

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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**BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – JANUARY 26, 2024**

TO: Members of the Board of Education  
FROM: Deputy Superintendent, Misty Her

**BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES – Patrick Jensen, Chief Financial Officer**

BFS-1 Kim Kelstrom School Services Weekly Update Reports for  
January 19, 2024  
BFS-2 Kim Kelstrom Other Post-Employment Benefits

**COMMUNICATIONS – Nikki Henry, Chief Officer**

C-1 Zuleica Murillo Translation and Interpretation Department Fall  
2023 Alignment of Services and Data

**ENGAGEMENT & EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS – Wendy McCulley, Chief Officer**

EEP-1 Andrew Scherrer The Foundation for Fresno Schools “Spill the Tea”  
Event

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

ID-1 Marie Williams 2023/24 Fresno Unified School District Spelling  
Bee Competition  
ID-2 Marie Williams California Interscholastic Federation Multi-School  
Agreement for Competition

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, Chief Executive

Cabinet Approval:



Date: January 26, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3907

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for January 19, 2024

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 Updates for January 19, 2024 are attached and include the following articles:

- December Headline Inflation Slightly Up — January 11, 2024
- What Does Newsom's \$291 Billion Budget Mean for California's Education Programs? — January 16, 2024
- Legislature's Analyst Gives Mixed Review of Newsom Budget — January 13, 2024

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 Deputy Superintendent

Misty Her



Date: 01/26/24



1121 L Street

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Suite 1060

•  
Sacramento

•  
California 95814

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TEL: 916 . 446 . 7517

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FAX: 916 . 446 . 2011

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www.sscal.com

DATE: January 19, 2024

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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## Policy Committees Take-Up Two-Year Bills

Over two weeks ago, the Legislature gaveled in for the final year of the 2023-24 legislative session.

Since we are in the second year of the two-year session, any bill introduced in 2023 must clear its house of origin by Wednesday, January 31, 2024. For this reason, both the Assembly and Senate Education Committees, chaired by Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) and Senator Josh Newman (D-Fullerton), respectively, met last Wednesday, January 10, to consider education bills introduced last year.

### Senate Education Committee

The Senate Education Committee considered six bills last week during its hearing. Two of those measures, Senate Bill (SB) 292 (Grove, R-Bakersfield), and Senate Constitutional Amendment (SCA) 5 (Grove), were vote-only items since the bills were presented in the committee last year but failed passage at that time.

SB 292 and SCA 5 are companion measures, meaning both measures have to be approved in order for the policy to take effect. SB 292 would establish the Education Savings Account Act of 2024, if SCA 5 is approved by voters in the November 2024 election. SCA 5 places a constitutional amendment before voters to allow the state to disburse public funds to educational institutions regardless of whether they are a private or religious school.

The companion measures failed passage 4-2 along party lines with four Democrats voting no (with one abstention) and the two Republicans voting yes. Because SB 292 and SCA 5 failed passage, they are considered dead and will not move forward.

The committee did approve the other four bills on the agenda, including three with implications for the K-12 system:

- SB 347 (Newman) would require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to award basic teaching credentials for preschool in public schools in the state

- The Senate Appropriations Committee chair deemed the state costs of this bill insignificant, so it bypassed the fiscal committee and is now on the Senate floor awaiting a vote
- SB 483 (Cortese, D-San Jose) would prohibit the use of prone restraint by an educational provider, including as an emergency intervention on a pupil who is an individual with exceptional needs in a public school program
  - This bill was also approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee this week and is now on the Senate floor awaiting a vote
- SB 691 (Portantino, D-Burbank) would increase the amount of student board members appointed to the State Board of Education from one to three and would provide each of them with the same full voting rights and duties as the other members
  - This bill was also approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee this week and is now on the Senate floor awaiting a vote

### **Assembly Education Committee**

The Assembly Education Committee approved all five measures on its agenda last week. The five bills approved by the committee were:

- Assembly Bill (AB) 359 (Holden, D-Pasadena) would make it easier for local educational agencies (LEAs) and community college districts to enter into dual enrollment agreements and would also require the parties to certify that a student receives dual credit for any community college course taken pursuant to the agreement
  - This bill was also approved off of the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file this week and is on the Assembly floor awaiting a vote
- AB 801 (Patterson, R-Rocklin) would require an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application to delete a student's information at the request of the student's parent or guardian, if the student is no longer attending a school
  - This bill was approved by the Assembly on Thursday and is now in the Senate, which means it cleared the January 31 deadline
- AB 960 (Mathis, R-Porterville) would encourage each public school with an enrollment of 100 or more students, to implement a web-based or app-based school safety program that includes specified program parameters
  - This bill was approved by the Assembly on Thursday and is now in the Senate, which means it cleared the January 31 deadline
- AB 1299 (Jackson, D-Moreno Valley) would require a school's comprehensive school safety plan to include certain prohibitions on a police officer's use of pepper spray and handcuffs on a school campus and would also require the school safety plan to prohibit a police officer from engaging in student disciplinary actions, unless otherwise requested by school staff or officials

- This bill was also approved off of the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file this week and is on the Assembly floor awaiting a vote
- AB 1408 (Wallis, R-Palm Springs) would require an LEA to allow a low-performing student at a low-performing school to transfer to a higher-performing school either within their home LEA or in another LEA, if the LEA with the higher-performing school agrees to accept transfer students
  - This bill did not make it off of the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file and thus will not make the January 31 deadline

### **Budget Committee Hearings Next Week**

Both the full Assembly and Senate Budget Committees have scheduled their budget overview hearings on the Governor's 2024-25 State Budget proposal for next Tuesday, January 23, 2024. In those hearings, the committees will hear a high-level overview of the Governor's proposal from representatives of the Department of Finance and Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO).

We will provide an overview of these hearings in next week's *Sacramento Update*.

*Leilani Aguinaldo*

## **December Headline Inflation Slightly Up**

By John Gray and Wendi McCaskill  
School Services of California Inc.'s *Fiscal Report*  
January 11, 2024

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today, January 11, 2024, that the Consumer Price Index (CPI)—the U.S. measure of inflation—increased to 3.4% in December. Although up slightly from November's 3.1% figure, headline inflation is still making progress towards a normal pace. The increase is attributable in large part to the continued rise in the shelter, energy, and food indexes.

December core inflation, which excludes the costs for food and energy came in at 3.9% year over year. This represents a slight decrease from the 4.0% core inflation reported for November. Over two thirds of the total year-over-year increase is due to shelter index increases. Next to shelter, motor vehicle insurance showed the largest increase year over year contributing to core inflation.

By end of day, Wall Street showed little reaction to the CPI news, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500, and Nasdaq composite all closing roughly flat.

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*Note: Despite the nearly \$38 billion projected shortfall, Governor Gavin Newsom does not propose any midyear cuts, deferrals, and program rollbacks for K-14 education.*

## **What Does Gavin Newsom's \$291 Billion Budget Mean for California's Education Programs?**

By Jenavieve Hatch  
*The Sacramento Bee*  
January 16, 2024

Education programs largely avoided steep cuts in Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposed 2024-25 budget.

There are reductions, notably in aid to schools, colleges and some other education programs.

But per pupil spending would be \$23,519, thanks to the requirements of the state's Proposition 98. That's about \$200 less than in the 2023-24 budget.

One of California's biggest teacher unions applauded Newsom's budget.

"With the state facing a \$37.9 billion budget deficit, Governor Gavin Newsom has once again demonstrated his strong support for public education by putting forward a budget proposal that avoids steep cuts to our public schools," said California Federation of Teachers union president Jeff Freitas.

Newsom proposed a series of cuts to different programs in an effort to balance the 2024-2025 budget, which faces a \$37.9 billion deficit. He and the Legislature must agree on a balanced budget by July 1.

But he cited the per pupil spending as evidence of his promise to adequately fund education.

“We’re maintaining multi-year commitments,” Newsom said Wednesday, as he cited billions of dollars going toward learning recovery and learning loss mitigation, special education programs, behavioral health, community schools, and educator workforce.

## **The Cuts**

The proposed education reductions include reducing \$500 million from the School Facilities Aid Program, which provides funding for K-12 school maintenance and repairs. Another nearly \$500 million cut would affect the Student Housing Revolving Loan Fund Program, which provides interest-free loans for affordable student and staff housing on college campuses.

Despite only announcing the launch of the University of California Los Angeles Institute of Immunology and Immunotherapy last week, Newsom proposed reducing funding for it by \$300 million.

The Institute is part of a major investment in the UCLA Research Park in Los Angeles, which will be built in the abandoned Westside Pavillion shopping mall, and also be home to the Center for Quantum Science and Engineering.

The Middle Class Scholarship program, which provides college scholarships for students with family income and assets of up to \$217,000, will also be cut by \$289 million.

However, much of the state’s education funding is guided by Proposition 98, which requires a minimum amount of state General Fund dollars to go toward public schools and community colleges.

Prop. 98 funds come from income, sales, corporate, and capital gains taxes, as well as local property taxes — all of which were affected last year by a months-long extension for tax filings after a series of severe winter storms, higher interest rates, and lower incomes in a post-COVID-19 economy.

## **Delays and deferrals**

Beyond the proposed reductions, Newsom proposed \$499 million in funding deferrals for the California State University and University of California systems to the next fiscal year.

The budget also proposed delaying \$550 million from the Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten and Full-Day Kindergarten Facilities Grant Program. This is not a cut or reduction, but it would delay funding for the grant program and spread it out over a three-year period, starting in the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Some advocates were concerned about cutting funding from programs that serve young children.

“While we recognize the large deficit affecting the Administration’s budget proposal, we can’t continue down this path of deprioritizing kids that has led to alarmingly poor outcomes,” said Ted Lempert, president of Children Now, a child advocacy nonprofit based in Oakland.

The group is “particularly concerned with some proposed reductions, including ... taking dollars back from state preschool.”

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*Note: The LAO described the revenue projections in Governor Newsom's State Budget proposal as "plausible, but optimistic."*

## **Legislature's Analyst Gives Mixed Review of Newsom Budget**

By Mikhail Zinshteyn  
*CalMatters*  
January 13, 2024

Gov. Gavin Newsom's recipe for digging the state out of a multi-billion dollar budget hole has "strengths and weaknesses" while his revenue projections are "plausible, but optimistic," the nonpartisan analyst's office representing the Legislature said today.

The size of the budget deficit is up for debate: Newsom put the number at \$38 billion while the analyst's office says Newsom's own math suggests the hole is deeper — \$58 billion — for the 2024-25 fiscal year, which starts July 1.

Worse, both the governor and Legislative Analyst's Office predict large deficits of about \$30 billion annually through 2027-28. But while California has large reserves and a number of spending plans that don't affect the state's core social and public services, "future deficits are likely to require more difficult decisions, like ongoing spending cuts and revenue increases," the analyst's office said in its initial review of Newsom's \$291.5 billion spending plan.

Newsom so far has balked at raising taxes on the super wealthy, bristling at the suggestion during his budget press conference on Wednesday. His fellow Democrats in the Legislature are split. One progressive lawmaker sought again to pass a wealth tax for Californians with net assets of at least \$50 million, but a committee chairperson shelved that proposal.

In a statement responding to the analyst's report, a Newsom spokesperson said today that it "outlines one perspective on California's budget shortfall and revenue projections."

"The state can produce a prudent, balanced budget that preserves key investments for education, public safety, addressing homelessness, mental health care reform, climate action, and other priorities without a 'wealth tax' or any other broad-based revenue increases," said Brandon Richards, the spokesperson.

Fueling the Legislative Analyst's Office's worry is disagreement with Newsom over just how much more tax revenue the state can collect. Last fiscal year state tax collections fell 20%. Newsom's 2024-25 proposed budget projects an 8% increase in 2023-24, the current budget year. "Halfway through the current year, we are yet to see clear signs of such a rebound," the analyst's office wrote. And while the stock market is experiencing a rebound — a vital source for state revenues — it can just as quickly reverse course.

The analyst's office writes Newsom is right to pull \$13 billion from the state's reserves. Doing so leaves about \$11 billion in California's rainy day fund; leaving a sizable chunk of cash in reserves is "prudent given the continued budget problems likely for future years," the office wrote. For Newsom to legally raid the rainy day fund, he'd have to declare a "budget emergency" — a move the analyst's office said would be justified.

However, Newsom's plan to also pull \$900 million from another reserve account may not be consistent with legislative intent, the office wrote. This is a fund meant to support health insurance and cash aid programs



for low-income residents. The office wrote that “economic conditions likely do not yet match what the Legislature envisioned when it created the reserve.”

The office recommends that Newsom and Legislature make more cuts to existing short-term programs that aren’t part of the state’s core, ongoing educational or social service commitments. Doing so may mean pulling less money from reserves to have more emergency cash on hand for future deficits.

The swirl of competing assessments and early prognostications is par for the course for a budget process that lasts at least through June and often spills into September. The analyst’s office, the state’s main check on the governor’s state-spending math, plans several more detailed reviews of Newsom’s plan as legislative budget committees hold dozens of public hearings assessing the governor’s proposals.

Newsom will release a revision to his 2024-25 spending plan in May, after the state sees just how much it collected from taxpayers in April to better forecast its revenue picture. By early June, the lawmakers will propose their own budget for 2024-25, setting in motion a furious few weeks of negotiations between Newsom and the Legislature to finalize a budget plan by around June 27.

Legislative Republicans have criticized Newsom’s plan as based on gimmicks and accounting tricks. Today, Sen. Roger Niello, vice chairperson of the Senate budget committee, posted on social media that he puts “much more faith in this analysis than the Governor’s proposal.”

Leaders of the Democratic supermajority, who can pass a budget without any Republican votes, have been generally supportive of the Democratic governor’s proposals, however.

### **Some complicated math**

Even though Newsom said his plan solves a \$38 billion budget shortfall for the coming year, the analyst’s office said the governor’s proposal actually covers closer to \$58 billion, underscoring the difficulty in arriving at a precise estimate of how deeply buried the state is fiscally.

That’s a point Richards reiterated in his response today, adding that “the budget is often subject to wild swings in revenue year to year — why the Governor has called for reforming how the state captures future surpluses for our reserves.”

A major difference between Newsom’s numbers and those of the analyst’s office? The governor’s proposal didn’t count \$15 billion in funding reductions to K-12 education and community colleges as actual reductions in his \$38 billion tally, the analyst’s office wrote.

Factor in some other changes in spending in Newsom’s proposal that should have been considered part of the deficit picture, and the analyst’s office says Newsom’s team is dealing with a \$58 billion budget problem. This revises the analyst’s office’s December estimate of California’s fiscal woes, when it said the state had to shore up a \$68 billion budget hole.

What does this mean for students, teachers and parents? That’s hard to assess. State budgets reflect a three-year window. The analyst’s office said most of the education-related reductions in Newsom’s plan from this week apply to the 2022-23 year — \$8 billion.

But the analyst’s office said Newsom’s team “has not explained how its proposal could achieve \$8 billion in savings, given the administration also indicates the proposal would not impact school and community college

budgets,” it wrote. “The Legislature will need significantly more information before it can assess the proposal — including its potential effects on the state budget after 2024-25.”

Elsewhere in education, Newsom’s plan to shift a promised \$499 million in state support for the University of California and California State University to 2025-26 may hamstring the state even more, according to the analyst’s office. Newsom tried to paint a rosy picture of this delay, saying the universities could borrow money in 2024-25 year based on the promise that they’ll get state cash the following year.

But the analyst’s office wrote: “Not only would this proposal increase the pressure on the state to provide these payments next year — despite continued deficits — but it also would shift fiscal risk to these entities in the event the state does not ultimately make these payments.”

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, Chief Executive  
Cabinet Approval:

Date: January 26, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3907





Regarding: Other Post-Employment Benefits

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board an update on the California Employers' Retiree Benefit Trust, also known as Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB).

On September 25, 2013, the Board of Education approved participation in the California Employers' Retiree Benefit Trust (CERBT) administered by CalPERS. Since that time, the district has contributed \$54.5 million, with \$1.75 million contributed in 2023/24 and an additional \$1.75 million planned by June 30, 2024.

CalPERS provided an annual update on January 18, 2024. They shared the annual internal rate of return was 4.92% since the first contribution in February 2014 and had earnings of \$21.3 million. If these same funds had remained with the County Treasurer, the district would have earned \$5.9 million. On June 30, 2023, district resources are approximately \$15.4 million higher due to these deposits being held in the irrevocable trust.

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 Deputy Superintendent

Misty Her 

Date: 01/26/24

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: Zuleica Murillo, Executive Director  
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: January 26, 2024  
Phone Number: 457-3988

Regarding: Translation and Interpretation Department Fall 2023 Alignment of Services and Data

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with information regarding the services managed by the Translation and Interpretation Services Department from July 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, and future developments of the department.

The Translation and Interpretation Services Department's mission is to provide consistent access to language support districtwide. Since centralizing services, services from our department include:

- Scheduling interpreter support
- Providing on-demand interpreter support
- Document translation

**Interpreter and Translation Requests:**

District staff can submit a request for support electronically on our webpage at [fresnounified.org/translation](https://fresnounified.org/translation). This fall, the department has supported **953** interpreter requests. Interpreter requests vary from initial student assessments, Individual Education Programs (IEP), parent conferences, and many more. Interpreters are arranged virtually, or in-person as requested. In-person support is scheduled using our department's internal staff during their regularly scheduled workday; evening interpreter support is scheduled through FUSD bilingual staff who signed up for overtime/extra time working opportunities; language needs outside of Spanish and Hmong are scheduled virtually or in person through our external provider contracts with Propio and Alboum.

**RFQ**

The increasing demand for in-person interpreter requests motivated our partnership with the Purchasing Department to advertise a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in support of expanding advanced interpreter support. Twenty-nine (29) local vendors were notified, with only two (2) local responses.

**Translation Requests:**

A total of 536 translation requests were fulfilled this fall districtwide. Translation requests include district material, school site flyers, and student school enrollment support material. To date, all translation requests for Spanish and Hmong are managed in-house to support the localization and consistency of language use. Requests in any other language are submitted for translation to Alboum Translation Services. Since the start of the 2023/24 school year, the department has added IEP translation requests to our services. Case managers and all district staff can submit IEP Translation requests using the electronic submission link on our department web page.

**On-Demand Interpreter Support**

In alignment with our mission, the Family Connect language line supports the immediate language support needs of all school sites and families in over 100 languages. Families and staff can access this service on demand by calling our Family Connect line at 457-3988; staff can also connect virtually using

our provider Propio One's app. The Family Connect language line supports 34 unique languages with an average connection time of 14 seconds. The top 5 languages serviced through Family Connect are Spanish, Hmong, Arabic, Punjabi, and American Sign Language.

**Professional Development Opportunities**

As department practices evolve, professional development needs for bilingual staff districtwide continue to surface. As of Spring 2024, bilingual staff who sign up for after-hours opportunities with our department will be scheduled for fluency testing to align language skills with job assignments. In addition, a series of professional development workshops will be scheduled on iACHIEVE for bilingual staff to improve the quality of interpreting to families at sites.

Attached is data relevant to interpreter and translation requests by language. Should you have any further questions or concerns, you may contact Zuleica Murillo directly at 457-3807 or via email at [Zuleica.murillo@fresnounified.org](mailto:Zuleica.murillo@fresnounified.org).

Approved by Deputy Superintendent

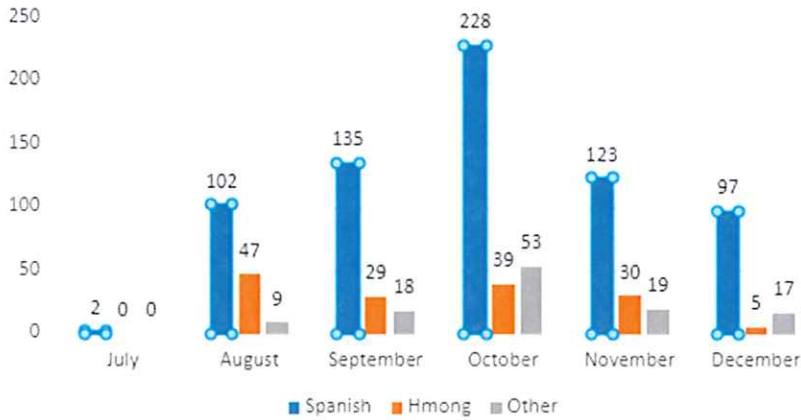
Misty Her  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 01/26/24

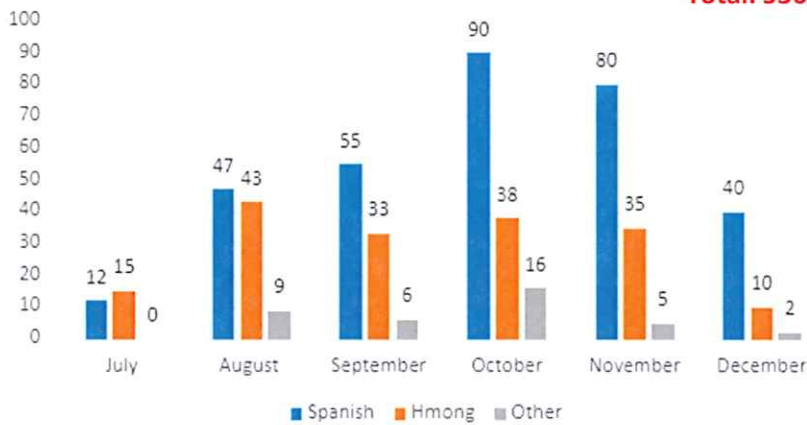
# Translation and Interpretation Services Department

## Fall 2023 Data

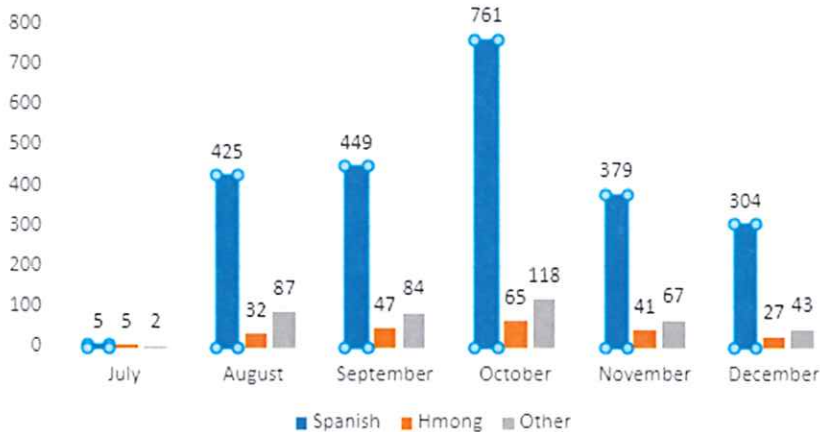
Interpreter Request by Language **Total: 953**



Translation Request by Language **Total: 536**



Family Connect On-Demand Language Support



**Total Calls: 2,941**

**Top 5 Languages**

- 1. SPANISH**
- 2. HMONG**
- 3. ARABIC**
- 4. PUNJABI**
- 5. AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL)**

Fresno Unified School District  
Board Communication

**BC Number EEP-1**

From the Office of the Superintendent  
To the Members of the Board of Education  
Prepared by: Dr. Andrew Scherrer, Executive Officer  
Cabinet Approval: Wendy McCulley  
Approved by: *Wendy McCulley*

Date: January 26, 2024  
Phone Number: 457-3885

Regarding: The Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools "Spill the Tea" Event

The purpose of this board communication is to inform the Board about the upcoming "Spill the Tea" event scheduled for March in honor of International Women's Month.

Tickets for this event are available for purchase as of January 8, 2024. Each seat is priced at \$70, or \$60 with the commitment to contribute a lightly used suit item to kickstart the Suit Drive initiative at the event. Alternatively, patrons can purchase a table for \$1000, which includes eight seats accommodated together and one founding member of the Circle of Excellence on behalf of the organization.

Event Details:

- Date: March 7, 2024
- Time: 11:00 am—1:00 pm
- Venue: Painted Table Event Center, 5080 North Blackstone Avenue, Fresno, California 93710

The program will feature a delightful high tea experience and include:

- A student panel showcasing young women leaders.
- A panel discussion featuring women leaders from various sectors, including agriculture, education, food service and hospitality, law enforcement, mental health, and more!

We extend a warm invitation to the Board of Trustees to join us for this meaningful occasion and encourage you to spread the word within your networks. Your participation will not only contribute to the success of this event but also support the formation of our first affinity group aimed at empowering women in our community.

For further details or to secure your tickets, please visit the foundation website at [www.foundation4fusd.org/spill-the-tea](http://www.foundation4fusd.org/spill-the-tea).

For more questions or information, please reach out to Wendy McCulley at 559-457-3885.


Approved by Deputy Superintendent

Misty Her *Misty Her*

Date: 01/26/24

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: Marie Williams, Ed.D., Instructional Superintendent  
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: January 26, 2024  
Phone Number: 457-3731

Regarding: 2023/24 Fresno Unified School District Spelling Bee Competition

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board with information regarding the Fresno Unified School District Spelling Bee for elementary students.

All elementary schools have been invited to participate, and the District Spelling Bee is open to students in grades four through six. Each school is responsible for determining their first and second-place winners who will represent their school at the District Spelling Bee.

**Event Details:**

- Location: Fresno High School - Royce Hall
- Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024
- Time: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Board members are cordially invited to attend the event.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication or require additional information, please contact Pamela Taylor at 457-3874.

Approved by Deputy Superintendent


Misty Her  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 01/26/24



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: Marie Williams, Ed.D., Instructional Superintendent  
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: January 26, 2024  
Phone Number: 457-3554

Regarding: California Interscholastic Federation Multi-School Agreement for Competition

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board information about the implications of California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Bylaw 303 on students attending specialty schools and the corresponding comprehensive high schools that these students are eligible to participate in.

Students enrolled in specialty schools such as JE Young, Patino, Design Science, eLearn, and Duncan (Specialty Schools) who wish to engage in athletics and other extracurricular activities (e.g., competitive cheer, clubs, etc.) must be aware that they are only eligible to participate in these activities at their designated Home Attendance School Zones (HAZ) based upon a valid Multi-School Agreement for Competition, which are renewed every year and submitted to the CIF for approval. This information has been reiterated to all high school leadership, including administrators, athletic directors, and coaches, to ensure everyone has accurate information.

Upon review of this bylaw, it has come to our attention that some comprehensive high schools have student-athletes participating in various winter sports (at the junior varsity level) who attend Specialty Schools that do not have the proper HAZ. This discrepancy is attributed to a misunderstanding of the rules as they are written. The Department of Student Engagement has reached out to the Central Section CIF to determine their stance on these student-athletes playing at the incorrect high school, based on their HAZ. The total number of students impacted at this time is six. The total number of regions impacted are McLane and Fresno. These students who attend our specialty schools have had an active transfer in from five comprehensive high schools and one out of district school high school.

The response from CIF is that the students may complete their current season since they are not varsity players. However, they will not be allowed to participate in athletics at their non-HAZ beyond this season.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication or require additional information, please contact Bryan Wells at 559-457-3805.

Approved by Deputy Superintendent

Misty Her  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 01/26/24

**303. MULTI-SCHOOL CIF MEMBERSHIP**

- A. CIF member schools may allow only students currently enrolled as full-time students, in grades 9-12, in their school, to participate in any CIF competition (See Bylaw 201).
- B. CIF member schools may apply for a change in membership status under the provision of this Bylaw. Any CIF member school that wishes to allow participation on its team(s) by all the students, who are currently enrolled in any non-CIF member schools or programs which do not offer any interscholastic athletic programs, such programs or schools would include, but not be limited to, alternative schools (as defined in Education Code Section 58500 et seq. in compliance with the condition set forth in Bylaw 303), junior high schools (9<sup>th</sup> graders only), necessary small schools and charter schools, may request approval to do so under the following conditions:
  - (1) Any such application submitted by a CIF member schools must be with a non-CIF member school that has a current California County-District-School Code (CDS Code) as a prerequisite to applying for multi-school status.
  - (2) The administrative responsibility for all students involved in athletics shall rest with the principal of the CIF member school for which the student(s) is competing. Such responsibility shall include:
    - a. Verification that residential eligibility of the student(s) is limited to the public school in whose attendance area his/her parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver reside; or where the student most recently established his/her residential eligibility or a private school; AND
    - b. Verification that students participating in the athletic program meet all the CIF member school scholastic eligibility requirements; AND
    - c. The regular grading period of the CIF member school shall be used to determine the scholastic eligibility of all students; AND
    - d. Determination that students participating in the athletic program meet all other eligibility requirements of the CIF, its Section, its league and the CIF member school; AND
    - e. Determination that private schools and charter schools entering a multi-school agreement with a public school or public school district meet the additional requirements set forth in E.-F. below.
  - (3) For the purposes of determining dues, legal and liability assessments, realignment issues and CIF and Section divisional placement, the enrollment figures for non-CIF member school/program students residing in the CIF member school's attendance area must be included in the CIF member school's enrollment using the CBEDS enrollment figures.
  - (4) The application process must start with the principal of the CIF member school. Written certification that all the conditions listed above will be met, as well as approval, must be obtained from the following:
    - a. CIF member school principal; AND
    - b. CIF member school governing board(s); AND
    - c. Non-CIF member school or program administrator in charge; AND
    - d. Non-CIF member school governing board (if applicable)
  - (5) Additional approvals must be obtained, in the following order, from:
    - a. The CIF member school's league; AND
    - b. The CIF member school's Section; AND
    - c. The CIF Executive Committee
  - (6) New and Renewal applications for multi-school teams under this Bylaw must be filed annually.