



**Board of Education**  
Susan Wittrup, President  
Valerie F. Davis, Clerk  
Claudia Cazares  
Genoveva Islas  
Elizabeth Jonasson Rosas  
Andy Levine  
Keshia Thomas

**Superintendent**  
Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

## BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – FEBRUARY 02, 2024

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, Ed.D. Superintendent Calendar Highlights

### **BUSINESS & FINANCIAL SERVICES – Patrick Jensen, Chief Officer**

BFS-1	Kim Kelstrom	School Services Weekly Updates
BFS2	Ashlee Chiarito	January Legislative Committee Meeting
BFS3	Patrick Jensen	Budget Briefing Meetings
BFS4	Patrick Jensen	Audit Committee Community Member Nominations

### **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION – Carlos Castillo, Ed.D., Chief Officer**

DEI-1	Anita Ruiz	School Site Food Access Programs
DEI-2	Julie Hoopes	Student Transfers Timeline

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

EEP-1	Wendy McCulley	Donor's Digest Newsletter
-------	----------------	---------------------------

### **INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION – Natasha Baker, Ed.D., Chief Officer**

ID-1	Marie Williams, Ed.D.	Academic Calendar Update
ID-2	Jeremy Ward	National School Counseling Week
ID-3	Marie Williams, Ed.D.	McLane Region Expulsion Process Meeting
ID-4	Marie Williams, Ed.D.	Roosevelt Region Expulsion Process Meeting

### **OPERATIONAL SERVICES – Paul Idsvoog, Chief Officer**

OS-1	Alex Belanger	Fresno Unified School District's Total Portable Buildings and Age of Portable Buildings
OS-2	Paul Idsvoog	Nutrition Services State Senate Certificate of Recognition

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: February 02, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3884

Regarding: Superintendent Calendar Highlights

The purpose of this communication is to inform the Board of notable calendar items for the last two weeks:

- Gave interviews with ABC30, KSEE47, and KMJ regarding the decision to leave the Superintendency at Fresno Unified.
- Attended the Association of California School Administrators Superintendents' Symposium
- Spoke at the Principals' Meeting
- Met with Executive Cabinet
- Attended the Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools Board Meeting
- Attended the Equity-Centered Pipeline Initiative Professional Learning Community Convening with the Wallace Foundation
- Attended Excellence in Education 2024 Event
- Participated in Davis vs. Fresno Unified Mediation
- Attended Fresno Compact Meeting
- Held Labor Management Partnership Meeting

Approved by Superintendent  
Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D. \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 02/02/2024

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: February 02, 2024

Prepared by: Kim Kelstrom, Chief Executive

Phone Number: 457-3907

Cabinet Approval:

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for January 26, 2024

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board with a copy of the 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 26, 2024 are attached and include the following articles:

- Employee Leave FAQs – January 24, 2024
- Newsom's \$8 Billion Fix to Spare Cuts to Schools, Community Colleges May Face Tough Sell – January 23, 2024
- Democratic Senate Leader Toni Atkins Announces 2026 California Governor Campaign – January 18, 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 Superintendent  
Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.



Date: 02/02/2024



1121 L Street

•  
Suite 1060

•  
Sacramento

•  
California 95814

•  
TEL: 916 . 446 . 7517

•  
FAX: 916 . 446 . 2011

•  
[www.sscal.com](http://www.sscal.com)

DATE: January 26, 2024

TO: Robert G. Nelson  
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

RE: ***SSC's Sacramento Weekly Update***

---

---

### **Budget Committee Hearings**

On Tuesday, both the full Assembly and Senate Budget Committees have scheduled their budget overview hearings on Governor Gavin Newsom's 2024-25 State Budget proposal. The Department of Finance (DOF) provided a high-level overview of the proposal, which was followed by the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), the Legislature's nonpartisan policy and fiscal advisor, giving their analysis of the Governor's Budget proposal.

The biggest K-14 education issue raised at the hearings was the Governor's proposal to combat the downward revision of the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee for the 2022-23 fiscal year. The Governor's Budget summary states that the Newsome Administration will propose statutory changes to address roughly \$8 billion of this decrease in 2022-23 to avoid impacting existing local educational agency (LEA) and community college district (CCDs) budgets.

When pressed for more information on this proposal by both Assemblymember David Alvarez (D-San Diego) and Senator John Larid (D-Santa Cruz), the chairs of the Assembly and Senate Budget Subcommittees on Education, respectively, Erika Li from the DOF stated that the plan is to revise the minimum guarantee downward for the 2022-23 fiscal year but not claw back the \$8 billion from K-14 education. Instead, the Administration is proposing that the \$8 billion be given out via supplemental payments using non-Proposition 98 resources. This would ensure that LEAs and CCDs do not have to return the funding allocated for 2022-23, while also ensuring that the minimum guarantee gets revised downward and not lock in a higher minimum level of Proposition 98 funding than is constitutionally required.

When asked for the LAO to comment, Gabe Petek said that they still do not fully understand the proposal because it is unclear where the supplemental payments appear in the expenditure tables or multiyear projections from the Administration.

We should get more clarity on the \$8 billion proposal when trailer bill language, the policy and implementing language of the State Budget, is released by the DOF on February 1.

Now that both houses have had their State Budget overview hearings, the Assembly and Senate budget committees will split their work into the budget subcommittees where they will dive deeper into the details of the State Budget over the course of a number of hearings.

The Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance and the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education are the two subcommittees tasked with vetting the education issues in the State Budget. These subcommittees should begin to meet within the next several weeks and will hold hearings throughout the spring on the various education issues in the proposed State Budget.

### **January Tax Payments Coming in Below Projections**

The Newsom Administration projects that personal income tax (PIT) revenue will grow 12% this year, from \$101.7 billion in 2022-23 to \$113.8 billion in 2023-24. However, available revenue data for the first half of the year suggests that PIT is growing much slower than 12% and a blog post published by the LAO on Monday indicates that January revenues are running below the Governor's projections. The LAO states that if the current trends continue, January would come in about \$3 billion short of the targets needed to match the Administration's revenue estimates.

One of the biggest discrepancies between the LAO's *Fiscal Outlook* report and the Newsom Administration's 2024-25 Governor's Budget proposal is their revenue projections. The Governor's proposal is less pessimistic in its revenue projections than the LAO, but if revenues continue to underperform like they have during the first half of the fiscal year, then the LAO's projections may prove to be more accurate than the Administration's. However, there are still more than five months remaining of this fiscal year and things may turn around.

*Leilani Aguinaldo*

## Employee Leave FAQs

By Danyel Conolley  
School Services of California Inc.'s *Fiscal Report*  
January 24, 2024

Managing employee leaves is a continuous challenge for many local educational agencies' (LEAs') human resources (HR) and business staff. With changes to pre-existing laws and the creation of new leave laws, we at School Services of California Inc. (SSC) regularly receive technical questions asking for assistance in operationalizing leave laws, managing payroll deductions, and effectively tracking employee attendance and long-term leave. Employee leaves are also one of the most frequently discussed topics in our HR learning community as members of the [SSC HR Network](#) frequently reach out to their colleagues regarding leave management.

We are sharing a few of the most frequently asked questions (FAQs) as a reference. It is important to highlight that the information below is for practitioner purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. If you need legal advice, you should contact your attorney. Also keep in mind that most LEA collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) include negotiated procedures to process long-term leave for certificated and classified employees, which may deviate from what is prescribed in the Education Code. LEAs should comply with their employment contracts when processing leave.

**Q: Are classified probationary employees entitled to the same 5-month or 100-day rule for long-term leave as classified permanent employees?**

**A:** Yes, probationary employees are part of the classified service, while short-term and substitute employees are not. Probationary employees are also part of the bargaining unit, and are entitled to leave entitlements provided by the CBA:

Education Code Section 45196: When a person employed in the classified service is absent from his duties on account of illness or accident for a period of five months or less, whether or not the absence arises out of or in the course of employment of the employee, the amount deducted from the salary due him for any month in which the absence occurs shall not exceed the sum which is actually paid a substitute employee employed to fill his position during his absence.

**Q. Can an employee use differential leave (or extended illness leave) concurrently with Pregnancy Disability Leave (PDL)?**

**A:** If an employee has a pregnancy-related disability before or after the child's birth, they may use all annual and accumulated sick leave and then up to five school months of differential pay leave, as long as their need for PDL is verified by a physician. There is no time in service requirements to take PDL. Your LEA can run PDL concurrently with this differential leave entitlement. Remember that, once the employee is no longer disabled, they are entitled to an additional 12 weeks of parental bonding leave, assuming they have not yet exhausted California Family Rights Act (CFRA)/Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave for that year.

**Q: If an employee is taking care of a family member, can they use up to 12 weeks of sick leave if they have it accrued under FMLA? Or is the employee only entitled to 7 days of personal necessity?**

**A:** Yes, if an employee has an FMLA-qualifying reason for the time off, they can exchange their unpaid FMLA leave for any accrued sick leave they have available.

It is common to focus on the technicalities of leave, but it is also equally important to consider the application of leave and how the LEA is managing its leave program. Leaves are a form of employee compensation and should be administered consistently, with and, most importantly, from an empathetic perspective. The upcoming [Employee Leave](#) webinar series, includes two Q&A roundtables and covers essential functions as they pertain to state and federal leave laws, tracking leaves and payroll deductions, accommodations, and how to address absenteeism and leave abuse.

---

*Note: Lawmakers will have to grapple with the best way to deal with the \$8 billion shortfall for the 2022-23 Proposition 98 minimum guarantee.*

## **Newsom's \$8 Billion Fix to Spare Cuts to Schools, Community Colleges May Face Tough Sell**

*Legislators must agree to finding the money outside of education in future years*

By John Fensterwald  
*EdSource*  
January 23, 2024

Gov. Gavin Newsom buoyed the hopes of school district and community college educators this month when, despite a sizable three-year decline in state revenue, he promised to protect schools and colleges from cuts and to uphold future spending commitments.

They might want to hold their applause until after the last act, when the Legislature passes the 2024-25 budget in June.

In an analysis of the state budget, the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) cautioned that there are questions about how Newsom plans to close \$8 billion of a huge revenue shortfall facing schools and community colleges.

Beyond meeting this challenge, the LAO also urged legislators to start planning for education spending beyond 2024-25, when flat or declining revenues are expected to raise difficult financial choices. They could pit funding of ongoing expenses against sustaining ambitious programs like summer and after-school programs for low-income students, additional community schools, money for teacher training in early literacy and math, and confronting post-pandemic learning setbacks.

"The state faces significant operating deficits in the coming years, which are the result of lower revenue estimates, as well as increased cost pressures," the analyst said.

But the immediate enigma is Newsom's strategy for the \$8 billion.

Newsom is projecting that state revenues to run schools and community colleges will be short \$14.3 billion over three years: the budget year that ended in 2022-23, the current budget year of 2023-24, and the coming

year. That number is calculated as revenue through Proposition 98, the formula that determines the proportion of the state’s general fund that must be spent on schools and community colleges — about 40%.

Proposition 98 revenues are sometimes close but never exactly what a governor and the Legislature assume when they approve a budget. Revenues for the past and current years exceed or fall short of what they projected and not what they predict for the year ahead.

Budget analysts were particularly handicapped when calculating the 2023-24 budget. They didn’t anticipate the shortfall from 2022-23 and didn’t discover it until fall 2023, because of a six-month delay in the filing deadline for 2022 tax returns.

Newsom is proposing to divert \$5.7 billion from the Proposition 98 rainy day fund to fill in the current year’s deficit as well as what’s needed to sustain a flat budget, plus a small cost of living increase, for 2024-25. Draining the rainy day fund would require the Legislature’s OK.

The remainder — and biggest piece — is the \$9 billion revenue shortfall from 2022-23, which would be \$8 billion after other automatic adjustments. That shortfall is technically an overpayment beyond the statutory minimum Proposition 98 funding guarantee. It fell dramatically from what the Legislature adopted in June 2022 to \$98.3 billion that revenue actually produced. The biggest decline was in income tax receipts on the top 1% of earners.



School districts have already spent funding from 2022–23, including on staff pay raises that they negotiated with good faith estimates. Newsom and the Legislature could try to deduct that overpayment from the current and 2024-25 budgets, but such a move “would be devastating for students and staff,” Patti Herrera, vice president of the school consulting firm California School Services, told a workshop last week with more than 1,000 school district administrators in Sacramento.

As an alternative, Newsom proposes to find reductions from the non-Proposition 98 side of the general fund, which covers higher education, child care and all other non-education expenses, from prisons to climate change programs.

“We are super grateful there will be no attempts to claw back” the money given to school districts in a past year’s budget, Herrera said.



Newsom's challenge is to make districts and community colleges financially whole without increasing the minimum Proposition 98 guarantee. Raising Proposition 98 could create a bigger obligation in the future, including potential deficits after 2024-25 — unless the Legislature raises taxes, a nonstarter in an election year.

How Newsom is going to do this is a mystery. The one-sentence reference to it in his budget summary says only, "The Budget proposes statutory changes to address roughly \$8 billion of this decrease to avoid impacting existing LEA (school districts) and community college district budgets."

Both the LAO and School Services said it's their understanding from the Department of Finance that the payments from the general fund to cover the Proposition 98 overpayment would be made over five years, starting in 2025-26.

"We have some questions about that proposal. Probably the most pressing one is how is the state going to use revenue that it's not going to collect for several years to address a funding shortfall that exists right now," said Ken Kappahn, the LAO's principal fiscal and policy analyst for TK-12 education.

The questions are legal and political. The proposed statutory language, which may be released in a trailer bill in the coming weeks, will reveal how the state Department of Finance will finesse postponing balancing the 2022-23 budget that's \$8 billion out of kilter. Budget hearings next week in the Capitol may indicate how receptive legislative leaders are to further reducing general fund spending, which also is feeling a financial squeeze.

### **A search for the extra \$8 billion**

Additionally, Newsom is proposing several billion dollars of accounting maneuvers that will book spending in 2024-25 but delay and defer payments for programs and some state salaries until early 2025-26. Included are \$500 million in deferred reimbursements to the University of California and California State University for the 5% budget increase that Newsom committed to funding in 2024-25.

"Many of these solutions involve moving costs to next year. That is one reason we have the state looking at a large deficit, not just this year, but the following year," Kappahn said. "I can't recall another situation quite like this."

Barring a recession, which neither LAO nor the Newsom administration is forecasting, both Newsom and the administration are projecting general fund deficits averaging about \$30 billion annually in the three years after 2024-25. Pushing the \$8 billion solution for the 2022-23 Proposition 98 deficit, along with other general fund delays and deferrals into those years will compound difficult choices, according to the LAO.

"Overall, the governor's budget runs the risk of understating the degree of fiscal pressure facing the state in the future," the LAO analysis said.

The LAO suggested other options for resolving the 2022-23 deficit. It recommended applying the remaining \$3.8 billion from the Proposition 98 reserve fund that Newsom hasn't touched and looking for reductions in unallocated one-time funding such as an unused \$1 billion for community schools and canceling \$500 million for electric school buses.

Even with no cuts to Proposition 98 next year, many school districts and charter schools will likely face their own deficits in 2024-25. That's because the projected cost-of-living adjustment for next year will not be enough to cover the loss of revenue from declining enrollments. The COLA, tied to a federal formula measuring goods and services bought by state and local governments and not consumer products, is currently projected to be 0.76%; it would be the lowest increase in 40 years, with one exception, the year after the Great Recession, in 2009. This would come on the heels of two years of near record-high COLAs of 6.6% and 8.2%.

The analyst's office projects the COLA may inch up to 1% by June, when the budget is set. At that rate, a hypothetical school district with 10,000 students would see declining revenues with an enrollment decline of only about 100 students.

Paso Robles Joint Unified School District in San Luis Obispo County, with about 6,000 students, is among those with declining enrollment since the pandemic. As a result, the district, with about 800 full-time employees, anticipates a reduction of five full-time staff members in 2024-25 and perhaps 40 layoff notices the following year, said Brad Pawlowski, the assistant superintendent for business services.

Pawlowski said he came away encouraged after School Services' presentation that schools will be spared cuts in the next budget, while acknowledging it's a long time between now and the budget's adoption.

"We have seen a common message between the governor and the Legislature to protect education. And that does make me feel good," he said. But doing so, he added, "will mean finding other ways to make that up outside of Prop. 98. That's going to be the real challenge."

---

---

*Note: Senate President pro Tempore Atkins joins Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis and State Superintendent of Instruction Tony Thurmond in the 2026 gubernatorial race.*

## **Democratic Senate Leader Toni Atkins Announces 2026 California Governor Campaign**

By Jenavieve Hatch and Lindsey Holden  
*The Sacramento Bee*  
January 18, 2024

State Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins, D-San Diego, announced Friday that she will run for California governor in the 2026 election.

Atkins on Thursday filed paperwork stating her intent to join the race, and she made her official announcement at a Friday event in San Diego. She emphasized her humble beginnings as a miner's daughter from southwestern Virginia who grew up in a home without running water.

"In 2026, we have the opportunity to elect a governor who understands, and has lived, the challenges facing Californians struggling to get by and trying to get ahead," Atkins said. "Someone who got free breakfasts at school and went to church camp on a scholarship. Whose parents never had time off and always had a doctor's bill overdue."

Atkins will join Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis and State Superintendent of Instruction Tony Thurmond in the campaign to replace Gov. Gavin Newsom, who is serving his second and final term. Attorney General Rob Bonta has also said he's considering a gubernatorial bid.

The Pro Tem will term out of the Legislature this year. She is handing over her Senate leadership role to Sen. Mike McGuire, D-Healdsburg, on Feb. 5.

"I am ready to be governor," Atkins said on Friday. "I have stood eye to eye with two governors as a leader of a co-equal branch of government—the only woman and first person in 150 years to lead both houses of the California Legislature."

Secretary of State Shirley Weber introduced Atkins at her announcement, citing the Pro Tem's background as the basis for her support.

"I need someone to fight for us," Weber said. "Who has the values ... that are not just learned in a book but learned in life. I need someone who understands what it was to be poor and proud at the same time."

State Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins launches a run for governor with an event at the San Diego Air & Space Museum on Friday. Emily Alvarenga San Diego Union-Tribune/TNS

### **History-making politician**

Atkins was elected to the state Senate in 2016, and has served as Senate Pro Tem since 2018. She is the first openly gay person to serve as the head of the Senate, and the first woman. Before that, she was a member of the state Assembly and the first openly gay Assembly Speaker when she held the position from 2014-2016.

She served on the San Diego City Council from 2000 to 2008, after moving to Southern California in the 1980s.

"If someone had told me when I first came to California that I would be here today, I probably would have laughed out loud at how crazy that sounded," Atkins said on Friday. "I had always been too different. Too poor. Too country. Too gay."

If elected, Atkins would be California's first LGBTQ governor — but she's already made history for that role, even if only on a technicality.

In 2014, as Speaker of the Assembly, Atkins served as acting governor for 10 hours when then-Gov. Jerry Brown and then-Lt. Gov Newsom were both out of the state, as well as then-Senate Pro Tempore and current Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg. This made her the first LGBTQ person in the governor's seat.

She made history again last summer when she signed three bills into law as acting governor — the first openly LGBTQ person to do so — while Newsom and Kounalakis were both outside state lines.

"I'm thrilled to step into the governor's shoes," Atkins said last July. "Though I have better shoes than him."

She told the Associated Press in November that she was "interested in looking at that possibility" of a gubernatorial run. A few days later at the California Democratic Party fall convention, Atkins told The Sacramento Bee she has the necessary experience for such a role.

“Governors work with legislators to get things done,” she said.

“I’ve done the policy work, I’ve done the budget work. And it really is a unique experience to be able to work with those different parties — the speaker, the pro tem, the governor. I feel like I’ve got experience with each. And for me, experience matters.”

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: Ashlee Chiarito, Executive Officer  
Cabinet Approval:

Date: February 02, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3934

Regarding: January Legislative Committee Meeting

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board information shared at the January 18, 2024, Legislative Committee Meeting.

Budget and Economic Update: Ms. Aguinaldo provided a budget legislative update.

On January 10, 2024, Governor Gavin Newsome released the budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year. The Governor framed the current budget as the state returning to a period of correction and normalization compared to recent years of explosive growth.

Historic increases in Proposition 98 from 2019/20 through 2021/22 resulted in an unprecedented financial investment in education to combat the impact of the pandemic. The state has record-level reserves to prepare for a financial downturn. This includes a decreased Local Control Funding Formula allocation due to declining enrollment and minimal projected Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA), significantly less than 2023/24.

In January 2024, the governor's budget projected the COLA to be less than 1% at 0.76% compared to the 3.94% that was estimated in June 2023. The changing COLA is a calculated percentage using federally aggregated metrics. The Governor and the Legislature must determine if there is sufficient money to fund the statutory COLA. The declining COLA is a result of a reversal in price increases that occurred in 2022 and revisions in historical data points.

The Governor is not proposing any new reductions or deferrals to K-12 education core programs despite the \$26 billion shortfall of tax revenues for 2022/23. The less than expected General Fund revenues account for lower-than-expected 2022 tax collection. The Proposition 98 minimum guarantee for 2022/23 and 2023/24 are reduced by \$9.1 billion and \$2.7 billion causing an almost \$12 billion budget gap.

The School Services Legislative Committee January 2024 report is attached. The next Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2024.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication or require additional information, please get in touch with Ashlee Chiarito at 457-3934 or Patrick Jensen at 457-6226.

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



Date: 02/02/2024

# Fresno Unified School District

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
JANUARY 18, 2024**

**2023-2024 Legislative Session**

**Prepared By:**

**Leilani Aguinaldo  
Director, Governmental Relations**



*Public Education's Point of Reference for Making Educated Decisions*



**School Services of California, Inc.**  
**Legislative and Economic Update Prepared for:**  
**Fresno Unified School District**  
*Table of Contents*  
**January 17, 2024**

---

**Legislative and Economic Update**

---

Overview of the Governor’s Proposals for the 2024-25 State Budget and K-12 Education ..... 1

Excerpt Slides from the Governor’s Proposals for the 1024025 State Budget and K-12 Education ..... 9

LAO Issues Fiscal Outlook.....14

UCLA Economists Continue to Predict Slow Growth Economy ..... 17

DOF Reports on Projected Revenue Shortfall .....19

CalPERS Employer Contribution Rate Estimates .....21

Fast Food Minimum Wage Fuels Local Salary Demands .....22

Legislature Gavels in the 2024 Legislative Year .....24

# FISCAL REPORT

PUBLIC EDUCATION'S POINT OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING EDUCATED DECISIONS

## Overview of the Governor's Proposals for the 2024-25 State Budget and K-12 Education

By: SSC Team

January 10, 2024

### Overview of the Governor's Budget Proposals

When you expect a budget gap of \$68 billion, a budget gap of \$37.9 billion feels like a good day. While there is no debating the magnitude of unrealized revenues from 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom today framed the current budget situation as the state returning to a more normal economic environment from recent years of explosive growth. This is a key difference from the expectations set last fall by the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) Fiscal Outlook and the tone set today by Governor Newsom.

The good news for education: no mid-year cuts, no deferrals, no program rollbacks. The bad news for education: a shrinking Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) due to heavy declining enrollment and a meager cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).

California is better prepared to weather the proverbial storm due to the significant rainy day deposits made during the good years that allows the state to address this budget gap. In addition to reserve withdrawals (including the Proposition 98 Rainy Day Fund), the Governor proposes reductions, internal borrowing, funding delays, funding shifts, and non-Proposition 98 deferrals. It remains to be seen whether one-time funds successfully create a bridge to increased future revenues, or if they eventually run dry and are merely delaying cuts to align actual spending to revenues.

### The Economy and Revenues

Governor Newsom assumes a continued slow-growth economy for 2024-25 and notes a possible resurgence of higher inflation and continued elevated interest rates as the biggest near-term threats to the economy. Additional risks include, but aren't limited to, geopolitical tensions, climate change impacts, and the high cost of living in California. Importantly, no recession is forecasted. The Governor's Budget assumes Gross Domestic Product growth to slow to 1.6% in 2024 and 1.2% in 2025, and California unemployment is projected to increase to 5.1% and 5.2% in 2024 and 2025, respectively. Headline inflation is projected to drop to 2.6% in 2024 and 2% in 2025.

As he did last year, the Governor began his press conference standing beside a chart showing fluctuations in capital gains revenues as a percentage of personal income, which he again likened to an electrocardiogram, or EKG. The Governor described the economic situation as a story of correction and normalization following a period of distortion, highlighting the unprecedented surpluses in revenue a couple of years ago followed by the deficits experienced in the current year and projected for the 2024-25 budget year.

The largest source of state General Fund revenues is derived from taxes on personal income, including capital gains, and relies heavily on high-income taxpayers. Personal income tax makes up 65% of pre-transfer General Fund revenue for 2022-23 and is projected to account for 74% of



pre-transfer General Fund revenue in 2024-25. One percent of the state’s highest income earners paid 50% of all personal income taxes in 2021, a slight increase from the prior year. According to the Governor’s Budget summary, “[t]hese two related phenomena—significant reliance of the General Fund on capital gains and stock-based compensation, and on taxes paid by a small portion of the population—underscore the difficulty in forecasting personal income tax revenue” and, by extension, General Fund revenues.

Capital gains revenue as a percentage of annual General Fund revenues are projected to stabilize and make up 8.4%, 8.3%, and 8.7% of total annual General Fund revenues for 2022, 2023, and 2024, respectively. The Newsom Administration assumes a stock market that is largely consistent with Wall Street’s mid-November 2023 levels.

The Governor’s Budget recognizes a budget shortfall of \$44 billion over the three-year budget window (2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25). The Governor’s Budget draws primarily on the following measures to balance against the shortfall:

- \$13.1 billion in draw down of reserves
- \$8.5 billion in funding reductions without cuts to Proposition 98 programs
- \$5.7 billion in borrowing
- \$5.1 billion in funding delays over three years
- \$3.4 billion in funding shifts from the General Fund to other funds
- \$2.1 billion in deferrals to payroll and University of California/California State University
- \$5.7 billion in withdrawals from the Public School System Stabilization Account (PSSSA)
- \$402 million in tax revenue proposals

The Governor’s Budget makes significant reductions to the “Big Three” tax revenues relative to the 2023-24 Enacted Budget across the three-year budget window, for a total downward adjustment of \$42.9 billion.

<b>Big Three Tax Revenues (In millions)</b>						
	<b>2022-23</b>		<b>2023-24</b>		<b>2024-25</b>	
	<b>2023-24 Enacted Budget</b>	<b>Governor’s Budget</b>	<b>2023-24 Enacted Budget</b>	<b>Governor’s Budget</b>	<b>2023-24 Enacted Budget</b>	<b>Governor’s Budget</b>
Personal Income Tax	\$122,769	\$101,749	\$118,161	\$113,768	\$118,903	\$114,730
Corporation Tax	\$42,091	\$37,140	\$42,081	\$36,913	\$43,369	\$38,055

<b>Big Three Tax Revenues (In millions)</b>						
Sales and Use Tax	\$33,072	\$33,186	\$33,366	\$34,643	\$34,383	\$35,123

Again, the Governor’s Budget revenue estimates do not forecast a recession—even a mild one. Risks to the projected continuing slow-growth economy are noted and could lead to a recession in which case a mild recession could lead to General Fund revenue losses between \$20 billion to \$30 billion over the budget window.

**Proposition 98 Minimum Guarantee, Rainy Day Fund,  
and Local Reserve Requirements**

**Proposition 98 Minimum Guarantee**

Based on the Governor’s revenue estimates, which account for lower-than-expected 2022 tax collections, the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee for 2022-23 and 2023-24 are reduced by \$9.1 billion and \$2.7 billion from the 2023-24 Enacted Budget levels, respectively. Further, the Governor expects state revenues to rebound from current levels, which will result in an increase in funding for K-12 and community college agencies in 2024-25, bringing the minimum guarantee to \$109.1 billion by the end of the budget window. Proposition 98 in 2024-25 includes additional funding to cover the increased LCFF costs resulting from Transitional Kindergarten (TK) expansion and the required set-aside to support arts and music programs in public schools. Under the Governor’s estimates, Test 1 is operative across the budget window, which means that K-14 education receives nearly 40 cents of every state General Fund dollar.

<b>Proposition 98 Minimum Guarantee, Prior and Current Year (In billions)</b>			
	<b>2023-24 Enacted Budget</b>	<b>2024-25 Governor's Budget Adjustments</b>	<b>Minimum Guarantee</b>
<b>2022-23</b>	\$107.4	-\$9.1	\$98.3
<b>2023-24</b>	\$108.3	-\$2.7	\$105.6

**Proposition 98 Rainy Day Fund and Local Reserve Requirements**

Changes in state General Fund revenues have similar impacts on the state’s requirement to make deposits into and withdrawals from the Proposition 98 Rainy Day Fund (or the PSSSA). The Governor’s Budget proposes the following activity in the reserve account.

<b>Proposition 98 Rainy Day Fund (In billions)</b>				
	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Deposits		\$0.3	\$0.3	\$0.8

<b>Proposition 98 Rainy Day Fund (In billions)</b>				
<b>Withdrawals</b>			-\$3.0	-\$2.7
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$8.1</b>	<b>\$8.4</b>	<b>\$5.7</b>	<b>\$3.8</b>

For 2024-25, the Proposition 98 Rainy Day Fund balance of \$5.7 billion in fiscal year 2023-24 requires non-basic aid districts with average daily attendance (ADA) greater than 2,500 to maintain a local reserve balance of 10%.

### **LCFF Entitlements for School Districts and Charter Schools**

Recall that the 2023-24 Enacted Budget utilized \$1.6 billion in one-time Proposition 98 General Fund monies to fully fund the 8.22% COLA. Based on the Administration’s current projections, there is insufficient new revenue to fill the gap left by the use of those one-time funds in 2023-24 and ongoing obligations.

To address the shortfall, Governor Newsom’s State Budget once again utilizes one-time funds. Of the proposed \$5.7 billion PSSSA withdrawals across the current and budget year, the Administration is proposing to allocate \$5.0 billion for purposes of supporting the LCFF—approximately \$2.8 billion for 2023-24 and another \$2.2 billion for 2024-25. Further, the Governor’s Budget notes that an additional \$38.6 million in available reappropriation and reversion funding will also be utilized to support ongoing LCFF costs in 2024-25.

With this funding, the base grants by grade span for 2024-25 are increased over 2023-24 by the estimated statutory COLA of 0.76%.

<b>Grade Span</b>	<b>2023-24 Base Grant Per ADA</b>	<b>0.76% COLA</b>	<b>2024-25 Base Grant Per ADA</b>
TK-3	\$9,919	\$75	\$9,994
4-6	\$10,069	\$77	\$10,146
7-8	\$10,367	\$79	\$10,446
9-12	\$12,015	\$91	\$12,106

The TK-3 base grant increase for the class-size reduction (CSR) grade span adjustment is \$1,039 per ADA in 2024-25 and the grade 9-12 base grant per ADA is increased by \$315 in recognition of the need for Career Technical Education (CTE) courses provided to students in the secondary grades.

School districts and charter schools are entitled to supplemental grant increases equal to 20% of the adjusted base grant (including CSR and CTE funding) for the percentage of enrolled students who are English learners, eligible for the free or reduced-price meals program, or in foster care. An additional 65% per-pupil increase is provided as a concentration grant for each percentage of

eligible students enrolled beyond 55% of total enrollment, with 15% of the concentration grant to be used to increase the number of adults providing direct services (nurses, teachers, counselors, paraprofessionals, and others) to students.

### **Cost-of-Living Adjustment**

The Governor’s Budget estimates, and fully funds, a statutory COLA of 0.76% for the LCFF, which is lower than the LAO estimated in its November Fiscal Outlook report (1.26%). Both are significantly lower than the estimate of 3.94% from the 2023-24 Enacted Budget. While there are still two data points outstanding in order to calculate the final statutory COLA—one anticipated in a matter of weeks and the other at the end of April—time will tell whether the Administration or the LAO have a clearer crystal ball, it is very apparent that the statutory COLA will be closer to 1% than 4%.

The Governor’s estimated COLA would also be applied to other education programs funded outside of the LCFF, including the LCFF Equity Multiplier, Special Education, Child Nutrition, Sate Preschool, Foster Youth, Mandate Block Grant, Adults in Correctional Facilities Program, Charter School Facility Grant Program, American Indian Education Centers, and the American Indian Early Childhood Education Program—as well as county offices of education and community colleges.

### **Instructional Continuity**

In response to multiple years of academic interruption due to increased student absences, the Governor’s Budget includes a series of instructional continuity proposals aimed at offsetting student absences and mitigating learning loss. These proposals include:

- Expanding the allowable days and times of day used for the purpose of recovering attendance both for the purpose of apportionment and chronic absentee mitigation,
- Requiring local educational agencies (LEAs) to offer remote instruction during emergencies, including instruction through enrollment at a neighboring LEA, and
- Encouraging hybrid or remote learning opportunities for students who are unable to attend school

The Governor’s Budget also proposes an appropriation of \$6 million in one-time Proposition 98 funds for the purpose of researching and developing models of hybrid learning to enable instructional continuity and to identify opportunities for LEAs to report more detailed absence data when absences occur due to emergency events.

### **Master Plan on Career Education**

On August 31, 2023, Governor Newsom signed [Executive Order N-11-23](#), launching the development of a new Master Plan on Career Education (Master Plan) that will look to adequately prepare students for the workforce of tomorrow. The Executive Order (EO) requires specified state agencies to develop and submit the proposed Master Plan to the Governor’s Office by October 1, 2024.

The first phase in the development of the Master Plan is for the Governor’s Office to convene interagency teams at both the state level (under the [Governor’s Council for Career Education](#)) and at the regional level (as part of the [K-16 Regional Collaboratives](#)) that will drive results on the tens of billions in workforce investments made in the first four years of the Newsom Administration. The second phase is to engage in a 13-month planning process to investigate how existing policies, investments, and structures can be improved, culminating in the Governor’s Master Plan scheduled for publication in the winter of 2024. The three goals of the plan are to ensure that all Californians are:

1. On-ramped into well-paying, purposeful careers.
2. Empowered to build real-life skills.
3. Able to access and afford a quality education throughout life.

While the Governor’s Budget proposal does not offer any new information on the Master Plan, it does clarify that the Governor intends to pursue the timeline stipulated in the EO despite the state’s challenging budget circumstances.

### **Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant**

The Governor’s Budget does not include any cut to the Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant. However, the Budget proposes to change the use of these funds to focus remaining dollars on students most impacted by learning loss. A needs assessment and the development process used for the Local Control and Accountability Plan will guide how unspent funds are used. The allowable uses for these funds will also be amended to include professional development for the recently adopted mathematics framework.

### **Educator Pipeline Access**

The Governor’s Budget includes modest solutions to the teacher shortage. The proposal directs the California Commission on Teaching Credentialing (CTC) to create a new Elementary Arts and Music Education authorization as an additional Career and Technical Education credential. This will allow for additional pathways for artists to provide instruction in schools. In addition, the proposal includes credentialing flexibilities to meet subject matter requirements by recognizing a bachelor’s degree in a subject area to satisfy the basic skills requirement and direction to the CTC to improve the process to review transcripts to verify subject matter competency.

### **Early Childhood Education**

The Governor’s Budget maintains prior commitments to expand access to California’s subsidized child care and preschool system by an additional 200,000 slots, but defers reaching this goal to 2026-27. The Governor’s Budget includes funding roughly 146,000 new slots, expected to be filled by 2024-25.

The 2023-24 Enacted Budget included a commitment for the state to move to a single rate system based on cost of care. The Governor’s Budget states that by July 2024 the state will submit a plan to the federal government for approval of the alternative cost of care methodology for rates.

In addition, to help address the budget shortfall, the Governor’s Budget proposes to delay \$10 million General Fund annually from the Preschool Inclusion Grant Program until 2026-27.

Finally, Governor Newsom proposes specific investments to support certain children served by the California State Preschool Program (CSPP). He proposes applying the 0.76% COLA, as well as backfill \$53.7 million General Fund to support reimbursement rate increases that were previously supported by available one-time federal stimulus funds.

### **Facilities**

In an effort to address the projected budget shortfall, the Governor’s Budget proposes additional reductions and delays to funding previously intended for school facilities.

The 2022-23 Enacted Budget included \$1.3 billion in 2022-23 for the School Facility Program (SFP), with intent language for an additional \$2.1 billion appropriation in 2023-24 and \$875 million in 2024-25. The \$2.1 billion was reduced by \$100 million as part of the 2023-24 Enacted Budget, and now, the Governor’s Budget proposes to reduce 2024-25 funding by \$500 million—from \$875 million to \$375 million.

Further, the 2022-23 Enacted Budget appropriated \$100 million for the California Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten and Full-Day Kindergarten Facilities Grant Program, with the intent to appropriate an additional \$550 million in 2023-24. The 2023-24 Enacted Budget delayed the \$550 million investment by one year—from 2023-24 to 2024-25. The Governor’s Budget further delays this investment to 2025-26.

Additionally, the Governor notes that negotiations on a statewide school bond initiative will begin in the spring with the intention of placing the measure before the voters at the November 2024 General Election.

### **Minimum Wage**

Governor Newsom does not make any changes to the already enacted California state minimum wage of \$16.00 an hour or to Assembly Bill 1228 (Holden, Statutes of 2023) which raises the minimum wage for fast food workers to \$20.00 an hour, effective April 1, 2024. The Governor’s Budget does include an annual budgetary “trigger” which could delay the effective date of Senate Bill 525 (Durazo, Statutes of 2023) which was written to increase the minimum wage for health care workers to \$25.00 an hour effective June 1, 2024.

### **Retirement Systems**

Governor Newsom does not propose additional funding for the California State Teachers’ Retirement System (CalSTRS) or the California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS) employer contribution rate relief for LEAs. Based on current assumptions, CalPERS employer contributions would increase from 26.68% to 27.80% in 2024-25, while CalSTRS employer contribution rates are expected to remain the same from the prior year at 19.10%.

## Closing

The education world had been expecting the worst since the release of the LAO's economic forecast this past fall, leaving many to let out a sigh of relief at the Governor's Budget release—although a skeptical one. The Governor's Budget benefits from historic rainy day funds to address spending levels that ultimately did not align with the level of revenues generated in 2022-23. For education, these one-time dollars sustain programs that were created or grew significantly during exceptional economic times and lead the community to wonder how they will be sustained after 2024-25.

While not facing mid-year cuts, deferrals, or unfunded COLAs, with the combination of a COLA below 1% and significant declining enrollment, the sigh of relief may be short lived.

We look forward to diving deep into the Governor's education budget with all of you and helping our local educational leaders and partners operationalize all of what this means for public agencies, staff, students, and local communities at next week's [Governor Budget Workshop](#).



## Proposition 98

- The Proposition 98 budget is a story of correction and normalization

### Good News

- The historic increases in Proposition 98 from 2019-20 through 2021-22 resulted in significant financial investments to combat the impacts of the pandemic
- The state is better prepared to weather a financial downturn due to record levels of reserves

### Bad News

- The \$26 billion shortfall of tax revenues for 2022-23 turned a normal year into one where it appears that the state provided money above the minimum guarantee
- The Governor's solution to mitigate this shortfall is unprecedented and not widely or clearly understood, which creates risk for local educational agencies (LEAs)

© 2024 School Services of California Inc.

8

## The Education Budget and Local Impact

- The Governor continues with the theme of "correction and normalization"

### Good News

- Despite the significant underperformance of General Fund revenues in 2022-23, the Governor is not proposing any new cuts or deferrals to K-12 education core programs
- General Fund revenue spikes in 2021-22 were used for one-time purposes and that is now paying dividends

### Bad News

- Education is facing a "COLA<sup>1</sup>-only" year where the projected statutory COLA is significantly less than 2023-24 and anticipated for 2024-25 trending

<sup>1</sup>Cost-of-living adjustment

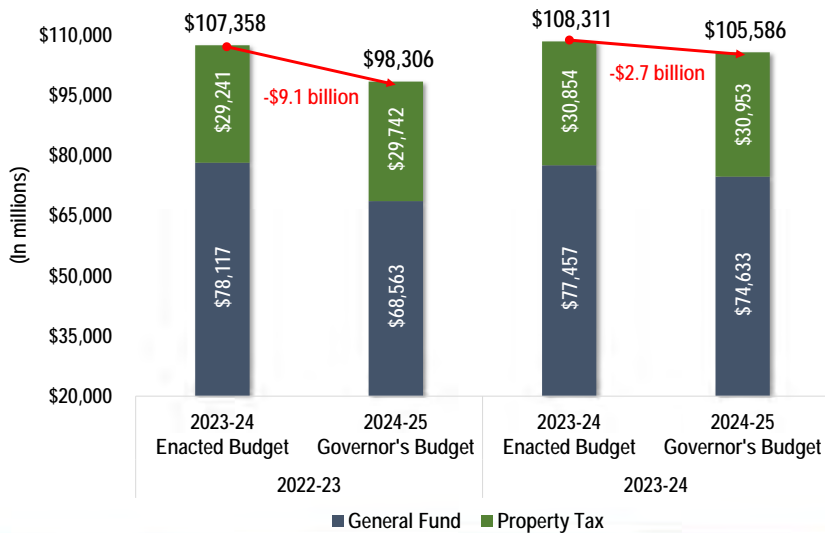
© 2024 School Services of California Inc.

9



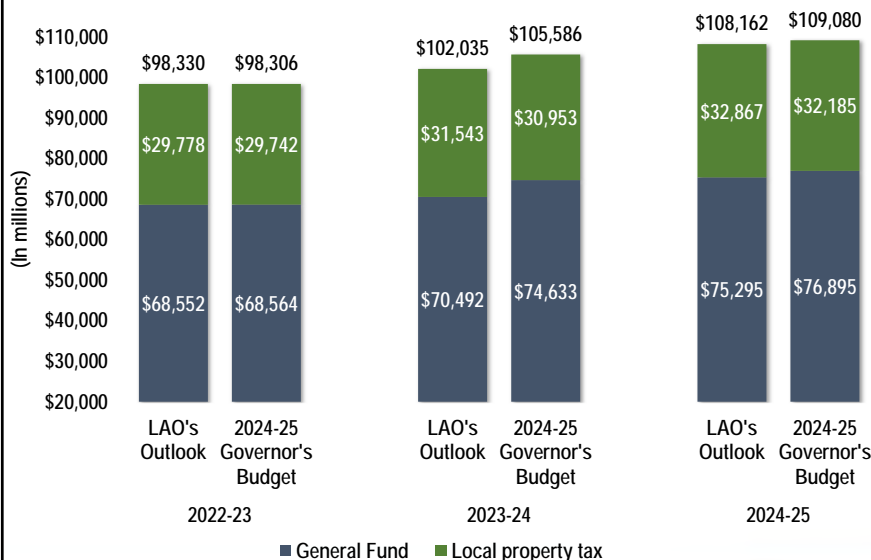
## Proposition 98—2022-23 and 2023-24

- The Governor's Budget adjusts the prior- and current-year Proposition 98 levels from 2023-24 Enacted Budget levels
  - 2022-23: -8.4%
  - 2023-24: -2.5%
- The sole driver of the change is less-than-expected state General Fund revenues
  - Local property tax assumptions are relatively unchanged



© 2024 School Services of California Inc.

## Proposition 98—Governor's Budget vs. LAO's Outlook



- There is a \$4.5 billion difference in the minimum guarantee between the LAO's Outlook and the Governor's Budget for the current and budget year
  - 2023-24: \$3.6 billion
  - 2024-25: \$0.9 billion
- Again, the driver is a \$15.3 billion difference in state General Fund revenue assumptions
  - The LAO assumes modestly higher local property taxes

© 2024 School Services of California Inc.

## Fluctuating Statutory COLAs From the Department of Finance

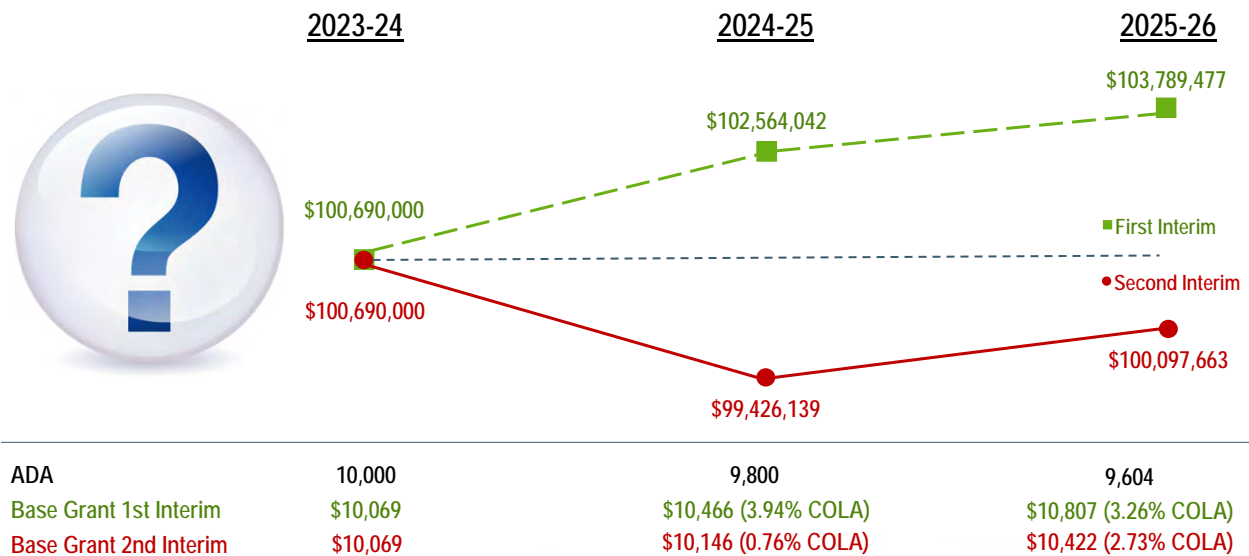
- The changing statutory COLA is NOT related to the state’s financial health
  - Rather, the statutory COLA is computed using federally aggregated metrics
- The statutory COLA is a calculated percentage, but the Governor and Legislature must still determine whether there is sufficient money to fund the statutory COLA
- The significant projected decline in 2024-25 is the result of two primary factors:
  - Reversal in price increases that occurred in 2022
  - Revisions to historical data points

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
January 2024	0.76%	2.73%	3.11%
June 2023	3.94%	3.29%	3.19%
<i>Percentage Point Decrease</i>	<i>-3.18</i>	<i>-0.56</i>	<i>-0.08</i>

© 2024 School Services of California Inc.

45

## A Tale of Two Multiyear Projections— LCFF Revenues First Interim to Second Interim



© 2024 School Services of California Inc.

46

## What's Not in the Education Budget?



### Proposition 98 Cuts

Despite the significant drop in the minimum guarantee from 2021-22 to 2022-23, the Governor's Budget proposes no cuts in overall Proposition 98 funding

### Deferrals

Due to the Governor's Budget revenue assumptions and the Administration's treatment of the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee, there is no need for the state to defer payments to LEAs

### Sweeps

Unlike last year, the Governor's Budget does not include any proposals to sweep unallocated funds from programs, such as the Community Schools Partnership Program, so LEAs planning for those funds can breathe a sigh of relief . . . *for now*

## The Risks to Proposition 98

### General Fund Condition

The conditions that create volatility and vulnerabilities for state revenues pose risks for education funding

- Economic shocks
- Wall Street performance

### COLA

2024-25 COLA of 0.76% assumes no increases in the costs of goods and services governments buy in the last quarter of 2023 and the first quarter of 2024 (not likely)

If COLA increases by May, it will exacerbate the Proposition 98 deficit



### Proposition 98 Deficit

Spending beyond the means of Proposition 98 in the short-term creates risk for the out-years

The minimum guarantee may not be able to grow its way out of the deficit

### Key Budget Assumptions

The assumptions that undergird the State Budget and Proposition 98 are critical for stable local planning

If revenues fall or costs rise, it will exacerbate the Proposition 98 problem

## Instructional Continuity

The Governor's Budget proposes several instructional continuity measures

### Attendance Recovery Time

Allow for Saturday school, intersessional school, and before/after school attendance

- Generates ADA-based funding
- Mitigates chronic absenteeism

### Hybrid/Remote Instruction

Encourages LEAs to provide additional hybrid/remote instruction options for students unable to attend school in person

### Instruction for Emergencies

For emergencies lasting longer than 5 days, LEAs would be required to offer

- Remote instruction, or
- Support to enroll in a neighboring LEA

The Governor's Budget proposes \$6 million one-time Proposition 98 funding to research and develop models of hybrid learning to support attendance and to develop a methodology for more detailed absence data reporting to the state

Note: Additional details regarding the impact to instructional time, attendance accounting, and compulsory education requirements is expected in trailer bill language

## LAO Issues Fiscal Outlook

By: SSC Team

December 7, 2023

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO)—the nonpartisan budget and policy advisor for the Legislature—issued its highly anticipated *Fiscal Outlook* report today. The expectation of the *Fiscal Outlook* is heightened this year due to the thrice-delayed tax filing deadline, which was shifted from April 2023 to November 2023, and the anticipation of where the dust would settle for tax collections from the 2022 calendar year.

### Overall Themes

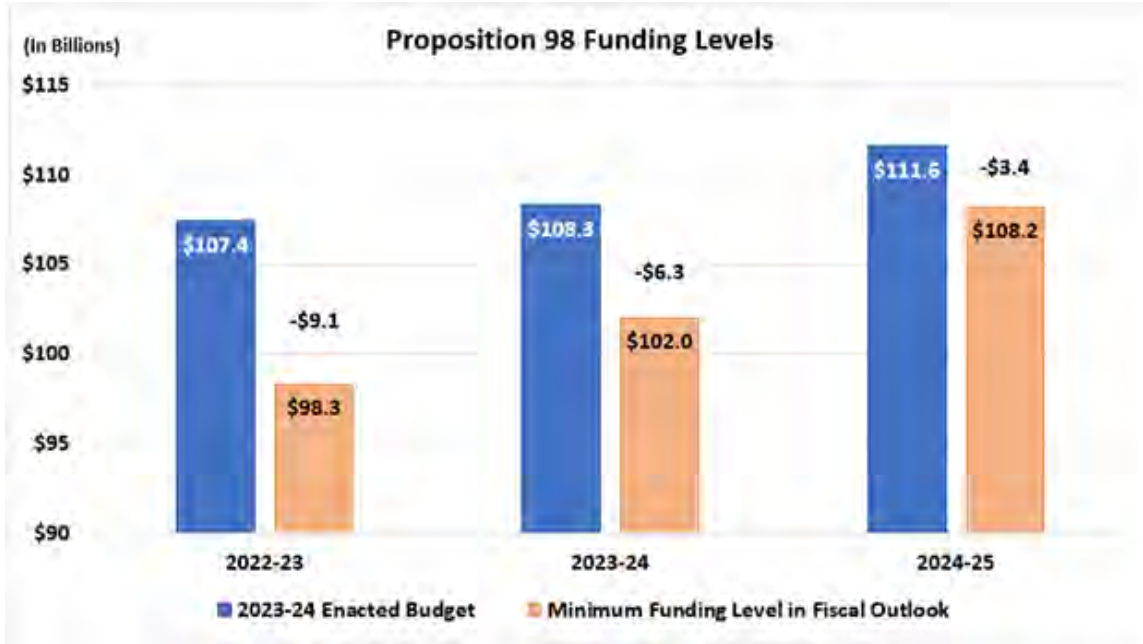
The health of California's General Fund peaked in the 2021-22 fiscal year with record revenues and reserves. However, most financial experts across the state expected that revenues would begin to taper off beginning in 2022-23 and 2023-24 relative to 2021-22. The tapering quickly turned into an exceptional shortfall, as the final estimated tax collections for 2022-23 were approximately \$26 billion less than the projection used for the 2023-24 Enacted Budget. As a result, the *Fiscal Outlook* provides three key takeaways:

- California faces a serious deficit going forward
- Unprecedented prior-year revenue shortfall
- The Legislature will need to utilize tools to address the budget problem

The *Fiscal Outlook* reports that the state's economy entered a downturn in 2022 due to higher borrowing costs and reduced investments. This is highlighted by a decline in home sales of approximately 50%, lowered investments in startup and technology companies, and a decline of more than 80% in the number of California companies with initial public offerings. In total, the *Fiscal Outlook* estimates that the state faces a \$68 billion deficit over the three-year period covering 2022-23 to 2024-25.

### Outlook for Schools and Community College Funding

As a result of depressed tax collections in 2022 and a softening economy, the *Fiscal Outlook* projects that Proposition 98 is overcommitted by \$15.4 billion in the 2022-23 and 2023-24 fiscal years when compared against the 2023-24 Enacted Budget.



The *Fiscal Outlook* estimates that the state would need to spend \$109.3 billion to cover the cost of existing programs, adjusted for attendance and a cost-of-living adjustment—estimated to be 1.27%—in the 2024-25 fiscal year. This amount exceeds the LAO’s projected Proposition 98 funding requirement by approximately \$1.1 billion.

### LAO Recommendations for Education

The LAO highlights two pathways available to the Legislature as they enter 2024-25 budget negotiations. First, the Legislature could lower Proposition 98 spending down to the minimum funding levels noted in the chart above. This would require schools and community colleges to “send back” funding that has already been apportioned or is scheduled to be apportioned. Second, the Legislature could withdraw funds from the Proposition 98 reserve—the current balance is \$8.1 billion after adjustments are made to prior- and current-year deposits—to support a funding level that is greater than the minimum funding levels. The second option has ripple effects in 2024-25. Should the Legislature choose to “over-appropriate” Proposition 98 in 2022-23 and 2023-24 at the levels in the 2023-24 Enacted Budget, the projected minimum funding level in 2024-25 would increase from \$108.2 billion to \$113 billion, an amount greater than what was included in the 2023-24 Enacted Budget. However, that effect is partially blunted by the use of Proposition 98 reserves, which, from an accounting perspective, do not count as spending for the purpose of determining the minimum funding requirement in future years. Regardless of which scenario is selected, the *Fiscal Outlook* projects that the entire Proposition 98 reserve will be required to be withdrawn no later than the 2024-25 fiscal year, but the reserve could be exhausted in the current fiscal year should the Legislature choose to “over-appropriate” Proposition 98 in the prior and current fiscal years.

## **The Road Ahead**

The figures in the *Fiscal Outlook* report, while somewhat anticipated, still create an unpleasant reverberation in the state and K-14 community that will impact every corner of the state. The sobering news that 2021-22 was indeed the peak now begs the question, “How far will state revenues fall before normalizing?” Although that answer will not be known for several months, if not a year, more information about how the state will address the revenue shortfall will be available on or before January 10, 2024, when Governor Gavin Newsom unveils his priorities for the state and education as part of his 2024-25 State Budget proposal. We look forward to seeing you at our [Governor’s Budget Workshop](#) in either Sacramento or Anaheim.

## UCLA Economists Continue to Predict Slow Growth Economy

By: Wendi McCaskill

December 8, 2023

*[Editor's Note: We routinely track and report out on economic data from multiple valuable sources including the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), the California Department of Finance, and the UCLA Anderson School of Management. The perspectives these entities provide are crucial to an awareness of economic indicators, their impact on local educational agencies, and budget planning.]*

*This week, both the UCLA Anderson School of Management's December 2023 Forecast (Forecast) and the LAO's 2024-25 Fiscal Outlook were released. The stated goal of the LAO's Fiscal Outlook is to provide fiscal estimates and analysis of the state's budget condition to the Legislature as they begin their work on the 2024-25 budget. The UCLA Forecast provides invaluable forecasting and economic outlook information on the national and California economies.*

*The article below covers the Forecast, presented Wednesday, December 6, 2023. There are some notable similarities, such as each predicting a slow growth California economy, and there are some key differences relative to their intended purpose and the scope of the time period covered in each report. We believe both provide valuable information for a robust budget discussion in 2024.]*

On Wednesday, December 6, 2023, the UCLA Anderson School of Management presented its December 2023 *Economic Forecast* (Forecast). This Forecast, the fourth and final for 2023, mirrors the October 2023 Forecast—anticipating slow growth in the economy, notable vulnerability, and substantial foreseen risks. Happily, there is again no predicted recession in the near future.

As for reasons why the predicted national recession did not occur, the Forecast points to the combination of tightening monetary policy and simultaneous easing fiscal policy, including the federal Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors Act, the Infrastructure Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act, which created additional demand and increased business investment. In addition, although interest rate rises tend to cool the economy, especially housing and automobile costs, the impact to housing and automobile costs has been mitigated by neither sector being “overbuilt.” The fact that housing and auto sectors are not overbuilt is also mentioned as a contributing factor to the economy’s resilience.

UCLA Economist Jerry Nickelsburg acknowledged significantly higher 2023 quarter three real gross domestic product (GDP) growth at 4.8% than the 2.3% predicted in September but noted that level of growth was anomalous and attributed to inventory replacement following a weak inventory accumulation the previous quarter. The Forecast sees GDP falling to 0.7% at the lowest point in the second quarter of 2024, remaining at 1.0% through the end of 2024, and rising to 2.5% by the fourth quarter of 2025, the end of the forecast period. It is noted in the December 2023 Forecast report that a 1.0% economy is essentially a no-growth economy.



Headline inflation is projected at 2.8% for the first and second quarters of 2024, declining thereafter to 2.7% through the remainder of the forecast period. While inflation is not expected to fall to the 2.0% goal consistently stated by the Federal Reserve (Fed), the Forecast predicts the Fed will ease up on the federal funds rate. National unemployment is projected to remain strong, although increasing from 3.6% in the current year to 3.9% in 2024 and 3.8% in 2025. Housing is anticipated to stay slightly under the historical average but not low enough to trigger a recession.

The notable risks to the economy and forecast are the Middle East and Russia/Ukraine conflicts, China/Taiwan and India/Pakistan potential conflicts, decisions made by (or impasse of) our elected officials, the impact of policy changes due to the 2024 election, the wide gap between U.S. political parties' economic policy, and climate change. If these risks sound familiar it is because most of them were noted as risks in October as well.

Turning to California, the Forecast predicts slow, “anemic” growth overall, which is in alignment with U.S. economic growth predictions, although California’s growth is anticipated to outpace only narrowly that of the national economy.

Recent employment growth in California slowed more quickly than anticipated. The U.S. outpaced all but three areas in California in growth in jobs through the end of October 2023. Only the Central Coast, Orange County, and the Sacramento Delta exceeded overall U.S. job growth. The areas with the slowest job growth in California were the Bay Area and the San Joaquin Valley. On the positive side, an infusion of venture capital money into AI research and development is expected to bolster Bay Area job growth moving forward. In addition, job losses over the last quarter due to the two Hollywood labor actions are projected to turn around and solid growth is anticipated in the related job sector over the next six months due to the resolution of those labor conflicts.

The California unemployment rate, currently at 4.8%, is projected to average at 4.7% for the current year and 4.5% and 3.8% for 2024 and 2025, respectively. Total employment growth rates are projected to be 0.3% and 0.9% during the same two years.

California’s housing market is not responding to increased interest rates as expected. While the median price of single-family homes in California overall has declined on a seasonally adjusted basis by 5.5%, in several parts of the state, i.e., San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, prices continue to increase. While the rest of the nation saw double-digit declines in new home permits, California’s new home permits declined by 8.8% over the same period. New building in California is responding to a slowdown in availability of existing homes and policy changes encouraging the building of accessory dwelling units. New building is anticipated to increase after a pause in 2024.

Like the U.S. economy, the Forecast highlights political and geopolitical risks to the California economy, as well as drought and deluge weather, and the potential negative impact of interest rates on expansion.

We will be covering both U.S. and California economic indicators and projections, as well as their impact on education funding, in the upcoming [Governor’s Budget Workshop](#) scheduled for January 17, 2024, in Sacramento and January 19, 2024, in Anaheim. To register, please click [here](#).

# FISCAL REPORT

PUBLIC EDUCATION'S POINT OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING EDUCATED DECISIONS

## DOF Reports on Projected Revenue Shortfall

By: Patti F. Herrera, EdD and Wendi McCaskill

December 19, 2023

The Department of Finance (DOF) released its most recent *Finance Bulletin* on Friday, December 15, 2023. The December release reflects both national and state economic data through November 2023 and reports out on 2022 tax collections delayed due to multiple extensions of the tax filing deadline. As recently anticipated based on widely reported tax revenue data, the *Finance Bulletin* reports cumulative General Fund cash receipts significantly below the 2023 Budget Act projections.

The December *Finance Bulletin* includes both October and November state revenue data as well as current economic data through November. October and November General Fund revenues fell short of projections by \$25.22 billion (-39.9%), with total actual revenues at \$37.97 billion versus a forecasted \$63.19 billion. The year-to-date 2023-24 General Fund revenues (\$74.75 billion) are well below the forecast of \$99.07 billion by \$24.33 billion (-24.6%).

As noted in the table below, when looking more specifically at the “Big Three” taxes (i.e., personal income tax, corporation tax, and sales and use tax), both personal income tax and corporation tax were significantly below projections on a year-to-date basis, and sales and use tax actual revenue narrowly outpaced forecasted revenue. October and November 2023 revenues show both corporation tax and personal income tax well below projected figures and sales and use tax actual coming in slightly above projections.

Dollars in Millions	October & November 2023				2023-24 Year-to-Date			
	Forecast	Actual	Difference	Percent Diff.	Forecast	Actual	Difference	Percent Diff.
<b>Personal Income Tax</b>	\$42,854	\$24,527	-\$18,327	-42.8%	\$65,447	\$47,093	-\$18,354	-28.0%
<b>Corporation Tax</b>	\$14,107	\$5,994	-\$8,113	-57.5%	\$17,493	\$9,919	-\$7,573	-43.3%
<b>Sales and Use Tax</b>	\$5,091	\$5,879	\$787	15.5%	\$13,262	\$13,960	\$698	5.3%
<b>Total</b>	\$62,052	\$36,400	-\$25,653	-41.3%	\$96,202	\$70,972	-\$25,229	-26.2%

Source: December 2023 *Finance Bulletin*, DOF

On the economic front, November U.S. unemployment decreased to 3.7%, a reduction of 0.2 percentage points from October’s rate of 3.9%. On the other hand, California unemployment increased slightly from September to October from 4.7% to 4.8%.

Due in large part to a reduction in gas prices, U.S. headline inflation fell to 3.1% in November. U.S. core inflation, which excludes food and energy, increased by 0.1% percentage point from October, bringing annual core inflation to 4.0% in November.

Turning to real estate, housing permits were down 1.7% from September and remain down 7.8% year over year. The median price of single-family homes declined 0.4% from September to \$840,360, while sales of existing single-family homes were up 0.3% from September.

We are following the impact of the shortfall in projected state tax revenues as well as the larger economic indicators reported in the *Finance Bulletin*. We will continue to provide updates on the impact of the U.S and state economy on available resources for education.

# FISCAL REPORT

PUBLIC EDUCATION'S POINT OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING EDUCATED DECISIONS

## CalPERS Employer Contribution Rate Estimates

By: Michelle McKay Underwood and Teddi Wentworth

December 6, 2023

The most recent California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) Schools Pool Actuarial Valuation report, as of June 30, 2022, and released this fall, estimates future employer contribution rates, as follows:

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>School Employer Contribution Rate<sup>1</sup></b>
2023-24	26.68%
2024-25	27.80%
2025-26	28.50%
2026-27	28.90%
2027-28	30.30%
2028-29	30.10%

<sup>1</sup>Actual for 2023-24 and estimated for future years

The projection assumes that all actuarial assumptions will be realized and that no further changes to assumptions, contributions, benefits, or funding will occur during the projection period. That makes this the best estimation at this time, but it is still clearly subject to change by the time the 2024-25 rate is adopted by the CalPERS Board this spring.

CalPERS employer contribution rates will be included in the next version of our School Services of California Inc. Financial Projection Dartboard to be prepared with the 2024-25 Governor's Budget proposal in January 2024. The current California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) employer contribution rate of 19.10% is expected to remain the same in fiscal year 2024-25. CalSTRS has not released outyear projections.

## Fast Food Minimum Wage Fuels Local Salary Demands

By: Danyel Conolley, Suzanne Speck, and Teddi Wentworth

December 7, 2023

As a reminder, California's minimum wage is projected to increase to \$16.00 per hour for all workers effective January 1, 2024, as triggered by inflation. Locally, increases in the minimum wage and its impact on classified labor negotiations is taking a back seat to [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1228](#) (Holden, Statutes of 2023), a law that implements a \$20.00 minimum wage for national fast food chains in California beginning April 1, 2024, which is already fueling salary demands at local classified bargaining tables. Despite the fact that AB 1228 does not apply to local educational agencies (LEAs), the difficulties in the ability to recruit, hire, and retain classified employees, particularly those serving in the lowest paid classifications, may be intensified by this change. But this is not a new problem, and the challenge of filling classified vacancies remains just as urgent as it was before the passage of AB 1228.

For more than a decade, LEAs have struggled to fill vacancies in various classified pay ranges. Undoubtedly, the causes for classified recruitment difficulties are varied and in LEAs there are certainly differences in the struggle from region to region, between rural and urban LEAs large and small, and between elementary, high school, and unified districts. The trick is discovering your “why,” recognizing what you can and cannot change or control, and implementing strategies that strategically address root causes—otherwise you are working to solve a problem that may or may not exist and that problem may or may not be the hourly rate of pay. Implementation of a strategy aimed at solving a nonexistent problem will surely fail.

But we digress. If you are experiencing bargaining pressures to increase the salary schedule in response to the passage of AB 1228, do what you can to work with your classified labor partners to identify root causes and resist a wholesale approach of across-the-board salary increases that you likely cannot afford now and will be unsustainable in the future. We are not suggesting that you not bargain in good faith to provide compensation increases that are affordable, ensure compliance with current state and local minimum wage requirements, and that maintain your effort to the bargaining unit—quite the contrary. But simply increasing salaries to address a problem that has been brewing for more than a decade is unwise.

The minimum wage rate will continue to be adjusted annually for inflation based on the national Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). Because the CPI-W increased by 6.16 % for the period from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, employees will be guaranteed the \$16.00 rate even if they work for small employers—those employers with 25 employees or less ([Labor Code Section 1182.12\(c\)\(3\)\(A-B\)](#))—and the ongoing increase in the future is caused by [Labor Code Section 1182.12\(c\)\(1\)](#).

Below is a table illustrating minimum wage on an hourly, weekly, monthly, and annual basis. Based on inflation, School Services of California Inc. staff project that the minimum wage will continue to increase by the maximum amount allowed by law through 2029.

Minimum Wage	Effective Date: > 25 Employees	Effective Date: ≤ 25 Employees	Exempt Minimum Salary (Weekly)	Exempt Minimum Salary (Monthly)	Exempt Minimum Salary (Annually)
\$15.50/hour	January 1, 2023		\$1,240	\$5,373	\$64,480
\$16.00/hour	January 1, 2024		\$1,280	\$5,547	\$66,560
\$16.50/hour	January 1, 2025		\$1,320	\$5,720	\$68,640
\$16.90/hour	January 1, 2026		\$1,352	\$5,859	\$70,304
\$17.30/hour	January 1, 2027		\$1,384	\$5,997	\$71,968
\$17.80/hour	January 1, 2028		\$1,424	\$6,171	\$74,048
\$18.30/hour	January 1, 2029		\$1,464	\$6,344	\$76,128

Remember that the minimum wage, and any local ordinances, are an obligation of the employer and cannot be waived by any agreement, including collective bargaining agreements. You are not obligated to negotiate the impacts of AB 1228 or conclude that it will exacerbate the hiring challenges of the last decade. Could it? It certainly could, but that story is yet to be told. Now is the time to invest in identifying recruitment and hiring barriers and we strongly encourage that you spend time, in collaboration with your labor partners, collecting any data or information that helps inform the actions that you need to take to successfully tackle this monumental challenge.

## Legislature Gavels in the 2024 Legislative Year

By: Kyle Hyland

January 5, 2024

On Wednesday, January 3, 2024, the California State Legislature gavelled in for the final year of the 2023-24 legislative session.

Aside from a protest that temporarily shut down the Assembly floor session on Wednesday, the two floor sessions held this week were brief and primarily organizational. When lawmakers return next week, they will begin policy committee hearings and will also have a chance to respond to Governor Gavin Newsom's 2024-25 State Budget proposal, which must be unveiled by Wednesday, January 10, 2024.

Since we are in the second year of the 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, will meet next Wednesday, January 10, 2024, to consider bills introduced last year, including the following:

- 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
- AB 801 (Patterson, R-Rocklin) would require an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application used primarily for school purposes to delete any personally identifiable information or materials related to a student at the request of a student, parent, or guardian if the child is no longer attending the school or district
- AB 960 (Mathis, R-Porterville) would require, by July 1, 2030, 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
- AB 1299 (Jackson, D-Moreno Valley) would require police officers employed by an LEA to report directly to the principal of the school while on campus and to obtain approval from the principal before accessing school grounds or engaging with students
- AB 1408 (Wallis, R-Palm Springs) would expand the authorization to allow a victim of an act of bullying to apply for an interdistrict transfer regardless of whether there is an available school and would prohibit a school district of residence from prohibiting that transfer if the school district of proposed enrollment approves the application
- Senate Bill (SB) 292 (Grove, R-Bakersfield) would establish the Education Savings Account Act of 2024 only if Senate Constitutional Amendment (SCA) 5 is approved by voters in the November 2024 election

- SB 347 (Newman) would require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to award basic teaching credentials for public preschools in the state
- SB 691 (Portantino, D-Burbank) would eliminate the requirement for the Governor to appoint a student member to the State Board of Education (SBE) and would instead require the SBE to select the three student members from among the candidates presented by the California Association of Student Councils
- 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
- SCA 5 (Grove) would place a constitutional amendment before voters to allow the state to disburse public funds to educational institutions regardless of if they are a private or religious school


All of the above bills, except for SCA 5, must make it out of their house of origin by January 31, 2024. It is important to note that companion measures SCA 5 and SB 292, which would create a school choice program in California, failed in the Senate Education Committee last year and that will likely be their fate next Wednesday as well.

The deadline for legislators to introduce bills is Friday, February 16, 2024. As we begin this new legislative year, we would like to remind you that School Services of California Inc. will continue to keep you apprised of all the important legislative news and the implications of key education legislation introduced by lawmakers in subsequent *Fiscal Report* articles and our “Top Legislative Issues” series. Stay tuned.



Fresno Unified School District  
Board Communication

**BC Number BFS-3**

From the Office of the Superintendent  
To the Members of the Board of Education  
Prepared by: Patrick Jensen, Chief Financial Officer  
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: February 02, 2024

Phone Number: 457-6226

Regarding: Budget Briefing Meetings

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with information regarding upcoming budget briefings with staff to discuss the 2024/25 Strategic Budget Development.

Beginning with the March 06, 2024, Board meeting and concluding with the June 20, 2024, Board meeting, staff would like to offer the opportunity for Trustees to meet in small groups to discuss the upcoming budget presentations. For consistency and planning, staff is recommending meetings be held prior to each Board meeting on Mondays at 12:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m., Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m., and Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. Below is the schedule:

<b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>Board Briefing Dates</b>		
	Monday, 12pm & 4pm	Tuesday, 5pm	Wednesday, 1pm
Session 1 – March 06	03/04/2024	03/05/2024	03/06/2024
Session 2 – March 20	03/18/2024	03/19/2024	03/20/2024
Session 3 – April 10	04/08/2024	04/09/2024	04/10/2024
Session 4 – April 24	04/22/2024	04/23/2024	04/24/2024
Public Hearing - June 12	06/10/2024	06/11/2024	06/12/2024

Trustees will receive an email the Friday prior to the Board meeting. Please respond to the email with your preferred date/time option. Currently, all meetings will be via Microsoft Teams.

To ensure compliance with the Brown Act, meetings will be limited to three trustees per session.


If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please call Patrick Jensen at 457-6226.

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

Date: 02/02/2024

Fresno Unified School District  
Board Communication

**BC Number BFS-4**

From the Office of the Superintendent  
To the Members of the Board of Education  
Prepared by: Patrick Jensen, Chief Financial Officer  
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: February 02, 2024

Phone Number: 457-6226

Regarding: Audit Committee Community Member Nominations

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with a copy of the Audit Committee Community Member Nomination Form.

The Audit Committee is comprised of three members of the Board and four community members, as per Board Policy 3400.1. As discussed at the December 05, 2023, Audit Committee meeting, there is one vacant community member position.

The attached Audit Committee Member Nomination Form is for your use in nominating a qualified professional community member to fill this vacancy. Please seek nominations from the community requesting they return the completed form, as well as their resume, per the instructions on the bottom of the form by February 29, 2024. The Audit Committee will meet in March and make a recommendation to the Board for approval.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please call Patrick Jensen at 457-6226.

Approved by Superintendent  
Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D. \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 02/02/2024

**Fresno Unified School District  
Audit Committee  
Community Member Nomination Form**

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*The purpose of the Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) Audit Committee is to assure that the highest level of internal controls are maintained in order to assure that the work of the district is carried out in an efficient and economical manner. (BP 3400.1)  
The Committee meets quarterly in March/June/September/December at 12pm at the Education Center, 2309 Tulare Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Cabinet Room  
Committee members serve four-year terms*

**Briefly indicate your involvement in FUSD school activities/organizations:**

---



---

**Briefly indicate your involvement in community activities/organizations:**

---



---

**Are you a vendor, contractor, consultant, employee, or official of the district?** Yes  No   
(If “yes,” please explain):

---



---

**Please indicate (yes/no) if you are:**

- Active in an organization that represents the business community within the FUSD area
- Active in a senior citizens’ organization within the FUSD area
- Active in a bona fide taxpayers’ organization within the FUSD area
- Parent/guardian of a child enrolled in FUSD
- Parent/guardian of a child enrolled in FUSD and active in a parent-teacher organization/booster club

I hereby confirm the above information: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominee Signature
Date


Please attach a resume and return completed form to:  
 Fresno Unified School District, Business and Financial Services, 2309 Tulare Avenue, Fresno, CA 93721  
 If completing electronically, please email to Patrick.Jensen@fresnounified.org

If you have any questions, please contact Patrick Jensen at (559) 457-6226

***Thank you for your interest in the Fresno Unified School District Audit Committee***

Fresno Unified School District  
Board Communication

**BC Number DEI-1**

From the Office of the Superintendent  
To the Members of the Board of Education  
Prepared by: Anita Ruiz, Student Wellness Program Manager  
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: February 02, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3471

Carlos Castillo (Feb 1, 2024 10:50 PST)

Regarding: School Site Food Access Programs

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with an update regarding the progress and next steps for promoting food security in Fresno Unified. School site programs provide families and students with an opportunity to conveniently access healthy food from a safe and familiar environment. The aim of launching food access programs is to ensure every student has the food they need to grow and thrive. The Student Wellness Program Manager will engage with Central California Food Bank (CCFB) and other community-based organizations to enhance or expand opportunities for students and families to conveniently access healthy food.

In partnership with the CCFB, the Student Wellness Program Manager is developing a process and creating guidelines for schools interested in establishing a food access program. CCFB currently supports 15 schools across the district. Farber Educational Campus and CCFB are in discussions regarding developing a partnership focusing on the Career Technical Education Logistics Program.

There are 13 additional schools that have expressed interest in a food pantry for their school. The schools have designated a school lead. As next steps, the school lead and a school administrator will be invited to attend a virtual meeting facilitated by the Student Wellness Program Manager and CCFB. Objectives of the meeting include supporting school sites in identifying a model that will meet the unique needs of their school community based on the campus layout and staffing capacity, understanding CCFB requirements, and outlining a plan of action.

Toolkits, templates, resources, and additional support will be identified and created based on school site needs to ensure a successful implementation.

The Student Wellness Program Manager applied for and was awarded a Kaiser Permanente Thriving Schools Grant and a Nourishing Neighbors Grant from Albertsons. The grants are designed to cultivate collaborative outreach efforts with community-based organizations to widely distribute food access information and provide education on CalFresh enrollment.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication or required additional information, please contact Anita Ruiz at 457-03608.


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



Date: 02/02/2024

Fresno Unified School District  
Board Communication

**BC Number DEI-2**

From the Office of the Superintendent  
To the Members of the Board of Education  
Prepared by: Julie Hoopes, Manager, Transfers Department  
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: February 02, 2024

Phone Number: 248-7487

Regarding: Student Transfers Timeline

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with information regarding the student transfers timeline and communications to families.

There were 19,600 transfer requests received in the 2022/23 school year. Transfer requests are received for the current school year and for the future year.

Future year requests are due by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Placement offers are initially communicated via email, text, and phone call. The majority of future year placements are complete by May 1<sup>st</sup>. All requests remaining on the wait list are assigned if additional space becomes available. Student Transfers staff only contact families if the student is selected for a future opening.

If a placement is not offered, a letter is mailed to families explaining the following:

- The number of requests exceeded the number of openings, and no space is available at this time.
- The request will remain in the applicant pool for the school year.
- Space may become available, and the request will be considered for any future openings.

The Student Transfers Office receives current school year requests throughout the school year. If there is no space available when the request is received, the same letter is mailed.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication or require additional information, please contact Julie Hoopes in the Transfers Department at 248-7487.

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



Date: 02/02/2024

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: Wendy McCulley, Chief  
Cabinet Approval: *Wendy McCulley*

Date: February 02, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3885

Regarding: Donor's Digest Newsletter

The purpose of this board communication is to inform the Board about the most recent donor newsletter distributed by the Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools.

The Partnership Pulse: Donor's Digest eNews for Fall 2023 went to our almost 600 Foundation donors and supporters on December 18, 2023. The newsletter details the actions, achievements, events, and accomplishments of the Foundation. It is meant to serve as an update to those who have donated, signed up for the newsletter, or who have in any way supported the Foundation since its establishment.

The most recent installment highlighted the Foundation's three pillars of Learn, Innovate, and Amplify, the 2023 State of Education Gala, and Giving Tuesday. Also featured were our Adopt-A-School program, our Foundation Student Voices initiative, and our aim to increase the number of students who receive a Fresno Unified School District Scholarship.

Highlighted upcoming events and initiatives included:

- "Spill the Tea" Event – March 07, 2024
- Suit Drive Collection – March 18 – 22, 2024
- Suit Drive Free Student Shopping Event – April 09, 2024
- Our wide variety of giving campaigns scheduled throughout the second semester

If you would like to receive the newsletter, please reach out to Foundation staff, or subscribe at [www.foundation4fusd.org](http://www.foundation4fusd.org).

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Wendy McCulley at 457-3885.

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

*Robert G. Nelson*

Date: 02/02/2024

The Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools eNews

[View this email in your browser](#)



## Welcome to the Partnership Pulse!

Dear Foundation Supporters,

It's with immense gratitude and excitement that I extend a warm welcome to our valued community. I'm Wendy McCulley, Chief Engagement and External Partnerships Officer and Executive Director of the Foundation, and I am thrilled to connect with you through this special biannual update!

Over the past year, with the support of Superintendent Nelson, Deputy Superintendent Her, the Foundation Board of Directors, and the Fresno Unified Board of Trustees, we've been working to build a Foundation that is truly second-to-none and "best in class." I want to express my deep appreciation to our district leaders and Board of Trustees for their vision and commitment.

Our Foundation, with the steadfast support of our Board of Directors, has achieved remarkable milestones. From tripling scholarship awards to supporting innovative initiatives like the Adopt-A-School program, we've made significant strides. It's all thanks to your generosity and unwavering support.

The Foundation's success empowers us to break ceilings and impact students in new and innovative ways. Stay tuned for exciting announcements this Spring that promise to shape the future of education in Fresno Unified.

As we celebrate our achievements, we're gearing up for bigger plans ahead. With your continued support, we're not just raising funds; we're raising aspirations, ensuring that every student in Fresno Unified can reach greater heights.

Thank you for entrusting us with the opportunity to empower our students. Enjoy this biannual update, and stay tuned for the exciting journey ahead!

Warm regards,



Wendy McCulley



Donate Now!

*Help us finish the end of the year strong! Click the button above to donate again before the year ends. Your support makes a lasting impact.*



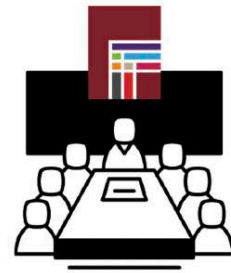
Check out last year's scholarship recipients in Issue #3 of the FUSD Faces Magazine (above).

---

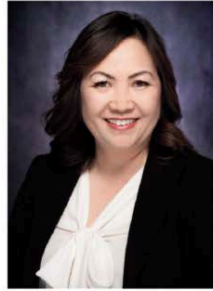
## Meet the Board



# Governance & Fundraising



**DR. BOB NELSON**  
CHAIRPERSON



**MISTY HER**  
VICE CHAIRPERSON



**WENDY MCCULLEY**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**TONY AVILA**  
SECRETARY



**BETH DOOLEY**  
TREASURER



**PAO YANG**  
MEMBER



**ALLYSUNN WALKER**  
MEMBER

Learn more about the Board in Issue #4 of the FUSD Faces Magazine (right).



## Learn.

We foster diverse literacies and bolster district initiatives by offering academic support, apprenticeship

## Innovate.

We push the boundaries of K-12 education with groundbreaking technological and mental health innovations,

## Amplify.

We empower students through mentorship, partnerships, and scholarships, magnifying their potential and

programs, and opportunities for mini-grants, ensuring students have the tools to thrive.



The flagship LEARN program, Adopt-A-School, is already creating ripples of positive change throughout our community. With over \$120,000 in much-needed materials from ODP benefiting two schools, this initiative is a testament to the power of collective support. From enhancing learning environments to providing crucial resources, Adopt-A-School stands as a shining example of the positive impact we can achieve together. Click the button below to add “Wish List” items to the Adopt-A-School initiative or inquire what schools have needs!



providing students with resources that go beyond conventional standards.



We are excited to embark on a new chapter with our Foundation Student Voices initiative! This program, designed to illuminate the experiences of students, is set to delve into crucial aspects of student life—mental health and technology needs—directly from the perspectives of the young minds we serve.

- Nurturing Mental Health Awareness
- Bridging the Digital Divide
- Meet Our Student Voices

Follow the unique perspectives of students like Joseph and others on our social media platforms. Joseph, our dedicated student intern, scholarship recipient in 2023, and former student trustee, brings a wealth of insights and commitment to the cause.

opening doors to brighter futures.



Exciting news is on the horizon as we successfully tripled scholarships in Fresno Unified School District! Our mission to ensure that every student can pursue post-secondary education without barriers is gaining momentum.

This year, we're thrilled to introduce three prestigious [Amazon](#) scholarships, each valued at \$10,000! These scholarships open new avenues for students with diverse interests:

1. STEM Pursuits
2. General Interest
3. Trade School Focus

The scholarship application portal is set to open in January, providing detailed information about eligibility, application

criteria, and the exciting journey ahead.

---

## Gala Success

The 2023 State of Education Gala held at Madera Manor on October 12 was a dazzling triumph! The stage was set with student performances throughout the venue. The evening sparkled with the original song "Higher," performed by Superintendent Dr. Bob Nelson and friends, Phong and Iris. The introduction of the Wine Wall and Regional Rivalry added a spirited touch, collectively raising almost \$7,500 during the event.

The gala, a celebration of our community's commitment to education, achieved remarkable results, raising nearly \$300,000. This astounding support will directly impact FUSD students, furthering our mission to provide transformative educational opportunities. A heartfelt thanks to all who attended and contributed, turning this night into a powerful catalyst for a brighter educational future!

[Want the inside scoop on upcoming sponsorship opportunities or guest list invites? Let us know by completing a quick survey!](#)



*Click on either photo to see the district Flickr album for the event!*

---

## Giving Tuesday



### *Regional Rivalry: Encore!*

*Scan the code and donate now through the 22nd and we'll mail your coupon out ASAP. Give \$30 or more and get a coupon for up to \$15 off breakfast at YFC! Look for the banner (below) and click the "clicking here" hyperlink.*



This campaign ended on November 29, 2023, but you can still make a gift to Fresno Unified School District Foundation by clicking here!

Our Giving Tuesday event on November 28 unfolded as a spectacular showcase of generosity and community spirit! Donors came together, contributing to our cause with a shared vision of empowering Fresno Unified School District students.

The impressive results speak volumes: \$13,106 raised from 121 donors! This collective effort, fueled by the commitment of our community, surpassed last year's achievements. Notably, 27% of our donors were returnees, underscoring the enduring support we receive.

A special nod goes to our regional winner, Edison, and the various incentive awardees. Our gratitude extends to Yosemite Falls Cafe and Fresno Grizzlies for their invaluable sponsorship.

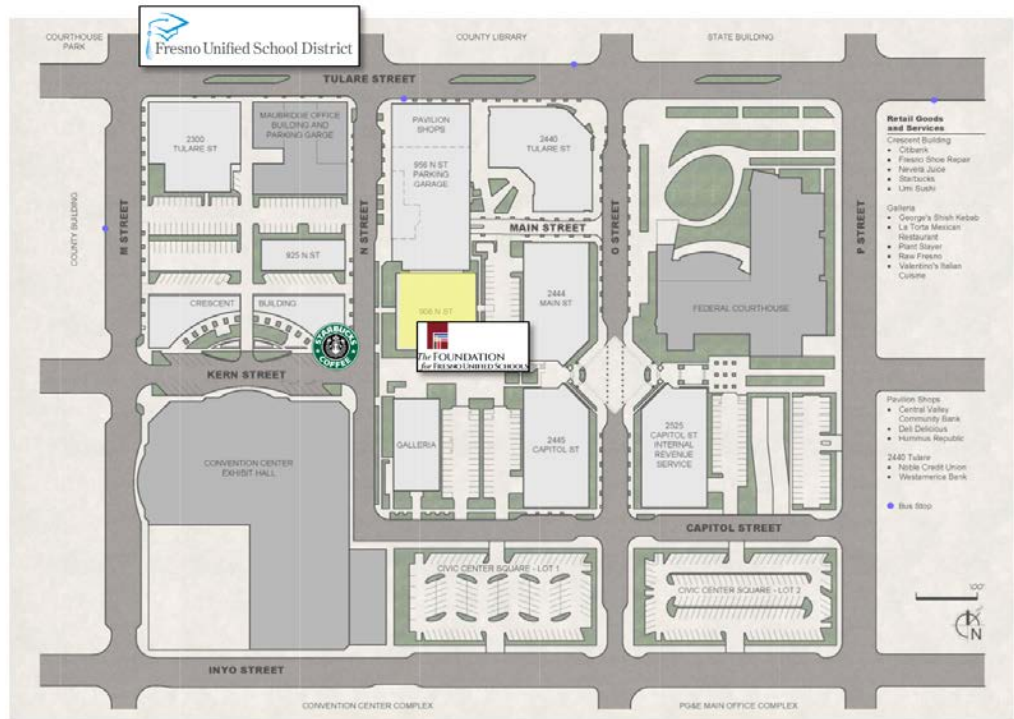
Your generosity on Giving Tuesday is more than a donation; it's a commitment to the educational journey of FUSD students. Together, we're making a lasting impact, one donation at a time!

## Come Visit!

We're excited to announce our move to a new office located at [906 N Street, Suite 115,](#)



Fresno, CA  
 93721, just across  
 from Starbucks.  
 This new space  
 marks the  
 beginning of a  
 vibrant chapter as  
 we continue our  
 mission to  
 empower and  
 support students  
 in Fresno Unified  
 School District.



After the New Year holiday, you can drop off donations at the  
 Foundation's Office, Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

## Mark Your Calendars

### Suit Drive

(March 18-22, 2024)



Prepare to make a difference in our  
 Annual Suit Drive! Last year, your  
 incredible support led to over 2,000

### "Spill the Tea"

(March 7, 2024)



High tea in Fresno on March 7, 2024,  
 in honor and recognition of  
 International Women's Month! Join

collected items – suits, dresses, pants, blouses, ties, and shoes. This year, with your help, we aim to surpass that milestone. Your donations go beyond clothing racks, shaping the futures of junior and senior students as they prepare for interviews, internships, education, and employment. Your generosity empowers them to radiate confidence, leaving a lasting impression in crucial high school years. Be part of this transformative journey, turning clothing into symbols of pride and self-assurance.

Join us in filling not only collection racks but also the hearts of students who will wear these outfits with pride, purpose, and newfound confidence. Save the dates and gear up for impactful change!

We're looking for sponsors! Interested in sponsoring? We've got a package that might interest you! [Reach out here](#) or check out the Suit Drive Sponsorship Packet below!

Suit Drive: March 18-22, 2024  
Free Student Shopping Event:  
April 9, 2024

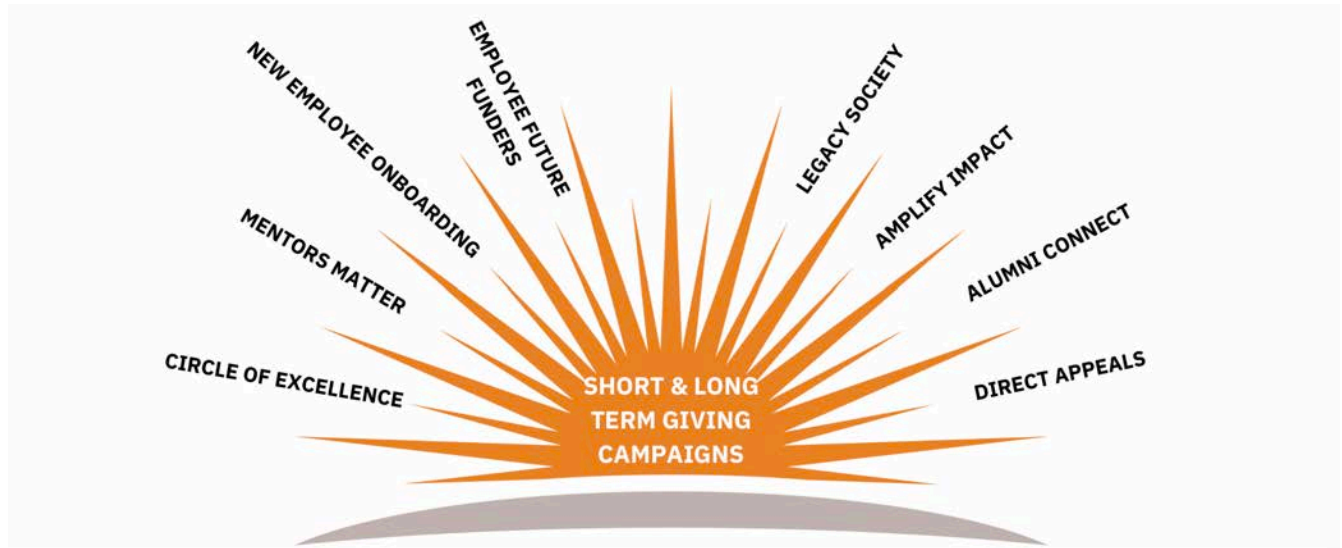
[Suit Drive Sponsorship Packet](#)

---

participants from across the valley to engage with a panel of students and women in leadership from a wide variety of business sectors, including education, agriculture, restaurants, and more! Have the opportunity to hear about what is on the horizon for The Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools and learn how you can become a founding member of the Women's Affinity Group and Circle of Excellence! We're looking for sponsors! Interested in sponsoring? We've got a package that might interest you! [Reach out here!](#)

Tickets scheduled for sale January 8, 2024! Save the date!

# Giving Just Gets Better!



As we step into the future, brimming with excitement and commitment to education, we can't help but share a glimpse of the inspiring giving campaigns we envision becoming cornerstones of philanthropy. These aspirational initiatives are designed to cater to diverse interests, ensuring there's a meaningful way for everyone to contribute to the transformation of education in Fresno Unified.

Join the [Circle of Excellence](#) with annual contributions of \$1,000 or more, support educators through [Mentors Matter](#), welcome new employees into giving from day one, foster monthly giving with [Employee Future Funders](#), leave a lasting legacy with Legacy Society, empower first-time philanthropists with Amplify Impact, engage alumni through the Alumni Connection Odyssey, and make a difference with Direct Appeals.

Your support is vital; stay tuned for the official launch of our Foundation Giving Guide for details on each campaign.



Have you followed us yet? Like and subscribe!



**PARTNERSHIP**  
*Pulse*: Donor Digest

Copyright (C) 2023 The Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?


You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)





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: February 02, 2024  
Phone Number: 457-3554

Regarding: Academic Calendar 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 Update

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information from the 2024/25 and 2025/26 Academic Calendar feedback from key district constituencies and online survey.

Two drafts that represent the academic calendars for 2024/25 and 2025/26 were shared with key district educational partners across Fresno Unified. An online survey was also provided to garner feedback from staff, families, and community with survey links shared via *District Update*, *Employee Zone*, and the district website. Over 3100 district, parents/caregivers, students, and community members responded to the survey. Calendar drafts, attached.

The first draft, Calendar A, begins the third full week of August while Calendar B begins the second full week of August. **Overall, partners and respondents to the survey recommended Calendar A.**

**Organization**

Student Advisory Board  
Parent University  
Fresno Teachers Association-Building and Trades Professional  
International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers  
Service Employees International Union  
Fresno Teachers Association  
Fresno Area Substitute Teachers Association  
California School Employees Association Chapters 125 and 143  
Community Advisory Committee  
District English Learners Advisory Committee  
Academic Calendar Online Survey (district website)

**Educational Partner Feedback**

Split decision between A and B  
Preferred Calendar A  
Preferred Calendar A  
Preferred Calendar A  
Requested moving Buyback Day  
Preferred Calendar A  
Preferred Calendar A  
Preferred Calendar A  
Preferred Calendar A  
Preferred Calendar A (51%)

Once adopted, a printable PDF calendar and an accessible version will be posted to our district website.

The proposed Academic Calendars will be submitted as a Discuss and Adopt item at the February 07, 2024, Board meeting.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Ryan Coe at 457-3913.

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



Date: 02/02/2024

# DRAFT CALENDAR A

## TEACHER INSTITUTE DAYS

August 15 & 16

## DISTRICT BUYBACK DAYS

August 14, 2024

October 18, 2024

March 14, 2025

## INSTITUTE & BUYBACK DAYS ARE NON-STUDENT DAYS

## VACATION & HOLIDAYS

Independence Day: July 4

Labor Day: Sept. 2

Veterans' Day: Nov. 11

Thanksgiving: Nov. 25-29

Winter Break: Dec. 23-Jan.10

M.L. King, Jr. Day: Jan. 20

Lincoln's Birthday: Feb. 10

Presidents' Day: Feb. 17

Spring Break: Apr. 14-21

Memorial Day: May 26

Juneteenth: June 19

Independence Day: July 4, 2025

## HOLIDAYS FOR CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

2024: July 4, Sept. 2, Nov.11, Nov. 28 & 29, Dec. 24 & 25.

2025: Jan. 1, Jan 20, Feb. 10, Feb. 17, April 18, May 26, June 19, July 4

## Board of Education Meetings

are held at the

FUSD Education Center  
2309 Tulare Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Public Schools Month \_\_\_\_\_ April 2025  
CA Day of the Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ May 14, 2025  
Classified Employee Week \_\_\_\_\_ May 18-24, 2025

# FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ACADEMIC CALENDAR SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

BLACK FIGURES DENOTE DAYS SCHOOL WILL BE IN SESSION  
RED FIGURES DENOTE NON-STUDENT DAYS WHEN SCHOOL WILL NOT BE IN SESSION



HOLIDAY



INSTITUTE DAY



NOT IN SESSION



BUYBACK DAY

JULY 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12
	14	15	16	17	18	19
	21	22	23	24	25	26
	28	29	30	31		
						0

AUGUST 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						10

DECEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
						15

APRIL 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
						16

SEPTEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
						20

JANUARY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
						14

MAY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						21

OCTOBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						22

FEBRUARY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	
						18

JUNE 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
						9

NOVEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
						15

MARCH 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
						20

JULY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						0

Visit us on the web  
[www.fresnounified.org](http://www.fresnounified.org)

**SCHOOL BEGINS**  
August 19, 2024  
**SCHOOL ENDS**  
June 12, 2025

## Elementary & Secondary Reporting Periods

Oct. 11.....Period 1 ends (39 days)  
Dec.20.....Period 2 ends (43 days)  
Mar. 21.....Period 3 ends (46 days)  
Jun. 12.....Period 4 ends (52 days)

## REPORT TO PARENTS

Sept.16-20.....1<sup>st</sup> Progress Notice  
Oct. 15-18.....1<sup>st</sup> Report Card  
(Elementary Parent Conferences)  
Nov. 12-15.....2<sup>nd</sup> Progress Notice  
Jan. 13-17.....2<sup>nd</sup> Report Card  
Feb. 18-21.....3<sup>rd</sup> Progress Notice  
Mar. 24-28.....3<sup>rd</sup> Report Card  
May 5-9.....4<sup>th</sup> Progress Notice  
June 12.....4<sup>th</sup> Report Card

## END OF SEMESTER DATES ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY

Dec. 20 (82 days)  
June 12 (98 days)

## STANDARDIZED TESTING WINDOW

State Testing  
April 1 - June 12

Traditional School Year - 180 teaching days and 5 non-student days

# DRAFT CALENDAR B

## TEACHER INSTITUTE DAYS

August 8 & 9

## DISTRICT BUYBACK DAYS

August 7, 2024

October 7, 2024

March 3, 2025

## INSTITUTE & BUYBACK DAYS ARE NON-STUDENT DAYS

## VACATION & HOLIDAYS

Independence Day: July 4

Labor Day: Sept. 2

Veterans' Day: Nov. 11

Thanksgiving: Nov. 25-29

Winter Break: Dec. 16-Jan. 3

M.L. King, Jr. Day: Jan. 20

Lincoln's Birthday: Feb. 10

Presidents' Day: Feb. 17

Spring Break: Apr. 14-21

Memorial Day: May 26

Juneteenth: June 19

Independence Day: July 4, 2025

## HOLIDAYS FOR CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

2024: July 4, Sept. 2, Nov. 11, Nov. 28 & 29, Dec. 24 & 25.

2025: Jan. 1, Jan 20, Feb. 10, Feb. 17, April 18, May 26, June 19, July 4

## Board of Education Meetings

are held at the

FUSD Education Center  
2309 Tulare Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Public Schools Month \_\_\_\_\_ April 2025  
CA Day of the Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ May 14, 2025  
Classified Employee Week \_\_\_\_\_ May 18-24, 2025

# FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ACADEMIC CALENDAR SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

BLACK FIGURES DENOTE DAYS SCHOOL WILL BE IN SESSION  
RED FIGURES DENOTE NON-STUDENT DAYS WHEN SCHOOL WILL NOT BE IN SESSION



HOLIDAY



INSTITUTE DAY



NOT IN SESSION



BUYBACK DAY

JULY 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			0

AUGUST 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						15

DECEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
						10

APRIL 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						16

SEPTEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
						20

JANUARY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
						19

MAY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						21

OCTOBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
						22

FEBRUARY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	
						18

JUNE 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
						4

NOVEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
						15

MARCH 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
						20

JULY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						0

Visit us on the web  
[www.fresnounified.org](http://www.fresnounified.org)

**SCHOOL BEGINS**  
August 12, 2024  
**SCHOOL ENDS**  
June 5, 2025

## Elementary & Secondary Reporting Periods

Oct. 4.....Period 1 ends (39 days)  
Dec. 13.....Period 2 ends (43 days)  
Mar. 14.....Period 3 ends (46 days)  
Jun. 5.....Period 4 ends (52 days)

## REPORT TO PARENTS

Sept. 9-13.....1<sup>st</sup> Progress Notice  
Oct. 8-11.....1<sup>st</sup> Report Card  
(Elementary Parent Conferences)  
Nov. 5-8.....2<sup>nd</sup> Progress Notice  
Jan. 6-10.....2<sup>nd</sup> Report Card  
Feb. 11-14.....3<sup>rd</sup> Progress Notice  
Mar. 17-21.....3<sup>rd</sup> Report Card  
Apr. 28-May 2.....4<sup>th</sup> Progress Notice  
June 5.....4<sup>th</sup> Report Card

## END OF SEMESTER DATES ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY

Dec. 11 (82 days)  
June 5 (98 days)

## STANDARDIZED TESTING WINDOW

State Testing  
April 1 - June 5

Traditional School Year - 180 teaching days and 5 non-student days

# DRAFT CALENDAR A

## TEACHER INSTITUTE DAYS

August 14 & 15

## DISTRICT BUYBACK DAYS

August 13, 2025

October 17, 2025

March 13, 2026

## INSTITUTE & BUYBACK DAYS ARE NON-STUDENT DAYS

## VACATION & HOLIDAYS

Independence Day: July 4

Labor Day: Sept. 1

Veterans' Day: Nov. 11

Thanksgiving: Nov. 24-28

Winter Break: Dec. 22-Jan. 9

M.L. King, Jr. Day: Jan. 19

Lincoln's Birthday: Feb. 9

Presidents' Day: Feb. 16

Spring Break: Mar 30-Apr. 6

Memorial Day: May 25

Juneteenth: June 19

Independence Day: July 4, 2026

(Observed July 3, 2026)

## HOLIDAYS FOR CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

2025: July 4, Sept. 1, Nov. 11, Nov. 27 & 28, Dec. 25 & 26.

2026: Jan. 1, Jan 19, Feb. 9, Feb. 16, April 3, May 25, June 19, July 3

## Board of Education Meetings

are held at the

FUSD Education Center  
2309 Tulare Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Public Schools Month April 2026  
CA Day of the Teacher May 13, 2026  
Classified Employee Week May 17-23, 2026

# FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ACADEMIC CALENDAR SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

BLACK FIGURES DENOTE DAYS SCHOOL WILL BE IN SESSION  
RED FIGURES DENOTE NON-STUDENT DAYS WHEN SCHOOL WILL NOT BE IN SESSION

HOLIDAY INSTITUTE DAY NOT IN SESSION BUYBACK DAY

JULY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
						0

AUGUST 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
						10

DECEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
						15

APRIL 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
						18

SEPTEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
						21

JANUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	FJ	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						14

MAY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
						20

OCTOBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						22

FEBRUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
						18

JUNE 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
						9

NOVEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						
						14

MARCH 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
						19

JULY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
						0

Visit us on the web  
[www.fresnounified.org](http://www.fresnounified.org)

**SCHOOL BEGINS**  
August 18, 2025  
**SCHOOL ENDS**  
June 11, 2026

## Elementary & Secondary Reporting Periods

Oct. 10 ..... Period 1 ends (39 days)  
Dec. 19 ..... Period 2 ends (43 days)  
Mar. 20 ..... Period 3 ends (46 days)  
Jun. 11 ..... Period 4 ends (52 days)

## REPORT TO PARENTS

Sept 15-19 ..... 1<sup>st</sup> Progress Notice  
Oct. 14-17 ..... 1<sup>st</sup> Report Card  
(Elementary Parent Conferences)  
Nov 10-14 ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Progress Notice  
Jan. 12-16 ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Report Card  
Feb. 17-20 ..... 3<sup>rd</sup> Progress Notice  
Mar. 23-27 ..... 3<sup>rd</sup> Report Card  
May 4-8 ..... 4<sup>th</sup> Progress Notice  
June 11 ..... 4<sup>th</sup> Report Card

## END OF SEMESTER DATES ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY

Dec. 19 (82 days)  
June 11 (98 days)

## STANDARDIZED TESTING WINDOW

State Testing  
April 7 - June 11

Traditional School Year - 180 teaching days and 5 non-student days

# DRAFT CALENDAR B

## TEACHER INSTITUTE DAYS

August 7 & 8

## DISTRICT BUYBACK DAYS

August 6, 2025

October 6, 2025

March 2, 2026

## INSTITUTE & BUYBACK DAYS ARE NON-STUDENT DAYS

## VACATION & HOLIDAYS

Independence Day: July 4

Labor Day: Sept. 1

Veterans' Day: Nov. 11

Thanksgiving: Nov. 24-28

Winter Break: Dec. 15-Jan. 2

M.L. King, Jr. Day: Jan. 19

Lincoln's Birthday: Feb. 9

Presidents' Day: Feb. 16

Spring Break: Mar 30-Apr. 6

Memorial Day: May 25

Juneteenth: June 19

Independence Day: July 4, 2026

(Observed July 3, 2026)

## HOLIDAYS FOR CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

2024: July 4, Sept. 1, Nov. 11, Nov. 27 & 28, Dec. 25 & 26.

2025: Jan. 1, Jan 19, Feb. 9, Feb. 16, April 3, May 25, June 19, July 3

## Board of Education Meetings

are held at the

FUSD Education Center  
2309 Tulare Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Public Schools Month — April 2026  
CA Day of the Teacher — May 13, 2026  
Classified Employee Week — May 17-23, 2026

# FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ACADEMIC CALENDAR SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

Visit us on the web  
[www.fresnounified.org](http://www.fresnounified.org)

**SCHOOL BEGINS**  
August 11, 2025  
**SCHOOL ENDS**  
June 4, 2026

## Elementary & Secondary Reporting Periods

Oct. 3.....Period 1 ends (39 days)  
Dec. 19.....Period 2 ends (43 days)  
Mar. 13.....Period 3 ends (46 days)  
Jun. 4.....Period 4 ends (52 days)

## REPORT TO PARENTS

Sept 8-12.....1<sup>st</sup> Progress Notice  
Oct. 7-10.....1<sup>st</sup> Report Card  
(Elementary Parent Conferences)  
Nov 3-7.....2<sup>nd</sup> Progress Notice  
Jan. 5-9.....2<sup>nd</sup> Report Card  
Feb. 6-13.....3<sup>rd</sup> Progress Notice  
Mar. 16-20.....3<sup>rd</sup> Report Card  
Apr. 27-May.....4<sup>th</sup> Progress Notice  
June 4.....4<sup>th</sup> Report Card





## END OF SEMESTER DATES ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY

Dec. 12 (82 days)  
June 4 (98 days)

## STANDARDIZED TESTING WINDOW

State Testing  
April 7 - June 4

BLACK FIGURES DENOTE DAYS SCHOOL WILL BE IN SESSION  
RED FIGURES DENOTE NON-STUDENT DAYS WHEN SCHOOL WILL NOT BE IN SESSION

 HOLIDAY  INSTITUTE DAY  NOT IN SESSION  BUYBACK DAY

JULY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
						0

AUGUST 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						15

DECEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
						10

APRIL 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
						18

SEPTEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
						21

JANUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						19

MAY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
						20

OCTOBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
						22

FEBRUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
						18

JUNE 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
						4

NOVEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						
						14


MARCH 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
						19

JULY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
						0

Traditional School Year - 180 teaching days and 5 non-student days

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: Jeremy Ward, Assistant Superintendent  
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: February 02, 2024

Phone Number: 248-7534

Regarding: National School Counseling Week February 05 – 09, 2024

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with information regarding School Counselor Recognition Week. National School Counseling Week 2024, "School Counseling: Standards-Based, Student-Focused," sponsored by the American School Counselor Association will be celebrated from February 05 to 09, 2024. National School Counseling Week serves as an opportunity to recognize the hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment of our school counselors in supporting the academic, social-emotional, and career development of our students. This week serves as an opportunity to show gratitude and appreciation for their efforts in helping students create post-secondary plans and for creating a safe and nurturing environment for students to thrive.

This special week honoring school counselors provides recognition for over 130 school counselors who implement comprehensive school counseling programs for students in grades sixth through twelve across Fresno Unified School District.

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

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




Date: 02/02/2024



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

Date: February 02, 2024  
Phone Number: 457-3554

Regarding: McLane Region Expulsion Process Meeting

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board with information regarding the expulsion information meeting held on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at Scandinavian Middle School.

The meeting was attended by district departments (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Prevention and Intervention, Analysis Measurement and Assessment, and School Leadership) and Trustee Veva Islas. The presentation focused on suspension and expulsion data trends, the current expulsion process and site challenges in supporting a range of student behavioral needs. Staff shared trend data on student discipline by suspension rate specific to race and ethnicity, and student group. Data for mandatory and non-mandatory expulsion referrals was presented with expulsion rate by grade and student group (i.e., Special Education Department, Homeless Youth, Foster Youth) for the last five years.

Scandinavian Principal, Julie Ellis, shared site suspension and expulsion data paired with support and interventions that students receive through the site's multi-tiered system of support. Interventions and structures in place at Scandinavian include Re-Engagement Center as an alternative to suspension, Discipline Guidelines, Restorative Practices, academic, social emotional and behavioral supports, and instructional walk-through tools.

Discussion topics during the presentation with feedback from Trustee Veva Islas include:

- Student group data for mandatory and non-mandatory expulsions.
- Considerations for adding current principals to the expulsion panel.
- Considerations for district level interventions that mirror Youth Court structure prior to expulsion process as a proactive strategy.
- Transition support for students leaving elementary to middle school including Summer Bridge opportunities, Transition Counselor outreach plan, conflict-resolution training for students, and the consideration for a sixth to eighth grade pilot.
- Use of more restorative processes to address behavior to avoid expulsions, when possible.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication or require additional information, please contact Sandra Toscano, Ed.D. at 457-3806.

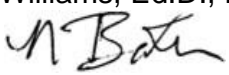
Approved by Superintendent  
Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.



Date: 02/02/2024

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

Date: February 02, 2024  
Phone Number: 457-3554

Regarding: Roosevelt Region Expulsion Process Meeting

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board with information regarding the Roosevelt Region trustee expulsion information meeting held on Friday, January 19, 2024.

Staff from the Chief Academic Office, Prevention, and Intervention (DPI); Analysis, Measurement and Assessment; Special Education; School Leadership; Tehipite Middle School; and Trustee Elizabeth Jonasson Rosas discussed the district's expulsion process, reviewed disaggregated suspension and expulsion trend data, reviewed Tehipite Middle School discipline data and site actions, and shared input to inform next steps in reducing rates of exclusionary school discipline.

District trend data showed increased middle school suspension rates and disproportionate rates for student groups. Site data surfaced conversations around providing alternatives to being sent home for suspension; status of site training and utilization of the Discipline Guidelines; connections between academic and behavioral supports for students; current processes for identifying and supporting struggling students; and common assurances offered to students as they move around the district.

Tehipite Middle School actions to reduce exclusionary school discipline are grounded in the use of multiple sources of data to inform decision making. The Culturally Responsive Student Support Triage Center along with an in-depth review of the district's five-year Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) implementation timeline has brought about positive student behavior trends. Feedback provided by the Tehipite staff was that they would benefit from, 1) a common understanding of our district's MTSS structure, 2) an aligned implementation of Tier II and III supports across our district, and a re-design of the Educational Resource Center process to fill the gap for Tier III supports.

In regard to next steps, the district is implementing a number of actions. A student identification tool Student Performance Indicator (SPI) has been created by DPI and includes student demographic information (i.e., grade level, ethnicity, English learner, special education, foster youth, and homeless), and a holistic view of student needs (Ex., academics, behavior, and attendance). The tool is updated daily and supports prioritizing student needs. The SPI will be piloted in the fall with selected school sites. Additionally, 32 school sites (Addams, Anthony, Ayer, Balderas, Baird, Bullard Talent, Birney, Cooper, Computech, Eaton, Fort Miller, Gaston, Hamilton, Heaton, Hoover, Lawless, Manchester, Kings Canyon, Muir, Olmos, Pyle, Roeding, Sequoia, Tehipite, Terronez, Tenaya, Tioga, Wawona, Williams, Wishon, Wolters, Yosemite) are currently trained and utilizing the Discipline Guidelines, and the district will onboard 20 new sites annually. Onboarding includes professional learning for site leaders, side-by-side implementation support, and job-embedded coaching. Finally, Roosevelt High School will host a regional family engagement night on Monday, March 18, 2024.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication or require additional information, please contact Kali' Isom-Moore at 457-3689.

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



Date: 02/02/2024



Fresno Unified School District  
Board Communication

**BC Number OS-1**

From the Office of the Superintendent  
To the Members of the Board of Education  
Prepared by: Alex Belanger and Heidi Heltne  
Cabinet Approval:

Date: February 02, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3134

Regarding: Fresno Unified School District's Total Portable Buildings and Age of Portable Buildings

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information regarding Fresno Unified School District's total portables and age of portable buildings, in order to provide a recommendation for replacement of portables beyond their service life span.

The district's total number of portable buildings across all sites is 1,188; 1,004 (*attached*) of which exceed 20 years of age serving as classrooms, and to a lesser extent offices, restrooms, libraries, or multi-purpose rooms. Over the years, portables have been added to school sites to increase classroom capacity for several reasons including growing student enrollment, class-size reduction, full day kindergarten, transitional kindergarten establishment and expansion, increased special education identification, the conclusion of combination classes, program expansion of dual immersion, and increased student supports related to tutoring/intervention and social/emotional needs.

While portable additions add capacity to a school site, they do not increase the core site facility capacity relating to multi-purpose rooms, restrooms, or parking lots.

The age at which a portable building becomes eligible for modernization is 20 years old. Currently the district has 350 portables which are 20-30 years old.

The life span of adequate service for a portable building is 30 years. Currently the district has 654 portables 30 years old or older. There are 583 portable buildings aged 30-40, 13 portables aged 40-50, 27 portables aged 50-60, and 31 portables are 60 years old or beyond.

As 55% of the district's current portable inventory is 30 years old or older, this particular need for building replacement would factor into the current and ongoing potential bond project work. It would also be included in the planned collaborative work with the Fresno Teacher's Association to plan for facility investments as per the recently ratified Collective Bargaining Agreement.

In conclusion, Fresno Unified School District has a high number of portables beyond their service life span and would recommend the replacement of approximately 650 portable buildings throughout the district.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Alex Belanger 457-6126 or Paul Iidsvoog at 457-3134.

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



Date: 02/02/2024

# SCHOOLS WITH PORTABLES 20 YEARS OLD OR OLDER

*SORTED BY MOST PORTABLES*

SCHOOL SITE	PORTABLE AGE RANGE IN YEARS					TOTAL
	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60+	
McLane	3	27				30
Ewing	15	10	1			26
Cambridge	25					25
Ericson	1	21		1		23
Del Mar	1	16		1	4	22
Storey	6	16				22
Edison	1	21				22
Norseman	6	16				22
Bullard Talent	8	13				21
Leavenworth	9	12				21
Homan	5	16				21
Burroughs	7	9		3	1	20
Heaton	5	13		2		20
Hidalgo	5	15				20
Pyle	7	12				19
Roeding	6	13				19
Wawona	2	13		3		18
Balderas	6	10	1			17
Wishon	2	15				17
Thomas	5	12				17
King	10	7				17
Vinland	7	6			2	15
Fremont	5	9	1			15
Birney	7	7			1	15
Lowell	11	1		3		15
Manchester	4	4		2	4	14
Greenberg	14					14
Scandinavian		11		1	2	14
Duncan		14				14
Ayer	8	6				14
Muir	8	6				14
Lane	5	4		2	3	14
Anthony	2	10			1	13
Figarden		12				12
Wolters	1	6			5	12
Calwa	2	7		2		11
Hamilton	1	2	7		1	11
Webster	8	2		1		11
Cooper	7	4				11


SCHOOL SITE	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60+	TOTAL
Patiño	11					11
Kratt	5	5				10
Lawless		9				9
Mayfair	4	4		1		9
Wilson	4	4	1			9
Malloch	5	4				9
Turner	3	6				9
Viking	2	7				9
Holland	2	7				9
Kirk	3	4		2		9
Addams	1	8				9
Winchell	6	3				9
Roosevelt	1	8				9
Centennial	9					9
Powers		7			2	9
Gibson	3	5				8
Bakman	2	6				8
Terronez	5	3				8
Jackson		8				8
Slater	4	4				8
McCardle	1	6				7
Vang Pao	7					7
Rowell	2	5				7
Kings Canyon		7				7
Starr		4			3	7
Easterby	1	6				7
Columbia	1	6				7
Tenaya		6		1		7
Tehipite	1	6				7
Fort Miller		4			2	6
Lincoln	4	1				5
A.T.P.	4	1				5
Jefferson	5					5
Eaton	1	2		2		5
Phoenix Academy	1	4				5
Robinson	1	4				5
Aynesworth	4					4
Yosemite	3	1				4
Sunset		2	2			4
Gaston	4					4
Tioga		4				4
Chavez Adult School	4					4
Addicott	3					3
Tatarian	2	1				3

SCHOOL SITE	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60+	TOTAL
Powers-Ginsburg		3				3
J.E. Young		2				2
Yokomi	2					2
Olmos	2					2
Baird		2				2
Williams		2				2
Computech	1	1				2
Sequoia	1					1
Pyle		1				1
Hoover		1				1
Edison		1				1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1,004</b>

LIST INCLUDES ALL PORTABLE TYPES - CLASSROOM, OFFICE, LIBRARY, MPR, RESTROOM, ETC.

Fresno Unified School District  
Board Communication

**BC Number OS-2**

From the Office of the Superintendent  
To the Members of the Board of Education  
Prepared by: Paul Idsvoog, Chief Operations Officer  
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: February 02, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3134

Regarding: Nutrition Services State Senate Certificate of Recognition

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with an update on the Certificate of Recognition from State Senator Shannon Grove, 12<sup>th</sup> District, that Nutrition Services received. Senator Grove recently sent a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the California State Senate to recognize Fresno Unified School District for receiving the Modeling School Food Systems Change Award.

On October 24, 2023, Amanda Harvey, Nutrition Services Director, received the Modeling School Food Systems Change award from the Center for Ecoliteracy during the California Farm to School Conference. The award recognized Ms. Harvey as a solutions-oriented leader, improving school meals and modeling systems change at Fresno Unified School District. Inspired by student and family feedback, Ms. Harvey has increased the focus on locally-sourced ingredients and freshly prepared meals. She has adapted menus to provide more choices for students and to serve more of the food that students love. The district developed a new position for a farm to school coordinator and has contracted to add nine executive chefs to increase the quality of school meals, support nutrition education, and expand farm to school offerings. Ms. Harvey envisions Fresno Unified's program as a future model for nutrition, quality, and variety in school meals.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Paul Idsvoog at 457-3134.

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



Date: 02/02/2024