



**WORKERS' COMPENSATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
JANUARY 15, 2026  
9:00 A.M.**

**AGENDA**

**I. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of Minutes for December 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Dave Ostash
- B. Report of Claims for the Month of December 2025 in the Amount of \$2,012,948.15 Dave Ostash  
Bakersfield City School District Claims in the Amount of \$288,814.53 Kern High  
School District Claims in the Amount of \$489,776.54 and Ratification of Payment  
of these Amounts

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_ Roll Call Vote \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Public Comment**

### **III. Closed Session- Workers' Compensation Liability Claims**

The board may be required to adjourn to closed session for discussion of matters regarding a claim for the payment of tort liability losses, public liability losses, or workers' compensation liability, authorized by Government Code 54956.95.

<b>District</b>	<b>File Number</b>	<b>Claimant</b>
Kern High School District By Miriam Sanchez	2017024359 2017024622	Gilbert Valdez
Santa Barbara Unified School District By Cheryl Slomian	2020038123	Otto Layman
El Tejon Unified School District By Desiree Perry	2020036127	Lucila Mejia
Vineland School District By Desiree Perry	2020036514	Perla Gonzalez

### **IV. Reconvene To Open Session**

A. Reports from Closed Session, if Required

## V. Action Items

- A. Financial Report – Presentation of Financial Statements for the Month of December 2025 Will Be Submitted for Approval

Kim Sloan

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_ Roll Call Vote \_\_\_\_\_

## VI. Information and Discussion Items

- A. Claims and Loss Management Summary for the month of December

Gabe Rodriguez

- B. Update on the Work Group/Gatekeeper Network

Rich Cameron

- C. SISC I Risk Management Services Report

Matt Scott

- D. List of Special Cases Not Requiring Board Approval

Dave Ostash

- E. Comments from the Board of Directors Will Be Heard

Dave Ostash

- F. Next Meeting:

Dave Ostash

Thursday, February 19, 2026

9:00 a.m.

SISC Board Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor – Larry E. Reider Education Center

2000 K Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301

- G. Adjournment

Dave Ostash

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_ Roll Call Vote \_\_\_\_\_

Any materials required by law to be made available to the public prior to a meeting of the Governing Board of the SISC I JPA can be inspected at the following address during normal business hours at:

2000 K Street, Bakersfield, CA. 93301

For more information regarding how, to whom, and when a request for disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation to participate in the public meeting, please contact Kristy Comstock at

661-636-4682 or [krcomstock@siscschools.org](mailto:krcomstock@siscschools.org)

\*The number of Board Members needed to form a quorum for this meeting is six

## Workers' Compensation Terminology

1. **All alleged claims are questioned and reviewed. They are then classified as either:**
  - a. **Admitted** - This means the claim is not being disputed and is accepted as a work related injury or illness.
  - b. **Alleged Injury** - this means the claim is questioned further to determine compensability. The claim is then either accepted (admitted) or denied in full, depending on the outcome of the workers' compensation process pursuant to the laws of the state.
2. **AME** – Agreed Medical Examiner
3. **AOE/COE** - Injury Arises Out of Employment/Course of Employment.
4. **Apportionment** - A portion of permanent disability (P.D.) that is due to a pre-existing condition, whether industrial or non-industrial, may be subtracted from the total amount of the permanent disability. Therefore, the total amount is "apportioned" between the injuries or conditions.
5. **Confidence Level** – The statistical certainty that an actuary believes funding will be sufficient. For example, an 80% confidence level means that the actuary believes funding will be sufficient in eight years out of ten.
6. **Expected Confidence Level** – This corresponds to approximately a 55% confidence level. Amounts above expected are prudent.
7. **The seven areas of payment:**
  1. **Medical** - Treatment to cure or relieve the effects of the injury.
  2. **Temporary Disability (TD)** - To compensate the injured worker for lost wages.
  3. **Permanent Disability (PD)** – To compensate the injured worker for the permanent loss of physical or mental function that can be measured by a physician, as a result of the injury. The PD may or may not interfere with that individual's ability to perform their usual work activities.
  4. **Supplemental Job Displacement Benefit (SJDB)** – A nontransferable voucher for education related retraining or skill enhancement or both at a state approved or accredited school.
  5. **Death Benefits**
  6. **Medical/Legal** - Costs to determine or resolve compensability and/or level of permanent disability.
  7. **Legal** - Cost for outside counsel to handle litigated cases.
8. **Three Types of Claim Settlements**
  1. When the parties can't agree, the case is then tried and the judge issues the **Findings and Award**.
  2. **Stipulation with Request for Award (Stips)** - All parties agree and stipulate to the period of temporary disability (T.D.), any permanent disability (P.D.), and if there is, or is not, the need for future medical treatment. The claimant has the right to reopen this case within five years from the date of injury if he/she experiences any "new and further" disability that is directly related to the original injury.
  3. **Compromise and Release (C&R)** - All parties agree to a settlement amount and a lump sum payment is made. A C&R may close all issues or may leave open certain agreed-upon issues.

### 9. Additional Terminology

**ACOEM – American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine** - These are the medical guidelines used to establish appropriate medical diagnostics and treatment, and are presumed on the extent and scope of medical treatment regardless of the Date of Injury (DOI).

**AMA – American Medical Association** - sets forth the medical evaluation protocols and rating procedures to determine the extent of an individual's impairments.

**DRE – Diagnosis-Related Estimate** - One of two methods a physician uses to determine spinal impairment. It is the preferred method over Range of Motion (ROM).

**DFEC- Diminished Future Earning Capacity** -A component of the 2005 Permanent Disability Rating Schedule (PDRS), used in calculating the level of permanent disability sustained due to an industrial injury, taking into consideration one's resulting diminished future earning capacity.

**MMI – Maximal Medical Improvement** – Formerly known as Permanent and Stationary; defined as the point in time when the injured workers' condition is well stabilized and unlikely to change substantially in the next year with or without medical treatment.

**MPN- Medical Provider Network** - is a group of health care providers set up by an insurer or self-insured employer and approved by DWC's administrative director to treat workers injured on the job.

**WPI – Whole Person Impairment** – A loss, or loss of use, or derangement of any body part, organ system, or organ function. Impairment is considered permanent when it has reached Maximum Medical Improvement (MMI)