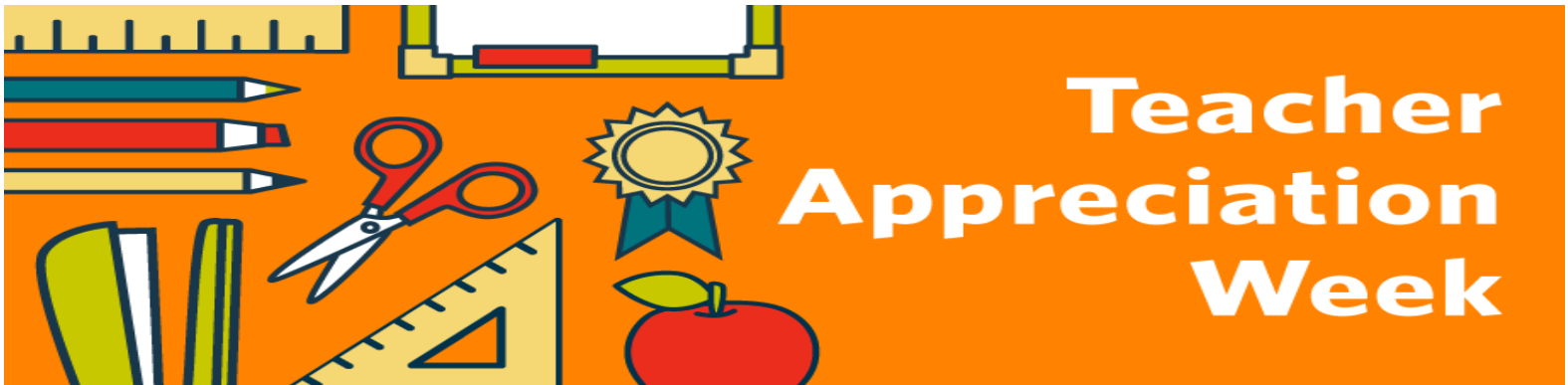


ABCFT YOUnionews



HOTLINKS! In this edition of YOUNIONNEWS

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HOTLINKS- Contact ABCFT at ABC Federation of Teachers abcft@abcusd.us

- For confidential emails - use your non-work email to write to us at: abcft2317@gmail.com
- [ABCFT 2023-2026 Strategic Plan Summary](#) **NEW!**
- [ABCFT 2023-2026 Strategic Plan Details](#) **NEW!**
- [Who are the officers of the ABC Federation of Teachers?](#)

COMING: NEXT WEEK IN THE YOUNIONNEWS

Having more content than you can fit into a single issue is a good problem, but we like to keep the amount of information readable for busy teachers and nurses. Therefore, here are a couple of topics that we anticipate including in next week's YOUNIONNEWS.

- Follow-up article on teacher leaders' projects and sharing of slide shows
- School board update and school board budget update
- ABCFT/ABCUSD holds annual PAL Advance meeting (Site Reps/Principals - frontloading for next year)

KEEPING YOU INFORMED - Negotiations Update By Ruben Mancillas



Last Saturday, April 26, ABCUSD held a special board meeting regarding a provisional appointment to fill the vacancy in board trustee area 5. Thank you to ABCFT members, Dawn Bronner, Jacqueline Okimoto, and VP at Large, Catherine Pascual, for attending this morning session on the last weekend of their spring break and helping our presence during this vital process be seen. Congratulations to Ms. McHatton on her appointment to the ABCUSD school board.

On Tuesday, April 29, current and newly elected site representatives and alternates gathered at the PAL Advance to work with their site/program administrators. This event, held at the Portuguese Hall, was an opportunity to offer input on professional development and hear a preview of the strategic plan. The air conditioning struggled a bit, the room got warm enough for Mr. Nguyen to cultivate his orchid, but everyone assembled toughed it out and were able to receive some positive information about our

future direction. The PAL Advance also provided another forum for discussing adjunct duties and stipends as we move forward.

Regarding professional development, this is a reminder to set aside Friday, August 8, on your calendar. The ABCFT negotiating team bargained for this voluntary professional learning day at a rate of \$525.00 for all unit members who choose to participate. The district will soon communicate registration information for this Transcend PL summer event. See also the Academic Services update from Information Technology below.



A late spring break and a last day for students in May will likely have the rest of this school year feel like a sprint to the finish line. Our last YOUNion chat is scheduled before next Tuesday's board meeting on May 6, and our final rep council meeting of this school year will be on Thursday, May 8. Thanks again to those teachers and nurses who volunteered to be nominated and then elected to serve as representatives for their site or program. Rep elections were to have been completed by April 17, and the results announced to their staff no later than Monday, April 28.

The photo at the top of this update was taken at the AFT Convention in Pittsburgh in 2018. Fast-forward to 2021, and my eldest son chose to attend the University of Pittsburgh. It was a surprise for us to have this California kid go to school 2500 miles from home, but we return this weekend to watch him graduate with his bachelor's degree. Our family has come to embrace the many charms of Steel City and now knows more about the ACC than I ever thought possible. Hail to Pitt. Go Panthers!

In Unity,

MEMBER-ONLY RESOURCES



Just when you thought the school year was winding down, Share My Lesson has even more ways for you to grow, recharge and check off those professional learning goals.

AFT is offering six new free, for-credit webinars this spring—plus one can't-miss, in-person AFT event this July in Washington, D.C.

Upcoming Webinars:

- May 6: [Generative AI & Special Education](#) with the AI Education Brain Team
- May 7: [Mindfulness Meditation](#) with Dr. Claudia J. Morales
- May 18: [AFT Book Club with MSNBC's Ali Velshi](#)
- May 28: [When Numbers Don't Add Up: Supporting Students with Dyscalculia](#) with Dr.

Honora Wall

Looking Back: Explore the latest [Welcome-to-Teaching podcast on civics](#), the April [wellness session with Educators Thriving](#), or catch up on standout sessions from our 2025 [Virtual Conference](#)—like [Mary Pope Osborne](#) on the *Magic Tree House* series, [AI tips for educators](#), and [co-teaching for success](#).

Looking Ahead: Join us at AFT TEACH 2025, July 25-27 in Washington, D.C. With 70+ hands-on workshops and an inspiring community of educators, it's your chance to recharge and connect in person. [Learn more](#) and register.

Reserve your spot now and dive into PD that supports your well-being, strengthens your skills and prepares you for what comes next.

[See All Upcoming PD Opportunities](#)



sharemylesson

By Educators, For Educators

A Message from National AFT President Randi Weingarten

Dear AFT Members,

[\[ABCFT Editorial Note: This is an excerpt of a larger message you can find here.\]](#)

In normal times, I would rarely write an email midyear to all of our 1.8 million members, but as we mark the 100th day of the second Trump administration, there is nothing normal about this moment.

What We Are Facing

Since his return to the White House, President Trump has been all the things those who voted against him feared, and he's done little if any of the things to improve people's lives that those who voted for him hoped.

Trump is doing nothing to deliver on his campaign promises to lower costs for working people and retirees. In fact, he is making things worse. He has launched a global trade war that will increase costs on everything from food and clothes to automobiles, which economists say is more likely than not to lead us into an economic recession, job layoffs and a significant cut in the value of 401(k) plans.

Trump has spent his first 100 days dismantling public education, attacking universities, firing federal workers, ending vital labor and health programs, and making it harder for retirees to access Social Security. Shortly, he will unveil his plan to provide a tax cut to billionaires, which he plans to pay for by cutting Medicaid, veterans' programs, programs for children living in poverty and students with disabilities, and research grants to colleges and universities that fund cancer, diabetes and Alzheimer's research.

The chaos is unnerving, and the day-to-day affliction of pain and cruelty can never be justified. Trump has callously ignored his promises to the American people, while threatening our jobs, our schools, our colleges and universities, our hospitals and our communities.....



Our strength is each other. Be part of our activist network—[sign up now to become an AFT activist](#) and add your voice!

Solidarity Is Our Path Forward

Every day, in the work you all do, or did before you retired, you make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you for all you do. I hope to see you soon as I travel the country in the next weeks and months. Now, more than ever, we must come together and fight for the promise of America—for opportunity, dignity, respect and a better life for all of us.

In unity,

Randi Weingarten

AFT President

P.S. The fight for our future is happening right now—in every community. [Find an event near you and stand with us.](#)

ACADEMIC SERVICES UPDATE - I.T. Guest Article

By ABCUSD Information & Technology Director Mike Lawrence



Making IT Happen

I was honored when Ray invited me to share my thoughts in the **YOUnion news** and I'm happy to have a space to regularly share ABC's Instructional Technology efforts and guidance and seek your expertise. One thing I always bring to my work here at ABC is my perspective as a teacher. I taught grades 7-12 in English, composition, web design and even taught a Sci-Fi Lit class for a few years! I see our students as IT's customers and our teachers as the first, best point of contact.

TRANSCEND - How to register and a call for presenters.

This week, we launched registration for Summer PL with the theme **'Transcend'** - the one-day professional learning will be held on August 8 and as with previous years, teachers and nurses will be granted a stipend to attend. As we do not know what the future holds, we've decided to bring the best of our IGNITE EdTech Symposium and embed it within this one day event, so you'll get the best of both worlds in a single day - fully infused technology solutions for Tier 1 supports, including UDL, AI and engagement strategies for all students. Register at [abcpl.app](#) and create a free account in Sched by **May 30**.

We're also still looking for speakers for the event - come and showcase the great work you're doing - visit [www.abcusd.us/summerspeak](#) by **May 9** to start the process. You'll get 8 hours of prep. time compensation for each unique session offered!



Mike Lawrence

Your IT Director

mike.lawrence@abcusd.us

ABCFT PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Ray Gaer



Consistent and regular communication is a union's most important tool for advocating for its members at the bargaining table. Every conversation with members is focused on the result of negotiating for the future prosperity and well-being of ALL ABCFT members. This weekly report informs members about issues impacting their working/learning conditions and mental well-being. Our work as a Union is a larger conversation and united, we make the YOUNion.

This first week back after Spring Break has been a barn burner and it looks like we will be tearing through May like we are on fire.....it's been a hectic end of the school year. Many of you are testing and preparing for this last leg of the academic year, thinking about report cards, graduations, and the inevitable packing of your room at the end of this school year. Your hard work is not unseen, and every school board member I speak with regularly readily throws compliments about the extraordinary work teachers and nurses are doing.

As Ruben mentioned in his column, we have a new school board member, Ms. McHatton, who will complete a two-year position in place of the outgoing former board member Sophia Tsewho was elected to the Cerritos City Council. ABCFT has had a long relationship with Ms. McHatton, a fellow educator from an educator family. Having an educational background and a deep understanding of the strengths and challenges of ABC before becoming a school board member is tremendously positive for the ABC Community. I have personally worked with Ms. McHatton on various committees. We have an established working relationship, which will ensure that she hits the ground running, and our communication lines will be open. Congratulations to Ms. McHatton.



A couple of formal announcements will go out late next week, but I wanted to ensure our readers knew them before then.

1. I anticipate wrapping up compensation negotiations for this school year after next Tuesday's board meeting. A formal announcement will go out to all unit members (members and non-members). With the limited funding provided this year by the state, the ABCFT negotiating team was focused on the continuation of services, **no** step-and-column freezes, or layoffs of permanent staff.
2. The state COLA of 1.07% has made this a particularly difficult negotiation as the district is deficit spending 4.1 million. LACOE has required the ABC School Board to create a Fiscal Stabilization Plan by the time the Board adopts the 2025-2026 budget in June 2025. The Board will likely see the budget reductions at one of the two board meetings this month, now that input/feedback has been received from employee groups and the Audit and Finance Committee. We will share the full details of this plan with you after it is presented to the board. The Board is using a set of guiding principles as a guide as to where these budget reductions will take place. [You can find the guiding principles that the Board is using here.](#)

3. Governor Newsome announced the COLA of 2.3 percent (down from the projected 2,93% in January) for next year this past week, which will be used by all school districts for their budget adoptions. Districts are required to submit a three-year operating budget plan each year. ABC is anticipating a reduction of over 18.7 million dollars from 2024-2027 out of a total 215 million dollar budget. This budget reduction of 8.6% will impact staffing and programs over the coming years. These budget reductions will be another factor for the Board to consider as they re-examine facility use.
4. The ABCUSD/ABCFT Master Contract will expire in June 2025. However, ABCFT will begin Master Contract negotiations over the summer, and I anticipate that we will be negotiating into early next calendar year. In the meantime, it is standard practice during this negotiation phase that we will continue to operate under the 2020-2025 Master Contract Language. You are operating without a contract in a situation where negotiations have broken down, which is not the case in ABC. **We still have many physical copies of our current contract, so write to ABCFT@abcusd.us if you would like to receive a copy (include your site so we can mail it to your site).**

Your elected ABCFT Executive has been hard at work representing you at the district level, with board members, and at your school sites. Last night we had a two-and-a-half-hour meeting where we discussed the ongoing budget crisis, anticipated outcomes of the board, and the passage of the ABCFT operating budget for the 2025-2026 school year. Next week, the final ABCFT Site Representatives meeting will take place, where we will have news updates to share after next Tuesday's school board meeting. See you next week, and thank you for reading and staying part of The Informed.

In YOUnity,

Ray Gaer
President, ABCFT





*A Union of Educators
& Classified Professionals*

CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF TEACHERS



May Day is recognized around the world as International Workers Day, traditionally a day of marches and actions for labor solidarity in all corners of the globe. Especially in light of the current Trump administration's attacks on organized labor, mass rallies are planned for this upcoming May Day, Wednesday, May 1. It is an important opportunity to flex our labor muscle, to test our mobilization networks, and to make the critical connection in our communities that the power of organized labor is essential to resisting the Trump administration.

Rallies are planned in over 60 locations throughout the state, including at all UC campuses, where those assembled will support striking AFSCME 3299 and UPTE-CWA 9119 workers. Many of you have already made plans to turn your members out to these events. I encourage all CFT locals to make a plan to participate. Details can be found on the [May Day Strong](#) website.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS



[Find the latest AFT news here](#)

Follow AFT President Randi Weingarten: <http://twitter.com/rweingarten>



----- NEWS STORY HIGHLIGHT-----

AFT and coalition win nationwide injunction on Trump admin attacks on schools



The AFT and a coalition of nationwide associations of educators won a preliminary injunction to temporarily stop the Trump administration's attempt to threaten education institutions, including universities and school districts, with prosecution or loss of vital federal funding, if they teach students important history, sociology, and other lessons that reference race and

racism or if they provide support to students and foster healthy school communities through diversity, equity, and inclusion programming.

The lawsuit was filed after the Department of Education sent the “Dear Colleague Letter” in February, which created a new policy that threatens to withhold federal funding for any education institutions that do not comply with its unprecedented weaponization and undermining of civil rights laws. [Details here](#) on the victory in court.

----- THE IMPACT OF AB 218 -----

LA County's historic \$4bn settlement

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has unanimously approved a \$4bn settlement addressing over 6,800 claims of sexual abuse in juvenile facilities and foster care dating back to the 1980s. County chief executive Fesia Davenport said: "On behalf of the county, I apologize wholeheartedly to everyone who was harmed by these reprehensible acts", emphasizing the commitment to support survivors and implement systemic changes. The settlement, the largest in county history, will impact the budget for years, necessitating cuts in various departments. Supervisor Holly Mitchell highlighted the need for governance changes to prevent future abuse, noting: "Financial payout is one thing, but ultimately everybody wants the behavior to stop." The settlement aims to provide accountability and ensure financial stability through a structured five-year distribution plan. Co-lead attorney Patrick McNicholas described it as a step toward restorative justice for victims.

[Pasadena Star-News](#)

----- NATIONAL NEWS -----

Trump's first 100 days in office bring bold moves in education policy

Since taking office for his second term on January 20, President Donald Trump has rapidly implemented significant changes in K-12 education policy. Notably, in his first 100 days, he rescinded a 13-year policy protecting sensitive locations from immigration enforcement and issued an executive order limiting Title IX protections for transgender students. The administration also paused federal funding, causing confusion among schools, and launched an investigation into a Denver high school's restroom policy, signaling a strict interpretation of Title IX. Trump's orders aim to expand school choice and eliminate what he calls "radical indoctrination" in education. As he stated, the goal is to "promote patriotic education" while dismantling programs he views as discriminatory. Jennifer Vilcarino, a digital news reporter for *Education Week*, highlights these developments as pivotal in shaping the future of education in the U.S.

[Education Week News](#)

Maine Could Lose Federal K-12 Funding Over Trans Athlete Policy

The U.S. Department of Justice's filing last week of a civil lawsuit against the Maine Department of Education is likely to have ramifications for all U.S. states, regardless of the final verdict. The case against Maine was brought at the behest of the U.S. Education Department's Office for Civil Rights, and seeks to pause federal funding penalties for alleged past and present Title IX violations over the state's policy on transgender athletes, and whether they can play on women's and girls' sports teams. U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi has warned that action will follow suit against “many, many” other states, including Minnesota and California, which already have active investigations pending. Additionally, a second Department of Education investigation against Maine is underway, over alleged violations of the Family Educational Rights Privacy Act.

The federal agency alleges multiple districts' policies allow gender plans, which are meant to support students' transgender identities, that are not available to parents.

[K-12 Dive](#)

Trump's orders shake up education funding

President Donald Trump has enacted a series of executive orders aimed at reshaping K-12 education and university funding, which may provoke significant political backlash. The orders threaten to withhold federal funds from schools that fail to disclose foreign financial support. The K-12 order calls for a report on school discipline practices such as suspensions and expulsions, as well as for model policies that are "rooted in American values and traditional virtues." It criticizes warnings from Biden administration civil rights authorities that schools needed to address the "continuing urgency" of racial disparities in discipline. Another directive instructs the U.S. Education and Labor Departments to create opportunities for high school students to take artificial intelligence (AI) courses and certification programs, and to work with states to promote AI education. "We have literally trillions of dollars being invested in AI," Trump said. "Somebody today, a very smart person, said that AI is the way to the future. I don't know if that's right or not, but certainly very smart people are investing in it." In addition, Trump's order creates a White House Task Force on AI Education, which includes Education Secretary Linda McMahon and Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer, and will be chaired by Michael Kratsios, director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

[New Jersey Herald](#) [Politico](#) [Los Angeles Times](#)

----- LEGAL -----

Trump cuts \$1bn in school grants

The Trump administration is set to cancel \$1bn in school mental health grants, claiming they reflect the priorities of the previous administration. The funding, initially allocated by a gun violence bill signed by President Joe Biden in 2022, aimed to enhance mental health support in schools by hiring more psychologists and counselors. The Education Department's review found that the programs violated civil rights laws and conflicted with its policies on merit and fairness. Conservative strategist Christopher Rufo criticized the grants for promoting "left-wing racialism and discrimination," stating, "No more slush fund for activists under the guise of mental health." The administration plans to "re-envision and re-compete" the mental health program funds to better address students' behavioral health needs.

[Education Week News](#) [Politico](#) [U.S. News](#)

Supreme Court hears case on LGBTQ+ books in the classroom

The Supreme Court's conservative majority indicated on Tuesday that it may require schools to provide opt-outs for parents objecting to LGBTQ+ books in elementary education. During oral arguments in *Mahmoud v. Taylor*, Justice Samuel Alito remarked: "The plaintiffs [a group of Muslim, Roman Catholic, and Ethiopian Orthodox parents] here are not asking the school to change its curriculum. They're just saying, 'look, we want out.' What is the big deal about allowing them to opt out of this?" Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Justices Clarence Thomas, Neil M. Gorsuch, and Amy Coney Barrett also asked questions or made comments that suggested that they leaned toward the parents. The court's liberal justices argued that exposure to diverse ideas does not infringe on religious rights. The case involves the Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland, which approved books like "Prince & Knight" and "Born Ready," aimed at promoting inclusivity. Critics of opt-out options warn it could lead to widespread curriculum disruptions. The 4th US Circuit Court of Appeals previously sided with the schools, stating that the evidence on how the books were used was insufficient to determine any religious burden. A decision in the case is expected by late June or early July.

Justice Department restores student visa terminations

The Justice Department has reversed the termination of student visa registrations for thousands of foreign students in the U.S. who faced minor legal infractions. This decision came after significant scrutiny from courts and numerous restraining orders that deemed the mass termination illegal. Many students were anxious about losing their legal immigration status and the potential for deportation, especially as some were barred from continuing their studies just weeks before graduation. Prior to Friday's announcement, dozens of judges across the U.S. had already issued temporary orders directing the government to restore students' records in a database that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) uses to monitor international students while they're in the U.S. The database, known as the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, tracks whether they are complying with the requirements to maintain their legal status. The SEVIS database also tracks schools' disciplinary action against students or any criminal charges filed against them. ICE had begun suddenly terminating thousands of students' SEVIS records in recent weeks, in many cases over what lawyers say were minor disciplinary records that the government uncovered after running background checks. Without an entry in the SEVIS database, international students cannot easily adjust or extend their legal status, meaning many of those whose records were terminated would likely soon be forced to leave the country.

[CNN Edition](#) [NPR / National Public Radio](#) [Politico](#)

U.S. states take a stand for DEI

On Friday, a coalition of 19 states filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration, challenging its demand for public schools to eliminate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives or risk losing federal funding. The lawsuit, led by California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and New York, follows a deadline set by the Trump administration for states to certify the removal of DEI efforts, which they argue constitutes illegal discrimination. California Attorney General Rob Bonta explained: "The U.S. Department of Education is unapologetically abandoning its mission to ensure equal access to education with its latest threat." He argued that the federal government is misusing civil rights laws to pressure states into abandoning lawful diversity initiatives. The other plaintiffs in the Friday lawsuit, which joins two similar ones filed Thursday by the American Federation of Teachers in Maryland, and the National Education Association and the American Civil Liberties Union, are Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

[Politico](#) [The Seattle Times](#) [Los Angeles Times](#)

Supreme Court leans towards student in key disability rights case

The U.S. Supreme Court is poised to rule in favor of Ava Tharpe, a 19-year-old student with Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome, in a case that could redefine liability standards under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. During oral arguments in *A.J.T. v. Osseo Area Schools*, Tharpe's lawyer, Roman Martinez, emphasized the urgency of her educational needs, commenting: "Think about Ava, who desperately needs every precious hour of school so she can learn to communicate with her parents." The case challenges a federal appeals court's ruling that imposed a high burden of proof on families seeking damages for disability discrimination. The court's decision, expected by late June or early July, may clarify the standards for schools nationwide regarding the treatment of students with disabilities.

[USA Today](#) [K-12 Dive](#) [Education Week News](#)

----- STATE NEWS -----

California launches groundbreaking education data system

California has launched the first phase of its Cradle-to-Career (C2C) data system, making education data accessible to the public. This initiative allows parents and students to explore graduation rates, time to degree, and post-graduation earnings through the C2C website. Gov. Gavin Newsom stated: "With the C2C Student Pathways Dashboard now live, Californians can visualize their futures." The dashboard provides insights into college pathways and is designed to be user-friendly, featuring charts and pull-down menus for easy navigation. The project, which took six years to develop, aims to connect education with workforce outcomes and will expand to include early education and employment data. The total cost of the project is \$24.2m, funded entirely by California. Mary Ann Bates, executive director of C2C, emphasized the importance of this data system in understanding student success and community needs.

[EdSource](#)

California teachers top salary charts

During the 2023-24 school year, California teachers achieved the highest average salary in the U.S., reaching \$101,084, according to the National Education Association's 2023-24 NEA Rankings and Estimates report. This figure represents a 6% increase from the previous year and is approximately \$30,000 above the national average of \$72,030. The starting salary for California teachers was \$58,409, the second highest in the nation, significantly surpassing the national average starting salary of \$46,526. Despite these increases, the NEA noted that average teacher pay has not kept pace with inflation, arguing that teachers earn "5% less than they did 10 years ago." The report highlights ongoing challenges in teacher recruitment and retention amid a nationwide teacher shortage exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Ventura County Star](#)

California schools spend millions on police

An investigation by *EdSource* reveals that many California school districts are spending millions on law enforcement officers whose salaries are already covered by local governments. The report highlights that districts often approve policing contracts without adequate scrutiny, using consent agendas that bundle these contracts with routine items. "The taxpayer's paying twice for the same services," said **Oxnard USD** board member Karen Sher, emphasizing the issue of double taxation. The total expenditure on school resource officers is at least \$85m, with many contracts lacking clear financial details. Retired judge LaDoris Cordell criticizes this practice: "It protects and serves - and profits." The lack of oversight and transparency in these contracts raises concerns about the effective use of educational funds.

[Ventura County Star](#)

----- DISTRICTS -----

Portland Public Schools faces budget cuts

[\(ABCFT Editorial note\) 40 million is roughly the same budget cuts needed in abc by proportion](#)

Portland' Public Schools is facing a budget that is only 1.7% higher than the previous year, leading to necessary program and staffing reductions, as announced by Superintendent Kimberlee Armstrong. The district's budget for day-to-day operations is projected at \$1.09bn, but an additional \$40m would be needed to maintain all current programs and positions. Enrollment has dropped by 11% since 2019, compounded by

rising operational costs. A total of about 156 school-based positions are expected to be eliminated, with significant losses at elementary and middle schools. Armstrong indicated that while layoffs are unlikely due to vacancies, some staff may be reassigned. The budget also anticipates cuts from the central office, with 44% of savings coming from there. The district is also concerned about potential federal funding cuts related to diversity and inclusion programs.

[The Oregonian](#)

LAUSD Super vow to to protect undocumented students 'to the very end'

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently conducted wellness checks at two **Los Angeles USD** elementary schools, claiming to ensure the safety of unaccompanied minors. However, Superintendent Alberto Carvalho refuted these claims, asserting: "We have no evidence... of a wellness check conducted by the Department of Homeland Security having taken place in Los Angeles." The district has strict protocols for such visits, which include verifying identification and requiring a judicial warrant for access. Carvalho emphasized the importance of protecting students' rights and privacy, recalling his own experience as an immigrant. He expressed concern over potential repercussions for the district, adding, "I cannot renounce my own history... Am I willing to incur and sustain personal consequence in my efforts to advocate and support hundreds of thousands of kids? Absolutely." The DHS maintains that their actions were not related to immigration enforcement but aimed at protecting vulnerable children.

[NPR / National Public Radio](#)

Oakland USD board fires superintendent

The **Oakland USD** (OUSD) board has officially dismissed Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammell during a contentious meeting, with no explanation provided for the decision. Johnson-Trammell, who led the district since 2017, was instrumental in guiding OUSD out of state control and towards financial stability. The board's 4-3 vote reflects ongoing divisions, with board Director Mike Hutchinson accusing his colleagues of colluding with labor leaders. Hutchinson remarked, "I can't even smile today," despite the district nearing the end of its receivership. The Alameda County Office of Education had previously warned that OUSD needed a responsible spending plan to avoid financial collapse. The board's recent actions, including layoffs and resistance to school closures, highlight the challenges ahead as the district seeks to regain full control of its finances.

[Mercury News](#) [San Francisco Chronicle](#)

New leader for Orange USD

Dr. Rachel H. Monárrez has been appointed as the new superintendent of Orange USD, which serves 25,000 students. This leadership change marks a significant step for the district as it aims to enhance educational outcomes. Monárrez previously led a Massachusetts school district and is expected to bring her expertise to Orange Unified. As she takes on this role, the community looks forward to her vision and leadership in shaping the future of education in the district.

[The Orange Country Register](#)

Oakland teachers call off strike

The Oakland Education Association (OEA) and the **Oakland USD** reached an agreement on Wednesday, leading to the cancellation of a planned one-day strike. The union had previously accused the district of withholding crucial financial information necessary for negotiations regarding recent budget and staff cuts. OEA President Kampala Taiz-Rancifer emphasized the importance of collaboration, saying: "Moving forward, we urge the District to include the Oakland Education Association as a true partner in shaping decisions that

impact our schools, students, and their families." The negotiations included discussions on hiring long-term substitutes and contract durations for teachers at high schools.

[EdSource](#) [Mercury News](#) [San Francisco Chronicle](#)

Oklahoma's religious school funding debate heats up

The Catholic Church in Oklahoma is advocating for taxpayer funding of St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School, which aims to provide education aligned with Christian teachings. This proposal, if approved by the Supreme Court, which is to hear arguments later today, could set a precedent for religious charter schools nationwide. Critics argue that it threatens the separation of church and state and could divert funds from public schools. Chief Justice John Roberts previously said that "A State need not subsidize private education," but added that, once it does, it cannot exclude religious institutions. The case has divided state leaders, with some supporting the funding of religious schools while others oppose it. Rachel Laser, president of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, emphasized that this funding model violates religious freedom by forcing taxpayers to support religious education. A decision from the court is anticipated by early summer.

[AP News](#)

----- TECHNOLOGY -----

States take charge of AI in schools

State policies are increasingly emphasizing the need for human oversight in the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in education. Following the Trump administration's recent executive orders promoting AI leadership, states are now tasked with guiding schools on how to incorporate this technology responsibly. Reg Leichty, the founder of Foresight Law + Policy advisers, observed that "the federal government has truly placed states at the forefront." Despite the issuance of guidance documents by many states that highlight the benefits and risks of AI, concerns persist regarding the lack of attention given to issues such as police surveillance in schools. Clarence Okoh from the Center on Privacy and Technology pointed out that "the rise of AI surveillance in public education is one of the most urgent civil and human rights challenges confronting public schools today."

[EdSurge](#)

----- WORKFORCE -----

California sees rise in teaching credentials

California has seen an 18% increase in teaching credentials during the 2023-24 school year, with 17,328 teachers earning their stripes, according to the "Teacher Supply in California" report. Mary Vixie Sandy, executive director of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, said: "The growth in California's newly credentialed teachers indicates that state investments in teacher recruitment are beginning to pay off." However, concerns remain about the ongoing teacher shortage, as many classrooms still lack fully credentialed teachers. Enrollment in teacher preparation programs has declined, dropping from 41,978 in 2019-20 to 38,596 last school year. Marvin Lopez, executive director of the California Center on Teaching Careers, highlighted the impact of uncertain federal funding on teacher candidate numbers, stating that the freeze on preparation grants could further reduce the number of teachers entering the field.

[EdSource](#)

----- CLASSROOM -----

Teacher accused of deportation warning

A Redwood City elementary school is facing scrutiny after a mother alleged that a teacher verbally and physically assaulted her 10-year-old son. Belén Salazar reported that a teacher told her son: "I am going to send you back to your country with your family." The incident occurred on March 24 when the boy defended classmates from derogatory remarks. Witnesses corroborated the account and a number of parents have expressed concerns. The **Redwood City School District** said it conducted a "thorough investigation" and took "appropriate action."

[San Luis Obispo Tribune](#)

Breaking barriers with dual-language education

Allen Jay Elementary School in High Point, North Carolina, has successfully implemented a dual-language immersion program in English and Urdu, addressing the unique challenges of teaching a less commonly spoken language. Hina Ashraf, an associate research professor at Georgetown University, noted that "Urdu was far too distinct" for a simple translation of existing curricula. The program, which began with kindergarten, now spans all elementary grades, catering to the local Pakistani community. Challenges such as hiring bilingual staff and developing culturally relevant materials are common in dual-language programs, especially for languages like Urdu, Hmong, and Vietnamese. Alisha Nguyen, an assistant professor at Lesley University, emphasized the importance of creating materials that reflect the Vietnamese American community's experiences. Community advocacy is crucial for the success of these programs, as they often require creative solutions and support from local leaders.

[Education Week News](#)

U.S. teachers worried about student success

According to a recent Gallup and Walton Family Foundation poll, nearly 40% of teachers in the U.S. believe their students are not on track for success. The concern is particularly pronounced among middle school teachers, with 44% expressing doubts, and 47% in schools with high rates of students receiving free or reduced-price lunch. Zach Hrynowski, a senior education researcher at Gallup, said: "We have a sense of the types of activities that help teachers feel like their students are ready to succeed." The poll also highlights a correlation between teachers' perceptions of student success and their excitement about teaching. Additionally, issues like excessive cellphone use are cited as factors affecting student focus. While two-thirds of K-12 teachers report job satisfaction, this is closely linked to available resources and school leadership support. Hrynowski emphasized the importance of ensuring teachers have the necessary materials to support their students effectively.

[Education Week News](#)

----- HEALTH & WELLBEING -----

ADHD athletes face longer concussion recovery

High school athletes with ADHD experience significantly longer recovery times from sport-related concussions, according to a study published in the *Journal of Athletic Training*. The research, led by Kyoko Shirahata from the University of Hawaii, found that these athletes took an average of 13 days to return to class and 21 days to resume sports, compared to 11 and 18 days for their non-ADHD peers. Steven Broglio, director

of the University of Michigan Concussion Center, highlighted the need for healthcare providers to recognize ADHD as a risk factor for prolonged recovery, remarking: "In light of the study findings, health care providers need to recognize ADHD as a risk factor for prolonged concussion recovery." The study also noted that female athletes and younger athletes tend to take longer to recover.

[The Sacramento Bee](#)

----- SOCIAL & COMMUNITY -----

Gen Z skips college for skilled trades

As Gen Z graduates high school, many are opting out of traditional college due to rising costs. The annual expense for a four-year public college surged by 30% from 2011 to 2023, while private colleges saw a 42% increase. Nich Tremper, a senior economist at Gusto, notes, "There are about 2m fewer students in a traditional four-year university now than in 2011." Instead, young adults are pursuing skilled trades, with 18% of the workforce in this sector being Gen Z. For instance, Morgan Bradbury, who completed a welding certification, secured a job at BAE Systems with a starting salary of \$57,000. Despite higher wages for college graduates, Tremper highlights that "job security has been stronger in the trades than in many traditional white-collar jobs." With Baby Boomers retiring, opportunities in skilled trades are expected to grow, allowing Gen Z to thrive economically.

[CNBC](#)

----- INTERNATIONAL -----

New study demonstrates impact of South Africa's early learning initiatives

A new study published by Johannesburg-based SmartStart, a South African nonprofit organization, suggests that early learning programmes conducted in homes and community venues can significantly enhance children's developmental outcomes on a large scale. Independent research team, led by Professor Sarah Chapman from the University of Cape Town, examined the progress of 551 children enrolled in SmartStart early learning programmes (ELPs) over an intensive eight-month period. It identified an increase in the proportion of children deemed "on track," rising from 45% to 65%, while the number of children "falling far behind" nearly halved. There was also a reduction in the achievement gap between children from low- and high-income households, which narrowed from 25 points to six points. Kulula Manona, Chief Director for Foundations for Learning in South Africa's Department of Basic Education, said the study "shines a light on the incredible potential of our children when provided with the right developmental and learning opportunities. It underscores the critical role of community-based early learning programmes and the dedicated practitioners who deliver them in bridging the early learning access gap."

[IOL News](#)

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[IOL News](#)

Japan Teachers' Union president calls for education reforms

Japan Teachers' Union (JTU) President Takashi Kajiwara has highlighted the urgent need for comprehensive reforms in the education system to tackle the growing teacher shortage and ensure the well-being of educators. Speaking at the Japanese House of Representatives Committee on Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, he emphasized the excessive workload imposed on teachers due to increasing school duties and student issues, adding "Despite a 2019 law capping overtime, teacher working hours have barely decreased." The mental health crisis among teachers, with rising cases of burnout and stress-related sick leaves, further exacerbates the situation. He called for financial support from the government, refinement of curriculum to improve curriculum overload, and support for transitioning school club activities to community-run programs. He also stressed the need to reduce class sizes, set limits on teaching hours, and to hire more education support personnel to handle administrative and operational tasks.

[Education International](#)

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