

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews



weekly update



April 16, 2014

Upcoming Events

Board Self-eval/Superintendent Evaluation

[April 29 - Rancho Cucamonga](#)

CSBA Training for Executive Assistants

[April 29 - Rancho Cucamonga](#)

Board Member Action Day

[May 9 - Statewide](#)

2014 CCSA Spring Workshop

[May 9 - Emeryville](#)

2014 Delegate Assembly May Meeting

[May 17 - Sacramento](#)

2014 Back-to-School Webcast

[Sept. 18 - Online](#)

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

[Sept. 19 - San Jose](#)

MIG Course 3: School Finance

[Sept. 19 - San Jose](#)

News

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REALIZE THE POWER
OF PARTNERSHIP.

CSBA co-sponsored transportation bill advances SB 1137 would equalize reimbursements, provide COLA

With strong bipartisan support, the Senate Education Committee last week approved **SB 1137**, by Sen. Norma Torres, D-Pomona, that would equalize reimbursement rates for home-to-school transportation costs. The bill—which updates the state’s legacy reimbursement amount—is co-sponsored by CSBA and the California School Employees Association, with support from the Small School Districts Association, the California Association of School Business Officials and a number of districts and counties from around the state. Currently, some school districts and county offices of education receive less than 10 percent of their approved costs, while others get more than 80 percent. SB 1137 would increase the reimbursement rates for districts receiving less than 50 cents on the dollar, and provide an annual cost-of-living adjustment. “Making sure children can get to and from school safely needs to be a top priority,” said Sen. Torres in a statement. “Today we have children that have to walk home from school along busy roads and intersections. In some cases children have been injured.” Estimates of how much specific entities could receive under the bill and an SB 1137 fact sheet are available on [Sen. Torres’ website](#). The bill next goes to the Senate appropriations committee for consideration.

Board Member Action Day May 9 – Advocate critical issues with one voice

Register today for the May 1 briefing webinar

The value of Board Member Action Day, part of CSBA’s broader **Governance First agenda**, is in the leveraging of CSBA’s statewide membership—all working to attain visibility for legislative and budget priorities on one day, May 9. This year’s issues will include the state budget, teacher dismissal and LCFF. The registration process takes just minutes, and CSBA’s veteran Governmental Relations team will handle all the logistics—from scheduling meetings to preparing briefing papers and all the information you’ll need to effectively convey crucial Governance First issues. Moreover, a free one-hour pre-event webinar on Thursday, May 1, will equip you to conduct effective and

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influential legislator meetings. An archive of the webinar will be available at www.csba.org on Friday, May 2. [Learn more and register here.](#)

CSBA issues legal guidance on international student exchange placement organizations

Using placement organizations to enroll international students brings benefits and potential problems

With the help of international student exchange placement organizations, California school districts have recently been enrolling an increasing number of international students. While international students benefit from this experience, districts and their resident students benefit as well—international students offer new perspectives in classrooms and on the playground, and offer resident students a glimpse of what another part of the world is like. International students also must pay their full cost of enrollment. However, the laws and regulations over this area are limited, which allows for problems to arise. To assist districts in avoiding such problems, CSBA recently published [legal guidance](#) on this topic to address some of the most common questions about working with international student exchange placement organizations.

AG urges districts to address truancy, chronic absenteeism in LCAPs

See link to sample plan and FAQ below

In an April 7 letter to district and county superintendents, Attorney General Kamala Harris urged districts and counties to address truancy and chronic absenteeism in their Local Control and Accountability Plans. Accompanying the letter was a sample LCAP that includes school attendance and chronic absenteeism rates as measures of the state priority of pupil engagement. The letter, sample LCAP and a set of frequently asked questions are posted on the [Office of the Attorney General website](#). As noted in the FAQs, the AG's office does not have an official role in reviewing LCAPs: "However, the Attorney General is interested in supporting districts and counties in their efforts to successfully implement LCFF because she understands that there is a direct connection between public education and public safety, and that an important factor in improving educational outcomes is increasing student attendance." The attention to addressing truancy and chronic absenteeism follows the release of the attorney general's 2013 report, "[California's Elementary School Truancy & Absenteeism Crisis: In School and On Track](#)," and the AG's sponsorship of a package of five bills on these topics. See more resources on developing your LCAP in CSBA's [LCFF Toolkit](#).

New Community Schools Partnerships toolkit available

A new resource is available to school officials working in partnership with cities and counties to improve local conditions of children and families. The Cities Counties Schools Partnership online toolkit helps local agency elected officials and staff understand, support and build community schools partnerships. The toolkit includes strategies, examples of successful partnerships in urban, suburban and rural communities, lessons learned and resources for tailoring community

schools partnerships. The [newly released toolkit](#) is available at no charge to local officials and the greater community. CSBA supported development of the toolkit, along with Kaiser Permanente, the Stuart Foundation, United Way of the Bay Area and the three CCS partners: the California State Association of Counties, the League of California Cities and CSBA.

Events, Training and Opportunities

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The search for successful, impactful programs is on!
Enter to win a Golden Bell Award by June 30

Does your district or county have a program that is making a positive impact on student success? We're scouring the state for innovative and exemplary programs to honor with a prestigious CSBA Golden Bell Award. Submissions are being accepted in 19 program categories through Monday, June 30. To find out more about the program categories, criteria, specifications, to submit an entry form, or see last year's winning programs, visit the [Golden Bell Awards website](#). For questions about the awards, contact Lisa Hutson at 800-266-3382, ext. 3358, or goldenbell@csba.org.

May 7 event answers questions about move to Common Core

EdSource event to be held at Los Angeles Convention Center

California's K-12 public education system is undergoing unprecedented shifts to adopt the Common Core State Standards, the new Smarter Balanced student tests and the new accountability measures driven by the Local Control Funding Formula. EdSource is bringing together some of the most highly regarded public education thought leaders, along with district-level leaders such as superintendents, teachers, school principals and parents, for a vibrant discussion about how California's public school system is implementing these momentous changes. The May 7 event at the Los Angeles Convention Center, titled The New Accountability: Testing Students and Evaluating Schools in the Age of the Common Core, runs from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The \$58 registration fee includes breakfast, which begins at 8:30 a.m. Review the program and [register now](#) on the EdSource website.

Member Services

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Four Drexel fellows' governance briefs now available online

Find them all at www.csba.org/governancebriefs

- [Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness](#), by Addie Ellis
Effectively serving homeless students requires better methods for identifying them, developing and implementing local, state

and federal policies and providing the appropriate support networks.

- **Key Considerations for Implementing a Blended Learning Program**, by Michael Agostini

Teacher credentialing requirements, annual instructional minutes and independent study should be school districts' top considerations when formulating a blended learning approach.

- **Building the Resiliency of At-Risk Youth**, by Robert Martinez
Practicing Transformational Resiliency instruction in the classroom increases students' resiliency by fostering relationship building and responsibility.
- **Understanding Teacher Burnout and its Negative Effects**, by Mohammad Warrad
The research-supported strategies outlined in this brief can help districts develop strong systems of teacher support that prevent teacher burnout.

GASB 45 for districts with fewer than 100 plan members

Does your school district or county office have fewer than 100 plan members—including both employees and retirees? If so, complying with GASB 45 just got easier through the streamlined approach known as the alternative measurement method (AMM). CSBA is pleased to offer a unique, online method of obtaining an AMM that allows districts and county offices to become compliant at a fraction of the cost of getting a full actuarial valuation. The AMM is available to qualifying employers; find out if it's right for you by [visiting us online](#) or contacting Vina Guzman at 800-266-3382, ext. 3327.

CSBA provides unparalleled advocacy, information and support services for school districts, county offices of education and ROCs/Ps.

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