



**CELEBRATING CASCWA'S EIGHTY ONE  
YEARS OF ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN**

**We never quit ..... only going stronger**

**CASCWA 2024 STATE CONFERENCE April 24th – 26th!**



**SIA** School  
Innovations  
& Achievement  
*The perfect blend of software and service*



**In this January 2024 edition, you will find:**

Registration Information on our 2024 CASCWA State Conference at the Monterey Hyatt Regency Hoel CASCWA President's Messages; Los Angeles COE 2023 Annual Legislative Update (power point placed on CASCWA's Website; Information on Delta Section's Positive School Climate Workshop; Information on Southern Section's Preparing for and working through: Incident Response Workshop; and Jeni Mendel's Website Pages!

**Please Visit our Updated Website at: <http://cascwa.wildapricot.org/>**



California Association of Supervisors of  
Child Welfare & Attendance

## CASCWA State President's Message

Kevin Torosian  
Central School District (Retired)

[Cascwakev1211@gmail.com](mailto:Cascwakev1211@gmail.com)



Dear CASCWA Members and Friends,

The beginning of another new calendar year. For many this signifies a starting point for the accomplishment of new goals, or the making of resolutions to address things they would like to change about themselves. Conversely, for some, it is just another day. For CASCWA, I think both perspectives are applicable.

I feel certain that our members will continue doing what they have always done, supporting children and their families by helping them to overcome whatever obstacles may be preventing them from taking advantage of the educational opportunity before them. Why aren't they in school every day on time? Why are they misbehaving? Why aren't they learning? And what can

we do to help by not becoming so focused on the "what" that we forget to consider and explore the "why".

And I am sure that many will set new benchmarks for improvement, maybe implementing something new they have learned at a CASCWA training or state conference to achieve their new goal. Because at CASCWA we are all about helping others move the needle in a positive direction through the sharing of knowledge and collaboration with our peers. This past December I was at a training that the San Joaquin section presented in partnership with the Kern Unified School District in Bakersfield, and I was reminded of all the above. The presenters, many from that district, and some from other areas of California, all with the common palpable thread of doing what they do for students and **being successful at it** because their approach comes as much from what is in their hearts as it does from what is in their heads. Often questioned when I was a Director of Child Welfare and Attendance as to why I would often hire someone for a vacancy in the office who maybe didn't have the most impressive accumulation of degrees compared to other candidates, I would share that my belief was that for one to be truly successful in this line of work, it has to be more than just another job to them. And while I could teach them what they needed to know in their heads to be competent, I wasn't as confident that I could so easily alter what they either had or didn't have in their hearts to be truly successful.



## CASCWA State President's Message (Continued)

As CASCWA moves forward, it is my belief that we need to continue to expand our footprint and influence on a state level to share what we have all learned from what we actually do on a daily basis, and not just from what may have gathered from reading a statistical analysis. The practical application, what truly works in practice and not just on paper, and the considerations that one can only have from doing is too often a voice unheard. So, to increase our visibility, accessibility and sustainability moving forward, I am excited to announce that we will for the first time employ an Executive Director to assist with what has historically been the sole work of volunteers in the very near future.

So, have a terrific 2024, and look forward to seeing all of you in Monterey, April 23-25, 2024, for what promises to be another outstanding state conference this year hosted by the Bay Section.

Dr. Kevin Torosian



# CASCWA's Bay Section President's Message



**Evelyn Ocasio**  
**Hayward USD (Retired)**  
[ocasioeve2@gmail.com](mailto:ocasioeve2@gmail.com)

Dear CASCWA Members and Friends,

I hope you and your loved ones are well. It has been a wonderful year for the Bay Section as we prepare for the 2024 CASCWA State Conference. I would like to thank you all for the part you have played in supporting CASCWA's mission of sharing public awareness throughout the state and encouraging community involvement. As we enter this new year, I am extremely grateful for our ever-growing circle of participants and supporters - all of YOU! - whose efforts literally make our organization possible.

Over the past year, the Bay Section has been working on preparing for the conference. Our goal is to reach stakeholders with innovative educational programming designed to positively impact the quality of life for the millions of students that we serve. We look forward to your continued participation as we present during the State Conference a full slate of professional developments and practitioners with proven solutions for service providers in the field of education.

We just started the new year and the conference has over 550 registrants. The Hyatt Regency Monterey hotel & Spa will be hosting throughout the 3 days. Participants will be enjoying meaningful presentations, great food and entertainment throughout. We will have knowledgeable presenters that are eager to share their expertise. The state conference celebrates 87 years of collaboration and partnerships that have left a legacy.

We have much to celebrate as our organization continues to impact the California community by empowering our educational community at State, County and district levels. My deepest thanks for the impact YOU make on advancing our mission and for supporting the CASCWA organization's efforts to find innovative presentations and - eventually - proven solutions. We also would like to share that the window for the 2024 Bay Section Scholarships will soon be available through the CASCWA Bay Section webpage <https://cascwa.wildapricot.org/Bay-Section>

## 2024 Bay Section Scholarship Information

Applications will be accepted between January 15, 2024 through March 15, 2024. CASCWA Bay Section Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the CASCWA State Conference in April 2024.

We look forward to your continued support as we work to bring both educational resources and hope to students and families.

Kind regards,  
Evelyn Ocasio, Bay Section President

# CASCWA's Delta Section President's Message

**David Kopperud, California Department of Education (Retired)**  
[davidkopperud53@gmail.com](mailto:davidkopperud53@gmail.com)

Dear CASCWA Members and Friends,

The Sierra Delta Section is busy getting ready for our next conference on February 5 with the generous support of the Shasta County Office of Education. We hope to re-energize school personnel who have been struggling with the aftereffects of the Pandemic with some inspiring strategies for getting students back to school and back to mental health. Even though schools are no longer closed, the impact of the Pandemic is still seen with higher levels of chronic absenteeism and habitual truancy. The social isolation of the Pandemic is still impacting students who need the right approach by school personnel to be welcomed into the school community again.



One of the presentations that I particularly recommend will be by Amir Alavi from the Southern Section of CASCWA. For many years, Amir has been a great leader for Riverside County and the rest of the state in infusing restorative practices in the SARB process. Amir helped Riverside County become the county with the most Model SARBs using exemplary restorative practices, even with the most persistent cases of habitual truancy. Amir has many tips about how to communicate with students and families who are in crisis may seem to be beyond the reach of the school community. These families are often the source of great frustration for school personnel because they are not cooperating with interventions intended to benefit the children, but Amir has many suggestions besides resorting to a regular court. The irony of Amir's approach is that he is a legal expert who was in charge of legal interventions for habitual truancy in Riverside County but developed other approaches which he prefers to implement whenever possible. Introducing students to the traditional criminal justice system must be a last resort.

Amir also uses a restorative approach when implementing peer courts for older students who are habitual truants or who have violated serious Education Code laws. With more traditional or punitive practices unsuccessful, restorative justice practices can help transform a school climate when implemented effectively. Over the years under Amir's leadership, more schools in Riverside County modified their attendance and discipline policies to become more effective. Since attendance and behavior problems have continued to challenge school districts statewide, Amir's approach is more critical than ever before for building relationships, conflict resolution, and social and emotional learning. The growing acceptance of Amir's approach has come after years of changes in California law aimed at reducing the number of suspensions and expulsions which exclude students from school. Exclusionary practices have been particularly harmful to Black students and students with special needs.

For restorative justice to work, the entire school community must support them and believe in their promise, and the way they are implemented is critical to success. Amir will provide the details of implementation that are critical.

Another presentation that will demonstrate how to implement restorative practice principles is by Janet Rowse of Drug Free Clubs of America. Student mental health and school climate have been impacted by the Pandemic, causing many struggling students to avoid school and experiment with drugs. Drug Free Clubs of America are known for encouraging students to take responsibility for themselves, help parents feel comfortable having more open conversations with their kids, and provide the tools to foster positive peer pressure around substance abuse. Janet Rowse will show participants how to activate the program at your school using six simple steps. Students have quit drug use so that they can be restored to a positive school culture that draws them in and gives them a compelling reason to find alternatives to drug use.

Promoting a substance-free environment in schools helps create a culture that encourages students to engage in healthier activities and find alternatives to drug use. This can contribute to a more supportive and conducive learning environment, fostering academic success and personal development.



# CASCWA's San Joaquin Section President's Message

## Sharma Uma Stanislaus County Office of Education [suma@stancoe.org](mailto:suma@stancoe.org)



Our San Joaquin Section takes great pride in our annual workshops. We are especially proud of our recent CASCWA Winter Conference held at Kern High School District Career Technical & Education Center

First of all, I would like to thank our hosts, Bryan Campoy, Director of Innovative Programs, Kern High School District and Roberto La Rosa, Attendance Administrator, Kern High School District for assisting in organizing the Winter Conference.

A full breakfast was prepared by the CTEC Culinary Program, which we all enjoyed. Mr. La Rosa brought in a great team of administrators who not only participated, but also helped us navigate the day conference with a tour of the Career Technical Education Center, which turned out to be a great surprise to us as the opportunities for High School Juniors and Seniors at the Kern School Districts are endless. They can apply to the many trade programs offered at the Center and some of which the students shared with our group were: a Medical Wing which provides Nursing & Dental School, Arts, Media and Entertainment/Digital Arts, Robotics, Fire & Law Enforcement, agriculture & Natural Resources, Business & Finance with a Valley Bank onsite, Distribution Center – Marketing and Sales Service and many more which allow students to choose the career path immediately completing high school with a job lined up for them.

The conference presentations offered many helpful tips and tools for attendees on engaging parents and connecting with students with a focus on social emotional learning and a goal of getting them back on campus. Attendees were engaged throughout and stuck around till the end of the day indicated that the training was much needed.

We thank all the presenters who contributed to make the day a successful one. The following topics were covered by the following presenters:

Why Attendance Matters- Bryan Campoy

SI&A Data Share & Communication Strategies - Brenda Tapp & Erik Elorriaga

McKinney-Vento and the Truancy Connection - Michelle Blaylock & Gabby Britt

KHSD PD Involvement in Attendance & Outreach - Officer Steven Alvidrez – KHSD PD

Community Schools Programs (Health Centers on Campus) - Jesse Beed

Attendance, Outreach & Best Practices - Jennifer Gomeztrejo – Educational Consultant for Student Support Services Solutions (S4)

We Care: Expanding the Social, Emotional, & Mental Health Supports for all Students—Angela Alcorn & Anissa Rozadilla

Legislative Update - Dr. Kevin Torosian

### San Joaquin CASCWA & Kern High School District



#### Winter Conference

December 12, 2023

at the Career Technical Education Center  
7301 Old River Road  
Bakersfield, CA 93311

#### Topics Include:

Why Attendance Matters

McKinney Vento & Truancy Connection

Law Enforcement Truancy Support

A Dive into Attendance Data – State of Attendance!

Legislative Updates

County Truancy Resources

Registration Information will soon be posted at: [www.cascwa.wildapricot.org](http://www.cascwa.wildapricot.org)

## CASCWA's San Joaquin Section President's Message (Continued)

A Tour of the Career Technical & Education Center was organized by the Principals of the CTE Center and what a treat it was for us when a couple of the robots performed for the group!

Amongst those who were new to the facility at least 69 gave positive feedback of the tour and the materials presented.

For the San Joaquin Board, I would like to also recognize Dr. Kevin Torosian, Sergio Mendoza, Johnny Gonzalez, our Treasurer who coordinated closely with Mr. La Rosa, and Praxades Torres (Nunie) for making the trip to Bakersfield and their contributions to the day conference.

San Joaquin Section Board will continue to offer opportunities to all those who are new to student attendance as we move forward and into the new school year.

Once again, we thank the Kern School District Administrators who joined us and participated in the day conference and hope to bring more professional development opportunities for all the neighboring counties and school districts in future.

We look forward to a good year for all our CASCWA professionals who work with educators and students. Our goal is to offer opportunities to those high school seniors who have overcome challenges and are on their way to higher education this year by way of the Anthony Brucia Scholarships. Your contributions towards the raffle prizes will go directly towards the Scholarships we offer to the high school seniors selected by the Scholarship Committee.

Happy New Year to all!

Sharma Uma

San Joaquin Section President  
SARB Coordinator  
Stanislaus County Office of Education

[suma@stancoe.org](mailto:suma@stancoe.org)

(209)480-0413

(209)238-1514



This April 2024 CASCWA State Conference Monterey

# CASCWA's Southern Section President's Message

**Don English**

**San Bernardino County Office of Education**

[donald.english@sbcss.net](mailto:donald.english@sbcss.net)



Dear esteemed members of the California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance,

I trust this message finds you in good health and high spirits. It is with great pleasure that I write this message as we collectively strive to create an educational landscape that fosters student success and ensures their holistic development. As leaders in child welfare and attendance, your role is pivotal in shaping the future of our students.

I would like to emphasize our shared commitment to addressing the pressing issues that impact the educational experience of California's students. In our pursuit of excellence, there are several key areas that demand our attention and collaboration.

- 1. Combatting Chronic Absenteeism:** Chronic absenteeism remains a significant challenge that hampers student achievement. As advocates for the well-being of our students, let us redouble our efforts to implement effective strategies that address the root causes of absenteeism and ensure every child has the opportunity to engage consistently in their education.
- 2. Reduction of Exclusionary Discipline:** We recognize the importance of creating a positive and inclusive learning environment. To this end, let us work together to reduce exclusionary discipline practices, ensuring that our disciplinary measures are fair, proportionate, and focused on fostering growth and learning rather than perpetuating cycles of disengagement.
- 3. Student Equity:** Achieving equity in education is paramount. Our focus should be on identifying and eliminating disparities that hinder the progress of certain student populations. By promoting inclusive policies and practices, we can ensure that every student, regardless of background, has equal opportunities to thrive.
- 4. School Safety:** Creating a safe and secure learning environment is foundational to student success. Let us continue to prioritize and enhance school safety measures, fostering an atmosphere where students feel supported, protected, and ready to learn.
- 5. Collaboration Between Education Partners for Collective Impact:** Collaboration is at the heart of our efforts. By fostering strong partnerships among educators, administrators, parents, and community stakeholders, we can amplify our impact and create a more comprehensive and supportive educational ecosystem.

In conclusion, as we face the challenges ahead, let us draw inspiration from our shared commitment to the well-being and success of California's students. Your dedication to the cause of child welfare and attendance is instrumental in shaping a brighter future for our state.

Thank you for your tireless efforts and unwavering dedication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don English". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donald English  
President, CASCWA Southern Section,



RAISING THE  
TIDE OF  
STUDENT  
SUPPORT



# THE 87TH ANNUAL **CASCWA** *Conference*

**APRIL 24-26, 2024**

Discover the most comprehensive and useful information  
to support school success for students and families.

HYATT REGENCY MONTEREY HOTEL & SPA  
ON DEL MONTE GOLF COURSE  
1 Old Golf Course Rd.  
Monterey, CA 93940



Hosted By The  
**BAY SECTION**







## **Come to CASCWA's Annual State Conference April 24-26 Monterey, California**

The CASCWA conference offers the most comprehensive and useful information for school and district administrators, school support staff, social services & community based organizations regarding programs, policies, and procedures to support school success for students and families.

Please join us as a range of experts will provide workshops and presentations structured around equity, multi-tiered systems of support, and best practices relating to student support services and interventions. The CASCWA Conference supports a district's ability to meet its established LCAP goals while we continue building our professional learning community through California and beyond!

Please visit our CASCWA Website at [www.cascwa.wildapricot.org](http://www.cascwa.wildapricot.org).



To register click here: <https://cascwa.wildapricot.org/event-5405556>

For any questions, please contact our conference chairperson, Andrew Kevy, at [cascwa.bayak@gmail.com](mailto:cascwa.bayak@gmail.com) or (510) 935-1090.





Specific information on this important workshop can be found in the Delta Sierra President's Message!

Click here to register: <https://cascwa.wildapricot.org/event-5491445>



## POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE: STUDENT WELLNESS, ATTENDANCE, AND ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF CORRECTION




**FEB 05,  
2024**

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**SHASTA COUNTY OFFICE  
OF EDUCATION  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

2985 INNSBRUCK DR,  
REDDING, CA 96003

**REGISTER NOW**



**\$125.00/person  
includes lunch**

Send check payments to:  
Delta Sierra CASCWA  
P.O. Box 565, Woodland, CA 95776





SOUTHERN SECTION  
California Association of  
Supervisors Child Welfare &  
Attendance

**SAVE THE DATE**

**THIS WORKSHOP MAY TURN OUT TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT  
WORKSHOP FOR YOU AND YOUR DISTRICT IN 2024!**

**PREPARING FOR AND WORKING THROUGH!**



## **INCIDENT RESPONSE**

**Workshop Date:** Friday, February 9, 2024 (

**Time:** 8:30-12:00 Noon

**The Workshop is:** An In-Person & Zoom Event.

**In Person Location:** San Bernardino COE West End Educational Center, 8265 Aspen St. Rancho Cucamonga. Registration Limited to 65 Attendees.

**Zoom:** Registration Limited to 450 Attendees

**Cost:** \$25 for CASCWA Members and \$35 for Non-Members

# PREPARING FOR AND WORKING THROUGH!

## INCIDENT RESPONSE

**Presenters:** There will be two presentations.

**First**, we have asked Mr. Tom Steele to present on “Safe School Plans.” Tom is a true expert on this topic and has presented at several CASCWA State Conferences.



**TOM STEELE**

***Director of School Safety Planning, Campus Safety Group***

Mr. Steele’s resume includes serving as a police sergeant/SWAT Team Leader, a Consultant II for the Division of Student Services at the Los Angeles County Office of Education, and as the Director of Student Services in two school districts. He is an expert in campus safety planning/response.

For specific information on “Safe School Planning Requirements”, please click on the following link:

**[Codes Display Text \(ca.gov\)](#)**

This link includes the following Education Code Statement: *(d) The comprehensive school safety plan may be evaluated and amended, as needed, by the school safety planning committee, but shall be evaluated at least once a year, to ensure that the comprehensive school safety plan is properly implemented. An updated file of all safety-related plans and materials shall be readily available for inspection by the public.*

This presentation will assist you in evaluating your district’s safe school plans. It will focus on the key components and will help you in your annual evaluation process! Tom will also point you in the direction of several “Safe School Planning Resources!”

## PREPARING FOR AND WORKING THROUGH! INCIDENT RESPONSE

Our second presentation will be a panel presentation focusing on a real incident by actual responders to the incident. It will focus on the preparations that were in place, the actual incident response and the aftermath that occurred.

**Incident description:** The incident began at lunch time on Halloween Day, when a father took his daughter's 1st grade teacher hostage in the classroom. The incident lasted well into the evening, when he was shot by the SWAT team. The incident included lockdown during lunchtime, evacuation, coordination of student transportation to a safe site, coordinating water and lunches for students and staff, and re-unification with parents, all the while coordinating with 1st responders from RPD, RSD, FBI, Fire, and the Secret Service. Also, key to the incident management was what took place in the days and weeks following.

**The Presenters:** There will be three presenters on the panel, Andrew Flores, Tim Walker, and Gary McGuire, Ed.D.



### Andrew Flores

Director, Office of Emergency Management

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RIVERSIDE

Andy Flores currently serves as Director for the Office of Emergency Management at the University of California, Riverside. Prior to coming to UCR, he served as Assistant Chief for the Public Safety Department at the University of Redlands. Andy spent the bulk of his career with the Riverside Police Department where he rose through the ranks to finish the final years of his leadership in the Department as a Captain overseeing several of the Department's Divisions.



## **PREPARING FOR AND WORKING THROUGH! INCIDENT RESPONSE**



**Tim Walker**

**Deputy Superintendent  
Riverside Unified School District**

Tim Walker has over 30 years of experience in the field of education. Mr. Walker joined RUSD in January of 2009 as the Director V of Special Education/SELPA. A year later he became responsible for an additional department and accepted his current position. In addition to his 15 years of work with special education students in the classroom, Mr. Walker has held administrative positions in a number of districts including serving as: Director of Special Education, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services and Deputy Superintendent.

**Gary McGuire, Ed. D.**  
**Director, Pupil Services - Retired**  
**Riverside Unified School District**



Dr. McGuire retired as Director of Pupil Services in the Riverside Unified School District in 2019 after 40 years of service in education. Over those years, he served as a leader in other districts and educational institutions as Curriculum Coordinator, Associate Professor of Education/Associate Dean for Educational Leadership, Elementary Principal, and Elementary Assistant Principal. Dr. McGuire also serves on the CASCWA Southern Section's Executive Board as Treasurer.

## **PREPARING FOR AND WORKING THROUGH! INCIDENT RESPONSE**

We sincerely hope that at no time in your career, you will face a life or death situation. We do know that following any major incident there will be questions regarding preparation and response. We also know that many responders can look back on an incident with memories today, as vivid as they were on the day of the incident. Dealing with incident aftermath is an essential part of mental health,

**Cost:** The Cost for this event will be \$25 for current CASCWA Members and \$35 for non-members. The in person workshop will be limited to 65 registrations and the Zoom workshop will be limited to 475 registrations. The in person workshop will include lunch.

**Payment:** Payment may be made by (1) AffiniPay (credit card) at the of registration or to be billed later, (2) check - mailed to PO Box address information located in confirmation letter or (3) by district purchase order. Payments are to be completed by February 7th, when unpaid registrations will be deleted, with the exception of confirmed purchase orders being processed.

**Zoom:** There will be a code sent to all paid registrants on February 8th and 9th to all “ZOOM” registrants permitting access to the zoom workshop.

*For questions, please send an email to [frank boehler@roadrunner.com](mailto:frank_boehler@roadrunner.com)*

CASCWA's Southern Section Executive Board hopes that this important workshop will reach out to all counties in California . We believe that “Safe School Planning” is essential for safety at all schools!

Following the workshop, all attendees will receive a copy of the two power point presentations and several links to relevant websites.

**Click Below to Register**

**<https://cascwa.wildapricot.org/event-5544798>**

For more information on our CASCWA Organization. please visit our CASCWA website at:

**[www.cascwa.wildapricot.org](http://www.cascwa.wildapricot.org)**

## Promote Student Success. Create a Culture of Showing Up.



Improve attendance



Shift attendance messaging  
from punitive to proactive



Streamline & centralize  
attendance processes



## Close Achievement Gaps & Prevent Chronic Absenteeism

Track, manage, and improve student attendance while reducing staff time spent on attendance management by 75%. SI&A puts the power of data in the hands of administrators and educators, promoting trust and engaging families in productive conversations that positively impact student achievement.

- **User-friendly software:** Intuitive dashboards, SIS integrations, and customizable reporting help schools make data-informed decisions to engage all families.
- **Expert support:** A dedicated Service Team of experienced attendance consultants provide results-driven guidance for district and school staff.
- **Customized outreach:** Positive mailings throughout the year build trust by engaging parents and students with messaging that encourages and celebrates the significance of consistent attendance.

*Learn more about how we can work together to improve student outcomes!*





# CASCWA 2023-24 Legislative Update

Sherman Garnett is our CASCWA designated legislative Chairman. He does a great job of representing CASCWA in Sacramento and in providing regular updates to our members and friends.

We also have the privilege of attending the annual legislative update provided by the Los Angeles County Office of Education's Student Support Division. In December, the members of Student Support Division gather at LACOE and speak on important legislation that impact everyone in the fields of student services. They did a great job of presenting this past December and have provided us with a copy of their power point. We have placed the power point on our website at [www.cascwa.wildapricot.org](http://www.cascwa.wildapricot.org).

In this edition, you will find a link to the actual legislation that has now become a bill. Annually, one of the highlights to LACOE's presentation is Dr.. Pamela Gibbs, J.D. Pamela is LACOE's Executive Director Governmental Relations. She has great insight into current legislative activity and committee actions. She has several slides in the power point. LACOE has several publications available on their website that are valuable to all in student services. Finally, a special "Thank You" to Dr. Sonja Smith and her staff for a job well done!

## **Legislative Update**

### ***Student Support Services***



Los Angeles County  
Office of Education



**December 8, 2023**



<https://youtu.be/tyeJ55o3EI0?si=Frhorhmi-pRJ-nQZ>

# The Presenters

**Dr. Sonya Smith**

Director III  
Student Support Services

**Jewel Forbes**

Project Director II  
Mental Health & School Counseling  
(MHSC)

**Susan Chaides**

Project Director III  
Community Health and Safe Schools  
(CHSS)

**Dr. Jennifer Kottke**

Project Director II  
CWA: Homeless Education

**Kim Griffin Esperon**

Project Director III  
Mental Health & School Counseling  
(MHSC)

**Melissa Schoonmaker**

Project Director III, Child Welfare and Attendance

**Angela Chandler**

Coordinator II, Child Welfare and Attendance

**Maryam Shayegh**

Nutrition & Wellness Coordinator, Curriculum & Instruction Services

**Dr. Gina Newton**

Coordinator II, Career Technical Education

**Dr. Rachelle Touzard**

Director I  
Student Support Services

**Dr. La Shona Jenkins**

Project Director III  
Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program  
(FYSCP)



**Los Angeles County  
Office of Education**

Leading Educators ■ Supporting Students  
Serving Communities



## 2023-24 Legislation Power Point Slides

The power point presentation consisted of seventy-seven slides focusing on Assembly Bills and Dr. Gibb's legislative information. Once again, you may download the presentation at [www.cascwa.wildapricot.org](http://www.cascwa.wildapricot.org).

Please visit the site and you will find specific information on several bills that may have a direct impact for your district's board policies and administrative regulations. Sooner or later this information may find its way into your arena and the more knowledge you have, the better.

For this edition of the intercom, we will focus on only five of the seventy-seven slides.





## **AB 87 | Pupils: Section 504 Plans**

***Meetings and Team Meetings***  
***Effective January 1, 2024***

***EC 270***

- Grants parents, guardians and LEAs authority to make audio recordings of Section 504 meetings
- Parent, guardian or LEA must notify team members of intent to record meeting at least 24 hours in advance
- If LEA notifies team of intent to record meeting, and parent/guardian objects or refuses to attend meeting because it will be recorded, the meeting shall not be recorded

## **SB 323 | Comprehensive School Safety Plans**

*Individualized Safety Plans*  
*Effective January 1, 2024*

*EC 32282*

- Requires Comprehensive School Safety Plans (CSSP) include adaptations for pupils with disabilities
- Requires annual evaluation of those plans to ensure appropriate adaptations
- Authorizes parents and others to bring a concern about a student's safety to the principal



## **SB 671 | School Safety Plans**

***Dangerous, Violent, or Unlawful Activities  
Effective January 1, 2024***

***EC 32282***

- Requires Comprehensive School Safety Plans to include procedures to assess and respond to reports of any dangerous, violent, or unlawful activity that is being conducted or threatened to be conducted:
  - at the school,
  - an activity sponsored by the school, or
  - on a school bus serving the school



## SB 291| Pupil Rights

***Recess***  
***Effective July 1, 2024***

***EC 49056 and 44807.5***

- School staff members cannot restrict a student's recess *unless* there is an immediate threat to the physical safety of the pupil or the physical safety of one or more of the student's peers.
- Recess time allotted:
  - At least 30 minutes on regular instructional days
  - At least 15 minutes on early release days, as provided and may be provided for one or more periods *unless* there is a field trip.
- Recess must be held outdoors whenever the weather and air quality permits. If outdoor space is not sufficient, permits recess to be held indoors.

## SB 291| Pupil Rights

***Continued...***

- Recess must comply with a student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan
- Requires that, *if* a student's recess period is denied, school staff members make all reasonable efforts to resolve such threats and minimize exclusion from recess and encourages school staff to implement other means of correction.
- These requirements *do not prohibit* a public school from providing students with snacks during recess

## SB 274 | Suspensions and Expulsions

### *Willful Defiance: Interventions & Supports EC 48900 & 48901.1 Effective July 1, 2024*

- Expands the prohibition of suspension of students from *Kindergarten to 12th grade* for 48900 (k) willful defiance, including charter schools
  - Sunsets July 1, 2029 for students 6th to 12th
- Reiterates use of other means of correction,
- Teachers may suspend from their classroom for EC 48900 (k) for the day of the suspension plus one.

## SB 274 | Suspensions and Expulsions

### *Continued...*

- LEA certificated and classified employees can refer students to school administrators for appropriate and timely in-school interventions or supports via other means of correction for *willful defiance*,
- School administrators are required to document other means of correction applied in the student's record within five business days.
- School administrators must inform the referring employee, verbally or in writing, what actions were taken or not, and why, by the 5th business day.
- Prohibits a suspension or expulsion from being imposed against a student based solely on the fact that the student is otherwise absent from school activities.



## Pamela Gibbs, J.D.

Executive Director  
Governmental Relations



### Background

LACOE

Legislative Counsel

Governor's Office

Assembly & Senate  
Capitol Staffer





## California 2024 Ballot Proposition



### **Proposition 1: The Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2023**

Authorizes \$6.38 billion in general obligation bonds to finance loans or grants for various purposes, including the conversion, rehabilitation, or construction of permanent supportive housing for homeless veterans and others meeting specific criteria, as well as grants for the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program.



## On the Horizon...

### 2024 Legislative Session

- LGBTQ+ Student Support Plans
- Educator and School Employee Shortages & Pipeline
- Homelessness/Housing
- Gun Control
- Climate & Energy Resiliency

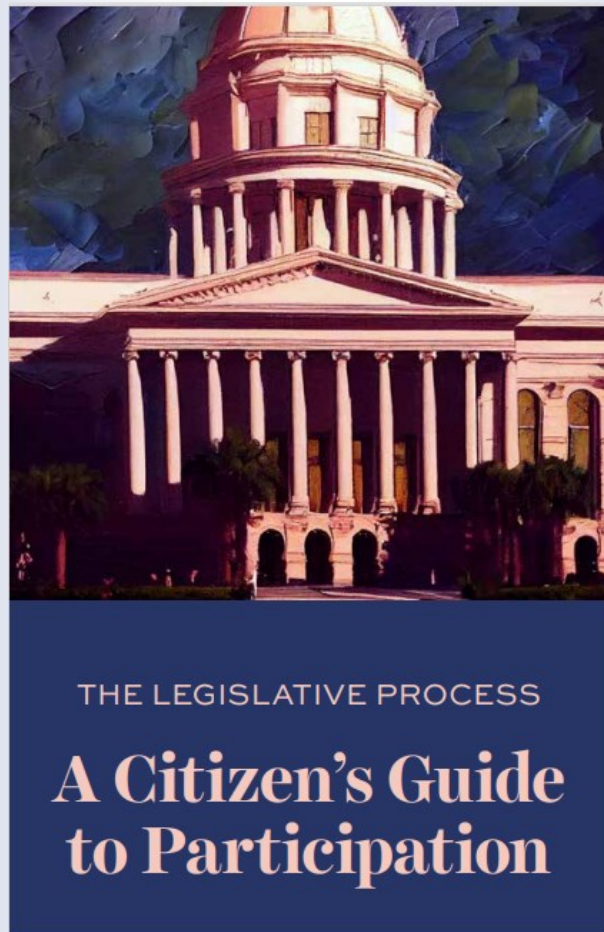




[Bill Search \(ca.gov\)](http://leginfo.ca.gov)

Click above to read the full text of the bills!

Click below for information on the legislative process.

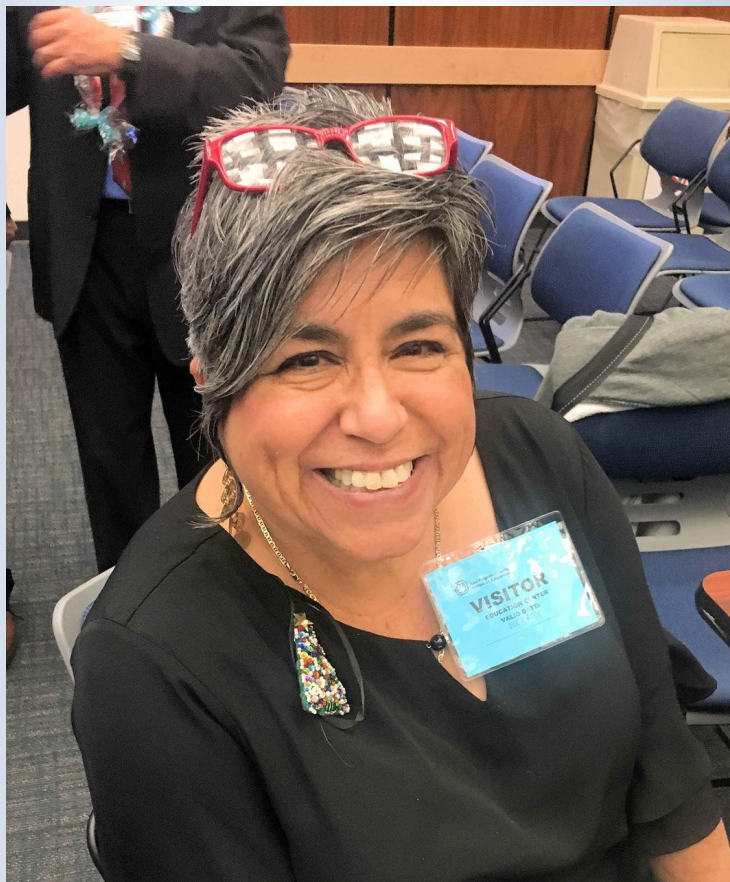


[Legislative Process Guide](#)



# Aurora Mendoza Perry

CASCWA Southern Section  
Secretary

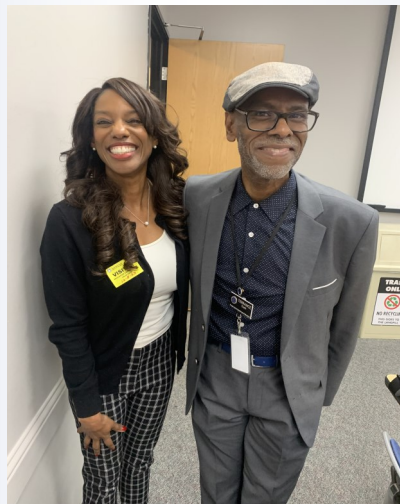
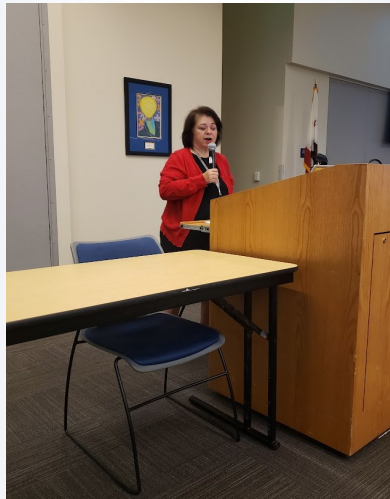


## Membership

A special thank you to Aurora Mendoza Perry for making a brief presentation, during the legislative workshop, speaking on the importance of being a member of CASCWA! She was great!

If you are not a member of CASCWA, click below to join!

[CASCWA - Membership \(wildapricot.org\)](http://wildapricot.org)







# Addressing Chronic Absenteeism Requires An “All Hands On Deck” Approach

*Positive, proactive communication with families can help educators address the root causes of chronic absenteeism.*

**Erica Peterson** Director of Education and Engagement for School Innovations & Achievement, a division of SchoolStatus





## Jeni Mendel's "Website" Pages

*Over the past several years, the editors of the CASCWA Intercom and Connection have received on-going emails from CASCWA's, Jeni Mendel, Sherman Garnett and several other executive board members. Below you will find specific links that the editors have chosen to pass on to our members. Please look over the following sites and see if they relate to your personal work load. Hopefully, you will find the websites useful!*

*In this edition of the Intercom, we have chosen to focus on Jeni's strong commitment to combat substance abuse for all ages. Many of us receive constant emails from Jeni asking for the link to go out in our communications. These special pages are our way to say, "Thank you Jeni!"*

**Ed Source California education issues to watch in 2024 — and predictions**  
[California education issues to watch in 2024 — and predictions | EdSource](#)

**CDE Guidance for Schools Related to the Opioid Crisis**  
[Guidance for Schools Related to the Opioid Crisis \(youtube.com\)](#)

**How to Cope with Traumatic Events**  
[How to Cope with Traumatic Events - HelpGuide.org](#)

**How to Let Go of Past Trauma**  
[Past Trauma: How to Let Go and Heal \(verywellhealth.com\)](#)

**21 Signs You're Autistic, ADHD, or BOTH | Neurodivergent Magic**  
[21 Signs You're Autistic, ADHD, or BOTH | Neurodivergent Magic \(youtube.com\)](#)

**64 Common Autistic Traits You Never Realised Were Signs of Autism!**  
[64 Common Autistic Traits You Never Realised Were Signs of Autism! \(youtube.com\)](#)

**2023 California Compilation of School Discipline Laws and Regulations**  
[California School Discipline Laws and Regulations.pdf \(ed.gov\)](#)

**CDE Content Standards**  
[Content Standards - Waivers, Standards & Frameworks \(CA Dept of Education\)](#)

**11 Job Interview Secrets Recruiters Won't Tell You - Interviewing Tips!**  
[11 Job Interview Secrets Recruiters Won't Tell You - Interviewing Tips! \(youtube.com\)](#)

**7 Proven Keys to Success (and How to Use Them in Your Life )**  
[7 Proven Keys to Success \(and How to Use Them in Your Life \) - Andy Andrews](#)

**What to Know About Depression in Students**  
[Depression in Students: Symptoms, Causes, What to Do | Psych Central](#)

**Is Fentanyl Deadly to the Touch?**  
[Is Fentanyl Deadly to the Touch? - The Crime Report](#)

# Jeni Mendel's "Website" Pages

**Louisiana Mother of Autistic Child Hit by Teacher Files Supreme Court Petition (Supreme Court Declined to decide the case!)**

[Lou 24135 Cover.pdf \(supremecourt.gov\)](#) [Louisiana Mother of Autistic Child Hit by Teacher Files Supreme Court Petition \(reason.com\)](#)

**Why Higher Education Should Embrace AI Now To Advance Learning**

[Why Higher Education Should Embrace AI Now To Advance Learning \(forbes.com\)](#)

**The Future of Education Policy: 7 Trends State Lawmakers Need to Know for 2024**

[The Future of Education Policy: 7 Trends to Know for 2024 \(excelined.org\)](#)

**What 2024 Will Bring for K-12 Policy: 5 Issues to Watch**

[What 2024 Will Bring for K-12 Policy: 5 Issues to Watch \(edweek.org\)](#)

**More than half nation's school districts face teacher shortages, data show**

[More than half nation's school districts face teacher shortages, data show - UPI.com](#)

**How to Survive Through School with a Horrible Teacher**

[4 Ways to Survive Through School with a Horrible Teacher - wikiHow](#)

**No.1 Worst School!!! Teachers Use Weird Methods To Make Students Smarter**

[Bing Videos](#)

**Top 10 Most Annoying Things About High School**

[Bing Videos](#)

**Projections of Education Statistics to 2028**

[Projections of Education Statistics to 2028](#)

**How to Handle an Out of Control Middle-School Classroom**

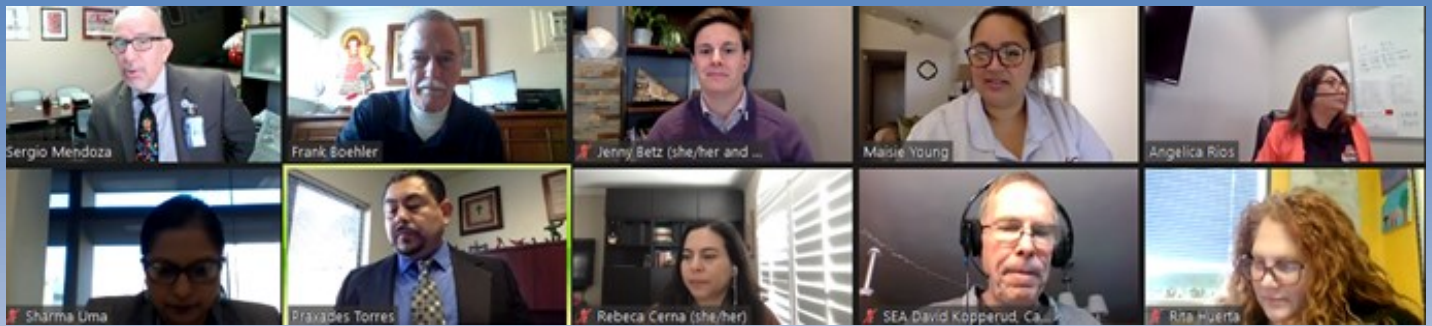
[How to Handle an Out of Control Middle-School Classroom \(youtube.com\)](#)

**Eric Anderson's Five Tips for Improving Attendance**

[Eric Anderson's Five Tips for Improving Attendance \(youtube.com\)](#)

**Fentanyl Facts**

[Fentanyl Facts \(cdc.gov\)](#)



## 2024-25 CASCWA State Executive Board

Position	Name	Section
President	Dr. Kevin Torolsion	San Joaquin
Past President	Melissa Parrett	Delta Sierra
President Elect	Rick Riegel	Southern
Treasurer	Robin Gainey	San Joaquin
Secretary	Michelle Sapanara	Southern
<b>Section Presidents</b>		
Bay Section President	Evelyn Ocasio	Bay
Delta-Sierra Section President	David Kopperud	Delta-Sierra
San Joaquin Section President	Sharma Uma	San Joaquin
Southern Section President	Don English	Southern
<b>Appointed Positions</b>		
Legislative Representative	Sherman Garnett	Southern
CDE Representative	David Kopperud	Delta-Sierra
Board Advisor	Dennis Wiechmann	San Joaquin
Membership	Lisa Sanchez	Delta-Sierra
School Innovation & Achievement	Erica Peterson	Delta Sierra
Law Enforcement Representative	Brian Chandler	San Joaquin
State SARB	Jennifer Gomez Trejo	Southern
Website	Frank Boehler & Andrew Kevy	Southern/Bay
Intercom Editors	Jennifer Kottke & Frank Boehler	Southern



*The co-editors of the CASCWA Intercom are Jennifer Kottke & Frank Boehler. We hope that you have enjoyed this edition of the Intercom. If you have any suggestions for future articles or other comments, Please contact Jennifer Kottke at: [Kottke\\_Jennifer@jacoe.edu](mailto:Kottke_Jennifer@jacoe.edu) or Frank Boehler at [frank\\_boehler@roadrunner.com](mailto:frank_boehler@roadrunner.com).*