

California School News Weekly Update  
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# California schoolnews



weekly update



April 23, 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](#)

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## News

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### May 1 webinar: Prepare for meetings with your legislator on Board Member Action Day

**Registration deadline April 29**

Part of CSBA's broader [Governance First agenda](#) is in the leveraging of CSBA's statewide membership to raise 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. Get ready to conduct effective and influential legislator meetings by taking part in a free one-hour pre-event webinar on Thursday, May 1, which will be archived for later access. [Learn more and register here.](#)

### Bill to improve funding for school facilities passes second policy committee

**LAO reports on 'Maintaining Education Facilities in California'**

Legislation to authorize a new state school facilities bond for the November 2014 ballot passed the Assembly Higher Education Committee April 22 with bipartisan support and a vote of 11-0.

[Assembly Bill 2235](#), Buchanan, D-Alamo, would provide funding—in an amount currently unspecified—for new school construction. There was no opposition to the bill; [CSBA's letter of support](#) summarizes three main reasons for passing the bill: 1) existing funding has been depleted, 2) pupil enrollment is expected to grow, with future need at more than \$16 billion, and 3) state school bond funds also benefit the economy. The bill has received bipartisan support and no 'no' votes in either of its two policy committee hearings. ["Maintaining Education Facilities in California,"](#) a recent report from the Legislative Analyst's Office, focuses on maintenance of existing infrastructure at elementary and secondary schools, the state special schools, community colleges, the California State University and the University of California. [Read more here.](#)



## CTC takes up ROTC teacher credential

*Option could provide valuable tool for engaging students*

At its April meeting, the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing again considered granting a special teaching authorization to ROTC instructors who meet California's basic skills and subject-matter knowledge requirements in physical education. The Special Teaching Authorization in Physical Education for members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps would represent another option for school boards considering whether to grant high school graduation credit for ROTC or Basic Military Drill. CSBA testified in support of the authorization, noting that the right of boards to determine whether or not to grant PE credits is in statute and not changed by this authorization. The authorization will give greater clarity to the public about the skills of ROTC leaders and greater leverage for boards when working with military units to ensure their leaders have the requisite training. After a public comment period prompted by the CTC's approval of amendments April 9, the body will hear the matter again at the June CTC meeting. [Read more here.](#)

## Common Core field testing updates in Spanish

*CDE's 'Field Test Flash' updates keep parents in the loop*

Schools can stay informed about the progress of the Smarter Balanced Field Test by subscribing to the "Field Test Flash" email from the California Department of Education. To receive it, subscribe to the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress listserv by sending a blank message to [subscribe-caaspp@mlist.cde.ca.gov](mailto:subscribe-caaspp@mlist.cde.ca.gov). Technical questions for test administrators are answered at the [California Technical Assistance Center website](#). Questions may also be directed to 800-955-2954 or by e-mail to [caltac@ets.org](mailto:caltac@ets.org). For Spanish-speaking students and parents, a new version of the field test Web page provides easily accessible information in Spanish on preparing for the test, parent communications and a [video introducing students](#) to the test and explaining its purpose. Select "En Español" at the top of the Students/Parents page, found midway down the [Field Test website](#).

## District studies how culture change turns around student achievement

Convinced that student achievement in their high-poverty area was linked with the culture of the school community, Sanger Unified School District devised a four-pronged strategy for helping students move from achievement that was "near the bottom of the pack to the top." See what they discovered in a new fact sheet, "[Turning Around a High Poverty District: Learning from Sanger,](#)" and more from CSBA's Policy & Programs Department at [www.csba.org/governancebriefs](http://www.csba.org/governancebriefs).

**Events,  
Training and  
Opportunities**

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**AEC is Sunday through Tuesday this year**  
**CSBA's Annual Education Conference and Trade Show will be in San Francisco Dec. 14-16**

Get a head start on your end-of-year planning for CSBA's Annual Education Conference and Trade Show in San Francisco Dec. 14-16. Board members and staff planning to attend should note the change from our usual schedule. Pre-conference events begin on Saturday, Dec. 13, and the conference runs Sunday, Dec. 14 through Tuesday, Dec. 16. Visit the AEC website and review the [Schedule-at-a-Glance](#), then mark your calendar for early registration beginning June 10. **Your students are counting on you.**

## Member Services

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### Partnering4SpecialEd®

Over the years, the number of special education referrals have spiked—we're over-identifying mild to moderately affected students for special education services and seeing a drop in their academic performance and graduation rates. The purpose of this program is to address the root cause: reduce the referrals to special education by managing effective interventions well before a formal evaluation takes place. **Partnering4SpecialEd®** delivers immediate support in the general ed classroom—easy to use software, guiding teachers and pre-referral teams through research-based intervention strategies. [Visit the website](#) for more information or contact [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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