

SSDA Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes:

October 1, 2026

Small School Districts Association

Legislation and Advocacy Committee

Draft minutes for review

Date and time: October 1, 2026 | 10:00–11:00 a.m. Pacific Time

Location: Zoom

Chair: Dr. Amy Alzina, Superintendent, Cold Spring School District

Attendance: Dr. Amy Alzina, Dr. Anne Hubbard, Scott Borba, Larry Mahoney, Cathy McBride (Capitol Advisors), Matt Taylor, Dr. Jeremy Powell, Susan Wildes, Rachel Scicluna (Capitol Advisors), Barrett Snider (Capitol Advisors), Doug Collins, Glen Senestraro

1 Welcome and introductions

The meeting began with introductions.

2 Annual advocacy focus areas

Dr. Amy Alzina and Barrett Snider of Capitol Advisors Group reviewed the six focus areas guiding the committee's work this year:

1. Public Records Act reform
2. Facility Hardship Program relief
3. Safe drinking water for every school
4. Paid pregnancy disability leave funding
5. A shorter LCAP. Less duplication.
6. AI and digital leadership funding

3 Legislative platform review

Members reviewed the 2025–2026 legislative platform and discussed cleanup revisions. They also reviewed district-specific topics brought forward by the SSDA Board for consideration in the updated platform:

- Special education reform
- Administrator-to-teacher ratios
- Increasing base funding
- Instructional minutes for transitional kindergarten
- Expanded Learning Opportunities Program
- Dual enrollment

Regional input will help identify additional advocacy issues and proposed amendments to this year's platform.

4 Legislative updates

AB 2008 and reporting requirements: Members reviewed AB 2008, referred to during the meeting as the "Stop the Bleeding" bill. Discussion emphasized reducing redundant planning and reporting requirements and the four-year sunset provisions for specified new requirements unless the Legislature provides for their continuation.

AB 917 and permanent status: The committee received an update on SSDA's role in opposing AB 917, which was vetoed by the Governor. The proposal would have required eligible certificated employees in districts with fewer than 250 average daily attendance to receive permanent status after two consecutive years and reemployment for the following year. Members discussed preserving small-district flexibility under existing law.

The three-year provision in Education Code section 44929.23(a) permits an eligible district's governing board to grant permanent status after three complete consecutive school years and reemployment for the following year. Permanent status is not automatic under that provision.

SB 1083 and employee misconduct reporting: The committee reviewed SB 1083, authored by Senator Pérez and signed by the Governor. Discussion addressed the statewide egregious-misconduct data system and related Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) processes.

- Glen Senestraro requested a list or clarification of the conduct included within the definition of egregious misconduct.
- Doug Collins asked about CTC response timelines. He reported waiting approximately 18 months for a response in one case and expressed concern about the effect of such delays on districts.

5 Discussion of priority implementation

Facility Hardship Program relief: Cathy McBride of Capitol Advisors Group reviewed barriers that can delay district applications and projects. Using Patrick Keeley's experience as an example, discussion emphasized submitting information to enter the queue and protecting a district's place when staffing challenges or other delays occur, rather than requiring it to restart the process.

Safe drinking water: Members emphasized that every student should have access to safe drinking water at school and discussed this need as a committee advocacy priority.

Paid pregnancy disability leave funding: Dr. Anne Hubbard and Susan Wildes discussed tracking actual district costs to support advocacy for adequate funding. Susan Wildes reported that three special education teachers were on leave and that a shortage of qualified substitutes required an outside contract costing \$800 per day for substitute coverage. She expressed concern that actual costs would exceed the funding allocation provided.

The discussion highlighted the importance of documenting substitute and contracted-service costs to demonstrate the financial impact on small districts.

6 Education Freedom Tax Credit

Matt Taylor requested clarification about the Education Freedom Tax Credit.

7 Member assignments

Regional platform input: Each member will bring a hot topic from their region to the next meeting, with recommendations for advocacy issues or amendments to include in the legislative platform.

District examples and contacts: Members will identify individuals associated with each topic who can share district experiences or support legislative advocacy. These contacts will help Scott Borba connect with members who can provide relevant examples when needed.

8 Meeting calendar and closing

Dr. Amy Alzina and Barrett Snider will develop a year-long committee meeting calendar that avoids conflicts with other SSDA and Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) meetings. The next meeting date will be included in that calendar.

The meeting concluded at 11:00 a.m.