



# THE GOLDEN SLATE

The official newsletter of the California  
Agricultural Teachers' Association

## Sacramento Scene: Education Funding and Legislative Tracking

*By Matt Patton, CATA Executive Director*

Despite a significant deficit in the overall budget, TK-12 and community colleges will avoid major cuts in the 2024-25 fiscal year. Other state operations will shoulder those cuts. The budget passed in June stayed true to Newsom's commitment to maintaining funding in Proposition 98, which makes up the funding transitional kindergarten, elementary, middle school, high school, and community college. The finalized budget even included a couple of billion dollars of additional revenue not included in Newsom's proposed budget that came out in January [\(Fensterwald, 2024\)](#).

The Legislative branch and the Governor extracted an additional \$28 billion from general funding to balance the budget. To achieve this, they incurred a \$6 billion debt that won't be fully repaid to the state treasury for a dozen years, draining \$8.4 billion from the education rainy day fund. The plan also delays payments to school districts and community colleges [\(Fensterwald, 2024\)](#).

In the 2024-25 budget deal, the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC) systems will receive a 5% budget increase, totaling \$227.8 million for UC and \$240.2 million for CSU, to support enrollment growth of California residents. However, the systems will face a one-year delay for an additional 5% budget increase initially planned for 2025-26, and they will encounter one-time cuts of \$125 million for UC and \$75 million for CSU in 2024-25, which will be restored in 2025-26. Additionally, CSU and UC will experience a 7.95% reduction in administrative expenses for the 2025-26 fiscal year [\(Fensterwald, 2024\)](#).

The adopted budget included the Agriculture Incentive Grant (1.6134 million), the Career Technical Incentive Grant (300 million), and the K-12 Strong Workforce Grant (150 million).

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Below are bills that CATA is tracking. The legislature is on summer break until August 16.

- [AB 1871](#) (Alanis) – This bill requires personal financial literacy to be included in social sciences and career technical education (CTE) curricula for grades 7-12. It is currently held at the Senate desk (a maneuver ensuring the right of action to the full chamber, rather than a committee).
- [AB 1927](#) (Alanis) – Inclusion of CTE credentials for the Golden State Teacher Grant Program. It is being held under submission (an action taken by a committee allowing committee members or the author to work on the bill further).
- [AB 2097](#) (Berman) – Computer Science Course Requirement: This bill mandates all public high schools to offer a computer science course, although it has removed the graduation requirement. It is currently in the suspense file (a way to consider the fiscal impact to the state legislation as a whole).
- [AB 2640](#) (Kalra) – This bill addresses animal dissection in pupil instruction and is currently under review by the Assembly Appropriations Committee (Assembly Appropriations reviews all bills with any fiscal impact).
- [AB 2927](#) (McCarthy) – This bill sets new high school graduation requirements for personal finance starting in the 2030-31 school year. Chaptered by the Secretary of State (meaning the bill passed both houses and was signed by the Governor).

Any movement on the above bills will be communicated to the membership as they progress through the legislative process.

