



SISC

Self-Insured Schools of California
Schools Helping Schools

Property & Liability Division

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Quarterly Update

REPRESENTATION IN SACRAMENTO

As many of you know, Carlos Rojas of the Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS) office serves as the Chief Governmental Relations Officer for the KCSOS. In this role, Carlos keeps KCSOS members abreast of important developments related to legislation impacting, or that could impact our educational efforts in Kern County.

Carlos started his career in education in the late 1990's in Georgia where he attended college. Not soon after, he decided to relocate to California, where he submitted an application to the Kern County Superintendent of Schools office in the Alternative Education Program. He soon fell in love with the aspect of alternative education and teaching and has remained employed with KCSOS ever since.

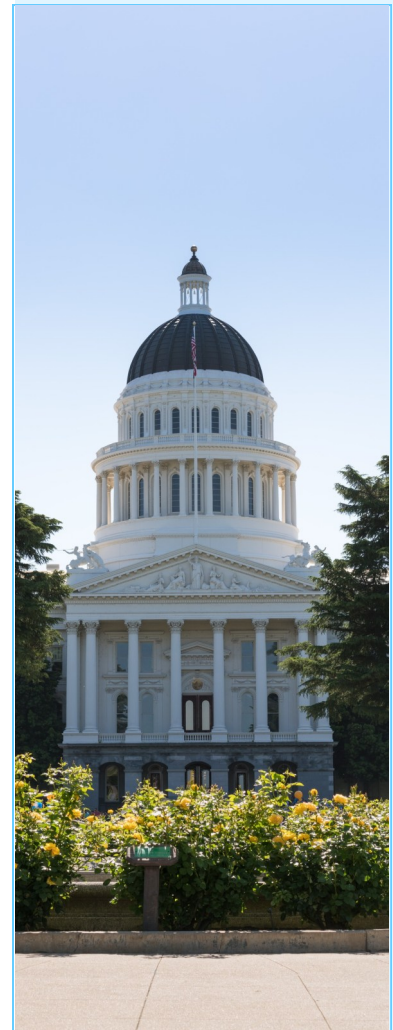
A few years ago, Dr. Mary Barlow, the former Superintendent of KCSOS approached Carlos in regards to any interest he might have in the government relations position. While never having been politically inclined, Carlos contemplated the impact he could have in this role relative to bettering the education of Kern County students. The potential for impacting educational opportunities for students across the state was of interest to Carlos as well. Given real life experience in the classroom, he was perfectly situated to study the issues presented at the legislative level.



Carlos admits that there has been a steep learning curve with respect to the political landscape in Sacramento. While this remains a challenge, he does not ever forget his role as an advocate for students. With that focus, he has been guided on occasion to be in the minority of certain positions that might have an adverse effect on students. Sometimes serving as an advocate causing legislators to modify or amend bills that were originally presented in a way not as favorable to students.

Often times a piece of legislation or a bill begins with an idea that is presented to an interested legislator. The first step after presentation of an idea, is for the proposal to go to legislative counsel where it is reviewed and language drafted. Once introduced, the bill is assigned to the appropriate

(continued on page 5)



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Yahushua's Law.....	2
New Executive Director.....	3
Student Accident Coverage.....	4
Public School Works.....	5
From the Director.....	6

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Special Education Voluntary Coverage Program

As part of the Special Education Voluntary Coverage Program (SEVCP), participating districts or SELPAs are eligible for reimbursement of defense fees and costs associated with due process complaints filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH), Special Education Division.

To qualify for reimbursement for the 2025–2026 fiscal year, all supporting documentation must be submitted by **August 3, 2026**. Required documentation includes:

- A copy of the due process complaint
- Legal invoices from the district's representing attorney
- Copies of warrants issued for payment to the law firm
- The assigned OAH case number for each filing

If you have any questions regarding the documentation requirements, please don't hesitate to contact Hilda Hankins at (661) 636-4694 or hitabora@siscschools.org

YAHUSHUA'S LAW

California Senate Bill 1248 establishes new requirements for K-12 schools district to develop and implement a weather policy by July 1, 2026. These requirements are for recess, P.E. classes, athletics, outdoor school events, and afterschool programs. The enacted legislation is also known as Yahushua's Law, after the tragic death of 12-year-old Yahushua Robinson during P.E. class. As a result of Yahushua's Law, California Education Code 33355 requires the California Department of Education to post guidelines specifying temperature thresholds and index ratings that trigger modifications to student physical activities during extreme weather conditions.

On or before July 1, 2026, each local education agency shall develop, adopt, and implement weather protocols for extreme weather conditions and the protocols shall incorporate the standard guidelines compiled by CDE and provide specific measures to be taken during extreme weather. Measures include:

- ◆ Clear criteria for determining when weather conditions are considered extreme weather conditions and warrant modification or cessation of outdoor physical activities.
- ◆ Procedures for monitoring weather forecasts and alerts to anticipate extreme weather conditions.
- ◆ Protocols for communicating with staff, pupils, and parents or guardians regarding changes to outdoor activities due to extreme weather conditions.
- ◆ Designation of indoor alternative activities that can be safely conducted during extreme weather conditions.
- ◆ Training for staff members on recognizing signs of weather-related distress in pupils and appropriate response measures.
- ◆ Coordination with relevant local agencies and experts to ensure timely access to weather-related information and resources.

Heat risk is more than just temperature. Heat risk includes how unusual the heat is for your location and time of year, how long the heat will last, and humidity. The National Weather Service has an interactive website to assist districts in heat risk assessments.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has a Heat Risk Grid that districts should consult to determine when individuals are at risk and what action to take. The grid can be accessed at [CDPH Heat Risk Grid](#). The local department of health may also be a resource to districts.



Districts should also be familiar with recognizing the different types of heat related illness, including heat exhaustion, heat cramps and heat stroke and recommended emergency treatments. This information is provided on the CDPH website at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OHE/Pages/Climate-Health-Equity/Extreme-Heat/Health-Guidance-for-Schools-on-Sports-and-Strenuous-Activities.aspx>

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR—TY TAYLOR

We are pleased to announce our very own Ty Taylor as Executive Director of SISC II Property & Liability. Our members will benefit from the steady, veteran leadership that Ty brings to our team.

Ty Taylor joined Self Insured Schools of California in June of 2006. Ty was raised in Whittier, CA attending K-12 public schools before graduating from California State University Fullerton in 1991 earning his Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice. After college he entered the insurance industry working in the private sector for nearly 20 years while supervising civil litigation for Reliance Insurance Company, Kemper Insurance Company and St. Paul Fire and Marine. At his last stop, he worked in the McDonald’s Franchisee litigated claims department centralized in the City of Orange. “It was a national account, so it kept things interesting. You had to become familiar with the various Statute of Limitations periods and legal defenses that could vary based upon the state and venue where the accident or injury occurred. Back east when the temperatures drop below 32 degrees, a landowner could be found negligent for failing to salt their parking lots and sidewalks. You don’t see that in Southern California,” said Taylor.



As our Program Coordinator over the last 7 years, Ty provided mentorship to our team of adjusters and claims handlers, while also taking lead on complex claims involving Civil Rights, abuse, employment and other high exposure claims. “Through Ty’s demonstrated commitment to SISC members and its dedicated employees, we are poised for continuous success and stability,” states CEO Dave Ostash.

Ty enjoys working in the yard on the weekends and watching his favorite sports teams: the Los Angeles Rams, Los Angeles Dodgers and USC Football. During the football season you can spot Ty sitting in section 344 at SOFI Stadium when the Rams are playing at home. He enjoys tailgating with his family and friends, always arriving at the stadium early and leaving late.

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Anonymous Reporting System

SISC is partnering again this year with STOPit to offer our member districts an Anonymous Reporting System and Safety Program. This app provides a mobile app, web app and hotline that allows students to share information anonymously with administrators in real-time.

Pool-wide SISC has seen over 1,700 incidents reported; 961 uses of the Crisis Text Line and 142 Life Threatening incidents that allowed for immediate intervention in the 2025-26 school year.

STOPit is providing a Summer Relaunch and Learn Series for new administrators or as a refresher for staff. If your district is interested in offering the STOPit platform this year on your campus, reach out to kejones@siscschools.org for information.



STUDENT ACCIDENT COVERAGE

BY ELSA LARA, STUDENT INSURANCE CLAIMS EXAMINER

Preparing for Football: Coverage Reminder

Football season is around the corner! As districts prepare for summer conditioning, practices, and the upcoming football season, now is the time to review enrollment procedures and ensure student-athletes have the appropriate coverage in place.

Tackle Football Coverage

SISC's Tackle Football Coverage is designed specifically for high school football-related injuries and helps provide financial protection for student-athletes and their families when injuries occur.

Before the season begins, districts should review athlete rosters and verify that all students requiring coverage have been properly enrolled. Timely enrollment and accurate roster submission are essential to ensure coverage is in place before an injury occurs. Districts and High Schools should promptly report any additions or changes to their football rosters throughout the season.



Early Reporting Matters

Coaches, athletic trainers, and site administrators should be familiar with injury reporting procedures. Prompt injury reporting helps families receive claim information quickly, allows SISC to provide timely assistance throughout the claim process, and helps ensure claims are handled as efficiently as possible.

Don't Forget About Concussion Resources

All student-athletes competing in high school athletics (grades 9-12) have access to **HeadStrong Concussion Coverage**. This provides benefits for "concussion-related treatment and support". This is an added benefit to SISC member districts and is independent of our SISC Tackle Football Coverage program. This resource is for other sports as well, such as soccer, basketball, etc., if it involves a concussion injury occurring in high school athletics, it is more than likely eligible for this coverage, so be sure to report it to us so we can assist.

Districts also have access to the **Headquarters Concussion Management Platform**, a valuable resource for concussion tracking, recovery monitoring, and return-to-play protocols.

Need a Refresher?

SISC-Student Accident Department offers on-site and WebEx presentations for coaches, athletic trainers, athletic directors, and district staff. Presentations can cover: Tackle Football Coverage, Headstrong Concussion Coverage, claim reporting procedures, enrollment requirements, and frequently asked questions.

Questions?

For additional information regarding Tackle Football Coverage, HeadStrong Concussion Coverage, enrollment procedures, or claim reporting requirements, please contact Elsa Lara at (661) 636-4736 or by email to ellara@siscschools.org

SISC PARTNERS WITH PUBLIC SCHOOL WORKS

SISC is excited to announce a new value-added partnership with Public School Works (PSW) beginning July 1, 2026. PSW is an online training platform with hundreds of topics to assist districts with student and staff safety, regulatory compliance and best practices. Topics are categorized into the following broad topics:

- ✓ Emergency Management
- ✓ First Aid Equipment and Supplies
- ✓ Food Service
- ✓ Human Resource and Employment Law
- ✓ Safe Work Practices and Job Procedures
- ✓ Student Behavior, Intervention and Support
- ✓ Student Safety, Wellness and Social Responsibility
- ✓ Workplace Safety and Regulatory Compliance (CalOSHA)
- ✓ Personal Productivity



Districts can customize training topics to fit different groups of staff. For example, special education, maintenance and operations, instructional staff, support staff and management. Most courses run about 30 minutes unless a specific length of time is required by regulation.

PSW includes reminders to staff about required courses, allows district administration to follow up on missed courses and run reports to determine district compliance with training requirements.

PSW is being offered to SISC member districts at no additional charge. If you are interested in implementing PSW at your district, please reach out to Kerri Jones at kejones@siscschools.org for more information on how to get started.

REPRESENTATION IN SACRAMENTO (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

policy committee and when appropriate, fiscal committee, before it makes its way to the floor for a final vote. The proposed policy follows the same path in both houses and if successful, will go to the Governor's desk for consideration. Carlos emphasized that at times special interest groups may have a particular interest in advocating for a bill but often times it is simply a member of the community who may feel strongly about initiating some sort of change in government or policy.

If you would like to learn more about Carlos's incredibly important and interesting work, we invite you to listen to the SISC Podcast of May 3, 2024, located on the SISC P & L website at <https://sisc.kern.org/pl/sisc-podcasts/>

SISC Podcasts

You may be aware the SISC Property & Liability has a podcast series.

Several new episodes have been produced and posted on our website. The most recent episodes are:

- Communicating Our Mission and Purpose: A Conversation with Alex Fisher, SISC Director of Communications
- Litigation and Coverage: A Conversation with James Wagoner, Attorney at Law
- CALM (California Living Museum) A Rich Resource for Our Community: A Conversation with Meg Maitland, Director

All podcasts can be accessed [here](https://sisc.kern.org/pl/sisc-podcasts/) or at the SISC website: <https://sisc.kern.org/pl/sisc-podcasts/>

Maintaining District Contacts

Communicating with our member districts is a top priority for SISC. Communicating items such as coverage summary memos; Memorandums of Coverage (MOC); insurance and school industry updates and memos; and information of training opportunities are types of information important to share with our members. In that effort, we strive to maintain current contact information for our district administrative contacts.

If you have changes in administrative staffing, e-mail addresses, phone numbers or mailing addresses for your district, please e-mail Pamela Cerda, Property & Liability Division Secretary at pacerda@siscschools.org

FROM THE DIRECTOR—ROBERT KRETZMER

Another academic year has gone and SISC is busily preparing for the 2026/2027 academic and policy year.

It will be a time of change for the SISC Property & Liability department. Ty Taylor, our new Executive Director, will be taking the helm effective July 1, 2026. His former role as Program Coordinator was a perfect lead in for all of the new responsibilities associated with becoming Executive Director. In addition, as the separate article in this edition indicates, Ty has many years of experience within the commercial, as well as the public sector insurance industry.

Pamela Cerda, our new Secretary, for SISC Property & Liability, will be on the front lines of interactions with our member districts. Pamela's enthusiasm and interest in her work has quickly become evident since joining SISC in April of 2026. She will be working closely with our staff and the SISC broker, Insurica, as she develops in her role as a primary resource person for the department.

More change will come and be announced in the next edition of the Quarterly Report. A new Program Coordinator will soon be taking the helm along with a new Adjuster to backfill positions that have opened due to retirements.

A successful roll out of the new learning platform offered by Public School Works (PSW) is well under way and will be launched officially on July 1st. Many of you have already been contacted by a representative of PSW and we anticipate those contacts to continue for the next several months.

As this will be my last letter From the Director, I again want to thank all of our readers for their cooperation and support over the years. SISC will continue to get better, bigger and stronger in the years ahead due to the efforts of staff and our business partners. The future looks very bright.

YAHUSHUA'S LAW (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

The CDE suggests the following structure for local weather protocols for extreme weather conditions:

- Purpose and Scope
- Definitions of Extreme Weather Conditions
- Weather and Air Quality Monitoring Procedures
- Decision-Making Responsibilities and Timelines
- Criteria for Modifying or Canceling Outdoor Activities
- Indoor and Alternative Activity Plans
- Communication Protocols
- Mitigation Measures and Site Preparedness
- Staff Training Requirements
- Annual Review and Update Process

SISC recommends you consult your administrative counsel to review your developed protocols.

Additional resources are available at:

California Department of Education

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/extremeweather.asp>

California Interscholastic Federation (CIF)

https://www.cifstate.org/sports-medicine/heat_illness/index

National Weather Service

https://www.weather.gov/arx/heat_index