



## ***EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT***

**April 27, 2026**

*The mission of the YPI Charter Schools (YPICS) is to prepare students for academic success in high school, as well as post--secondary education; prepare students to be responsible and active participants in their community; and enable students to become lifelong learners. Students at YPI Charter Schools will become active citizens who characterize the ideals of a diverse and democratic society. Students will provide service to their community, take responsibility for their own learning, and develop the habits of mind and body that will empower them to be successful in high school and beyond.*

### **State/CCSA**

*CCSA Capital Update: April 16, 2026*

#### **AB 2519 (McKinnor) – Charter CalSTRS Legislative Fix To Be Considered Next Week**

It's been an eventful 24 hours!

In a breaking news update: [AB 2519 \(McKinnor\)](#) will become the vehicle for a critical legislative fix to the CalSTRS issue we have been working to resolve. As a reminder, AB 1997 (2024), which will go into effect July 1, 2027, will limit continued CalSTRS participation to charter school positions which are currently required to be credentialed under state law, and positions currently held by credentialed educators as long as they do not leave those positions. This change in law will place unacceptable limitations on many charter school employees who are not required to be credentialed, or who are credentialed but are interested in promotions or other position changes into administrative roles that could jeopardize CalSTRS retirement eligibility if this change takes full effect.

To address this, we have been working closely with Assemblymember Tina McKinnor to introduce AB 2519, which **will provide additional options for charter school operators to designate employment positions in a way that will safeguard CalSTRS eligibility for charter school educators.**

The bill is scheduled to be heard in the **Assembly Public Employment and Retirement committee on April 22 at 9 a.m.** With a tight turnaround, letters in support of the bill were due to the Committee this morning. We had to mobilize incredibly quickly last night and reached out to many of you who had supported prior advocacy campaigns. THANK YOU to everyone who responded so quickly to our call to action! Because of your support, we were able to submit a [coalition letter](#) with **146 signatures in less than 20 hours**. This kind of rapid response underscores the value of our membership. Your partnership and support allows us to act quickly and effectively when we need to pull the fire alarm.

This effort was also made possible by the signatures we have on file from previous coalition letters, which allowed us to move swiftly and maximize participation on short notice.

As you all know, ensuring equitable access to retirement benefits for charter school educators has been a top priority and a core part of our advocacy. Securing this vehicle for the legislative fix is a major victory and reflects our commitment to protecting charter school employees. We are excited to share this progress with you and look forward to keeping you updated as the bill advances.

If you need additional information regarding CCSA's CalSTRS advocacy, please visit our Member Portal CalSTRS page <https://portal.ccsa.org/policy-updates?tab=3>

*CCSA Capital Update: April 23, 2026*

### **AB 2519 (McKinnor): CCSA's Sponsored CalSTRS Retirement Fix - Passes out of Committee**

We are happy to report that [AB 2519](#), our sponsored bill that will provide the critical legislative fix to resolving the unintended consequences to charter school administrator's CalSTRS eligibility from AB 1997, has successfully passed out of the Assembly Public Employment and Retirement Committee. The bill passed 7-0, with no opposition, and is now headed the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

We would like to thank the bill's author, Assemblymember Tina McKinnor, for her commitment to fixing this issue. As she stated in her opening remarks, "I strongly believe in being fair, and this bill is intended to correct [the] issue so that [charter educators] can continue participating in the system."

We would also like to extend our gratitude to all those who showed up to the hearing to provide "me-too" testimony and demonstrate support for the bill. Additionally, thank you to everyone who signed onto our coalition letter last week. This outcome would not have been possible without your rapid engagement.

This effort also highlights the strength and responsiveness of the charter movement and our advocacy team here in Sacramento. Despite the short notice, we were able to rapidly mobilize school leaders, secure the support of over 144 organizations, coordinate with legislators, organize testimony, and successfully pass AB 2519 out of committee in exactly one week, which is an unprecedented feat for our organization and for our movement. YPICS was one of the organizations that signed on to the letter of support for this bill.

With this successful outcome, AB 2519 will now move to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, where it must pass by May 15. We look forward to updating you as the bill progresses!

## Local/LAUSD

### **Strike-Status**

After a tense weekend (April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>) of 11th-hour negotiations, the Los Angeles Unified School District successfully averted a massive district-wide strike that was set to begin on April 14, 2026. While **United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA)** and school administrators reached tentative deals on April 12, the final piece of the puzzle fell into place at **2:00 a.m.** on the morning of the walkout deadline when **SEIU Local 99**—representing 30,000 essential support staff—clinched an agreement in principle. These deals, which include historic wage increases of up to **24%** for service workers and nearly **12%** for teachers, were officially detailed and re-signed as formal tentative agreements as of yesterday, **April 23, 2026**. Although the last-minute resolution left many families scrambling with morning-of uncertainty, campuses have remained open and operational while the unions move toward member ratification votes, effectively ending a year of successor bargaining and bringing a fragile sense of stability back to the district’s 400,000 students.

### **The Funding Gap**

While the district narrowly avoided a strike, the fiscal reality is stark. The 2025-2026 budget was already under pressure from **declining enrollment** (down 3% this year) and the total expiration of federal COVID-19 relief funds (**ESSER**).

Following the tentative agreements reached in mid-April 2026, LAUSD officially began lobbying state officials for a financial lifeline to cover the massive costs of the new union contracts. Acting Superintendent Andres Chait acknowledged that without supplemental state assistance, the district faces a "careening financial crisis" due to the **\$1.17 billion annual cost** of the negotiated raises and benefit expansions.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Impact</b>
<b>New Contract Cost</b>	\$1.17 Billion annually
<b>SEIU Wage Hike</b>	24% increase over three years
<b>UTLA Wage Hike</b>	11.65% increase over two years

Item	Impact
Enrollment Trend	Down to 389,000 students (long-term decline)

## State Response

The request comes at a difficult time for Sacramento. Although early 2026 budget projections suggested a possible K-12 "windfall" due to **Prop 98** guarantees, a spokesperson for the California Department of Finance recently described the state's footing as "shaky."

- **State Stance:** Officials have not made a final decision on specific LAUSD aid, stating that any potential deal is "still under development."
- **District Risk:** Fiscal experts warn that if the state does not provide a dedicated infusion of cash, the district may be forced to implement significant central office cuts and consider school consolidations as early as the 2027-2028 fiscal year to maintain solvency.

The current deficit is projected to hit **\$191 million** by 2027-28 if spending trajectories remain unchanged, even with the proposed raises.

## Impact on Charter Schools

The April 2026 walkout was averted, but for Los Angeles charter schools, the celebration has quickly turned into a strategic crisis. With LAUSD securing historic raises—including a staggering **24% hike** for service workers and nearly **12%** for teachers—independent charters are staring down a "brain drain" of epic proportions. Because these schools operate in the same labor market, failing to match these compensation levels risks a mass exodus of talent toward the district's newfound financial stability. However, unlike the district, which can lean on its sheer scale and political weight to lobby Sacramento for supplemental funding to cover its **\$1.17 billion** price tag, **independent charters are essentially "flying solo" without the safety net of local parcel taxes or state-mandated fiscal interventions.**

**This lack of a financial backstop makes a direct "wage war" with LAUSD a high-stakes gamble that many experts consider fiscally imprudent.** While the district can weather a deficit by counting on its status as a "too big to fail" entity, an independent charter that overextends its budget faces the very real threat of permanent closure or charter revocation if the numbers don't add up. **Without the luxury of owning their own campuses**—meaning a significant portion of their per-pupil funding is already cannibalized by rent and debt service—**these schools must prioritize long-term solvency over total wage parity.** Consequently, **the most prudent path for 2026 involves a cautious hybrid strategy: maybe by offering one-time bonuses or targeted incentives** that acknowledge the cost-of-living crisis without locking the school into a permanent, "on-the-books" salary scale that could trigger a total collapse if state funding fluctuates or enrollment continues to slide.

## YPICS

### **LAUSD Oversight Visits**

The oversight visits for the YPICS' Valley Schools wrapped up this week, marking a significant milestone in the annual accountability cycle. Representatives from the **Charter Schools Division (CSD)** spent time on the ground, and while "oversight" can sometimes feel like a high-stakes exam, the feedback for the Valley Schools was overwhelmingly constructive and grounded in tangible progress.

The CSD Specialists left with a clear sense of momentum. One of the most significant "wins" noted during the visit was the **dramatic improvement in the documented tracking of students with special needs**. Specialists specifically highlighted the refined systems for monitoring progress and compliance, expressing genuine satisfaction with how these records have been stabilized and professionalized across both schools.

Beyond the paperwork, the classroom experience told a story of high expectations. The CSD team acknowledged that **every student—regardless of their starting point—had clear access to grade-level work and assignments**. This alignment with rigorous standards was corroborated by observations of increased rigor in most classrooms. While the specialists did provide a "shortlist" of areas for growth (as is the nature of the process), the prevailing sentiment was that the schools are leaning into a culture of academic challenge (pleased to see the partnerships with LACOE and UCLA response to root causes for low academic achievement outcomes) and inclusive support.

### **Special Education Self-Study/Review**

We have reviewed the confidential draft of the **Special Education Self-Study**, and it is an impressively thorough document that serves as a vital calibration of the challenges we've previously identified. The report provides clear, data-driven confirmation of the identification disparities across our sites: one school has seen its IEP population climb from **27% to 32%**, suggesting a trend toward over-identification, while another site is sitting between **10% and 11%**. This latter figure is notably lower than neighboring public schools, confirming that students in that community may be under-identified. Having this level of detail validates our internal observations and provides the evidentiary weight needed to drive formal policy adjustments.

The YPICS Executive team is scheduled for a formal debrief on **April 30, 2026**, to dive deep into these findings and finalize the path forward. Following that discussion, the Executive Director will incorporate the specific recommendations from the self-study into the agenda for the **May Board meeting**. This transition from data collection to actionable strategy ensures we are addressing these identification gaps head-on, moving us toward a more balanced and equitable special education framework across the district.

## **Regional Placement Program Update**

Our Executive Leadership Team, including the ED and COO, has conducted two "deep-dive" sessions with our legal counsel and the last session also included Arjun, the CEO of **Expatiate**, to ensure total alignment on our regional program placement. These meetings were vital for articulating our specific goals for supporting students with **mid-to-low-incidence needs** and ensuring our legal framework is built to sustain those services. Both **MYC partners** have reiterated their continued support for the program, and we are currently on track to have a working draft ready for review by next week.

Once the initial draft is completed, it will be sent to the Expatiate attorneys for their review, followed by a final evaluation by our own legal counsel. This thorough vetting process will culminate in a formal recommendation for approval brought before the Board. Our objective is to complete these final administrative and legal hurdles in the coming weeks to secure a clear **implementation timeline for the next school year**, ensuring these expanded services are ready for our students on day one.

## **Salary Projections for 2026-2027**

We are in the middle of planning for the 2026–2027 school year, we are working diligently to thoughtfully develop salary projections. This process reflects our commitment to do our best to take care of all YPICS Staff members, by following the law, and ensuring that each school's Executive Administrator's voice is part of the conversation as we plan for the year ahead. We are also keeping a close eye on the ongoing negotiations within our authorizing district, recognizing that these developments may influence compensation expectations across our region.

YPICS has always been committed to offering competitive salaries that honor the dedication and talent of our staff, while also maintaining the financial stability of our organization. With this in mind, we are carefully reviewing our budget and long-term projections to determine what is sustainable. Our goal is to provide meaningful salaries while ensuring we remain fiscally strong and able to serve our students and community well into the future.