-7465.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 05/05/2023



Innovation Day

2023

INNOVATION IS

A TEAM SPORT



Search and Rescue at the Save Mart Center

Thursday, May 25th, 2023 from 4 - 7 p.m.

Doors open at 3 p.m.

Our annual, Innovation Day event brings together 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade students from schools across Fresno Unified for an engineering, and career-based competition at the Save Mart Center.

This event is a culmination of our Teaching How Innovation Nurtures Knowledge (THINK) Program that engages teachers and students with monthly career-based challenges throughout the school year.

Students will showcase their creativity & Innovation skills by working together to solve a design challenge in front of family and friends.

Important Information for Teachers:

- Create a four student team to attend.
- One team per grade level at each site can register at this time.
- Students will work in grade level teams to compete for prizes.
- Challenge instructions and supplies will be provided.
- Participants will receive dinner and an Innovation Day 2023 T-shirt.*

***Registration Deadline is April 14th, 2023**

Register TODAY: bit.ly/inperson-2023



Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number ID-6

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Marie Williams, Ed.D., Instructional Superintendent,
Jeremy Ward, Assistant Superintendent, Yolanda Jimenez-Ruiz,
Administrator, and Edith Navarro, Administrator
Cabinet Approval:

Date: May 05, 2023

Phone Number: 457-6139



Regarding: Edgenuity Board Meeting Update

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board an update regarding board member Edgenuity meetings. College and Career Readiness, School Leadership, and Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Learning have met with board members to discuss the current reality of Edgenuity. The agenda for these meetings has included an overview of Edgenuity and a discussion of the purpose, context, and conditions in which this educational tool is used. During the meetings, the teams visited classrooms, reviewed district Edgenuity data, and concluded with a case study of Algebra I.

Edgenuity information sessions and updates have been, or will be, held at school sites on the following dates:

- Sunnyside High School – March 29, 2023, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
 - Trustee Susan Wittrup
- Cambridge Continuation High School – April 19, 2023, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
 - Trustee Valerie Davis, Trustee Andy Levine, Trustee Claudia Cazares
- JE Young Academic Center – April 21, 2023, 1:00 pm – 3:00 p.m.
 - Trustee Elizabeth Jonasson-Rosas
- Site TBD – May 19, 2023, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
 - Trustee Keisha Thomas

Suggestions from board members include the following: clarifying expectations for the use of Edgenuity and overall outcomes, district communication, professional learning, question and answer documents for teachers, tool improvements, and district practices in summer school. These areas are currently in progress and development.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Yolanda Jimenez-Ruiz at 457-6139.


Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 05/05/2023

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number ID-7

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Marie Williams, Ed.D., Instructional Superintendent,
Sandra Toscano, Instructional Superintendent, and Erica Piedra, Director
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: May 05, 2023

Phone Number: 288-7034

Regarding: Dual Language Immersion Program Student Demographics and Chronic Absenteeism

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board information regarding the student demographic enrollment by ethnicity in all Dual Language Immersion Programs (DLI) in Fresno Unified. The data set includes all PK-12 students enrolled in our DLI Programs. We have organized the data by both DLI programs, Hmong DLI, and Spanish DLI. Trends on absenteeism rates for DLI classrooms and schools are also noted.

- **Spanish:** In our Spanish DLI programs there are currently a total of 3,420 students enrolled. The breakdown of race/ethnicity is as follows:
African America/Black (63), Asian (15), Hispanic (3,185), Native America/Alaskan (14), Pacific Islander (3), Two or more races (40), and White (100)
- **Hmong:** In our Hmong DLI programs there are currently a total of 284 students enrolled. The breakdown of race/ethnicity is as follows:
African America/Black (1), Asian (230), Hispanic (34), Native America/Alaskan (0), Pacific Islander (0), Two or more races (18), and White (1)
- **Total:** In our Spanish and Hmong DLI programs there are currently a total of 3,704 students enrolled. The breakdown of race/ethnicity is as follows:
African America/Black (64), Asian (245), Hispanic (3,219), Native America/Alaskan (14), Pacific Islander (3), Two or more races (58), and White (101)

To access the disaggregated data by school site, please click on the following link:

[DLI PS-12 Ethnicity Counts May 3 2023.pdf](#)

- Currently, the gaps in chronic absenteeism rates between DLI vs. non-DLI classrooms at the same site are not significant and follow schoolwide trends at most neighborhood programs. Choice DLI program sites illustrate slightly lower chronic absenteeism rates (-6% average) as compared to neighborhood DLI programs.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Erica Piedra at 559-288-7034.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D. _____



Date: 05/05/2023