

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews

weekly update



June 18, 2014

Upcoming Events

Agenda Online Demonstration

June 20 - Online
 June 24 - Online
 June 26 - Online
 June 27 - Online
 July 2 - Online
 July 3 - Online

CCBE Fall Conference

Sept. 12-14 - Monterey

Back to School Webcast

Sept. 18 - Online

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

Sept. 19 - San Jose
 Sept. 26 - San Diego

MIG Course 3: School Finance

Sept 19 - San Jose

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REALIZE THE POWER
OF PARTNERSHIP.

Budget passed on time, but last-minute reserve cap snarls local spending plans

CSBA, management groups vehemently oppose limit

Both houses of the Legislature wrapped up work on the 2014-15 state budget and the 16 accompanying trailer bills on Sunday evening, sending a \$108 billion spending plan to the governor's desk for an on-time budget. The package, however, included trailer bills that increase employer contributions to the state teachers' retirement system and cap local budget reserves, a matter about which CSBA and other education management groups **testified against** at a Sunday hearing. "In our judgment, this proposal is fiscally irresponsible, is inconsistent with the principle of subsidiarity that serves as the foundation of the Local Control Funding Formula, and discounts the critical role that prudent budget reserves play in the ability of school districts to maintain fiscal solvency," said the floor alert. A **letter** to the Budget Conference Committee stated: "It fails to recognize the numerous factors that go into school district decisions on reserve levels and ignores recent history with regard to how school districts used budget reserves during the great recession to avoid even greater cuts to educational programs and certificated and classified staff reductions." The editorial boards of the **Los Angeles Times** and **Los Angeles Daily News** agreed with that assessment, decrying the last-minute addition of the reserve cap as "an ill-considered mandate" and "cheap politics and massive hypocrisy" that the Legislature should undo the first chance it gets.

Teacher dismissal bill sent to Governor

Fate of AB 215 uncertain following Vergara ruling

Assembly Bill 215, by Joan Buchanan, D-Alamo, passed unanimously out of the state Assembly last Thursday and is headed for Gov. Brown's desk. Brown had indicated that he would sign the bill, which aims to streamline the dismissal process for teachers accused of egregious misconduct while protecting their due process rights, but the bill's fate is uncertain in light of Judge Rolf M. Treu's **decision** last Wednesday in *Vergara v. California*. Treu declared state teacher tenure laws unconstitutional, ruling in favor of the nine student plaintiffs, but pending appeals will likely delay enforcement. If signed,

AB 215 would become law in January, but it rests on a system that the court has just struck down. CSBA's position on AB 215 remains "support if amended" to better streamline the dismissal process. CSBA is tracking AB 215 and other current-session bills. You can, too, on our [Advocacy Web page](#).

Out-of-school suspensions decline in majority of California districts

Largest declines among African-American and Latino students, report says

A [report](#) released last week by the Center for Civil Rights Remedies (CCRR) at UCLA's Civil Rights Project reveals that out-of-school suspensions have fallen substantially in two-thirds of California school districts. The researchers analyzed suspension trends in 745 districts, as reported in 2011-12 and 2012-13, focusing on suspension rate changes and racial/ethnicity gaps at the local level. Students in all racial and ethnic groups experienced declines in their suspension rates, with rates for African-American and Latino students decreasing most notably. However, districts report that significant racial gaps remain, with willful defiance—a minor offense category that includes such behaviors as talking back and not paying attention—accounting for more than one-third of all suspensions but almost one-half of the racial gap in suspensions. The report's findings are important for districts as they develop their Local Control and Accountability Plans with an eye on closing the achievement gaps. Read CSBA's recent fact sheet, [The Case for Reducing Out-of-School Suspensions and Expulsions](#).

Sue Burr and Sandra Thorstenson appointed to California Collaborative for Educational Excellence

State Board of Education President Michael Kirst has appointed Sue Burr as his designee to the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence. The collaborative was established in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) law as an advisory body that will help school districts, county superintendents of schools, and charter schools achieve the goals set forth in their Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAP). Burr currently serves as a member of state Board, was previously its executive director, and has served both Gov. Jerry Brown and Gov. Gray Davis as their chief education policy advisors. See her full biography [here](#). Also appointed to the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence is Sandra Thorstenson, superintendent of Whittier Union High School District. Thorstenson has served as the superintendent in her district since 2002, where she has also served in several other positions since 1977, including assistant superintendent of educational services, principal and teacher.

State Board of Education to take action on LCFF regulations

At the July 9-10 meeting, the State Board is expected to take action on the permanent regulations on LCFF expenditures and the LCAP template. CSBA members and their governing teams are urged to tell their stories of LCFF implementation and LCAP development and adoption. It's important the State Board understand the transparency and outreach that governing teams have used in this work. Submit comments by email to sbe@cde.ca.gov, or by fax to 916-319-0175. Check also the [LCFF Web page](#) for updated information.

Events, Training and Opportunities

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AEC 2014 registration is now open

Sign up early to save \$100 off the late registration rate

Register early for CSBA's Annual Education Conference and Trade Show to lock in the early conference registration rate of \$455—that's \$100 off the late registration rate! Everything you need to prepare for online registration can be found on the [AEC website](#), such as how to [update your district roster](#) or [register](#) a pending board member or superintendent. You can also use the [early registration worksheet](#) to calculate your fees—and savings—for registering early. Within 24 hours after registering for AEC, you will receive an email inviting you to join the Engage AEC online community. With Engage you can network, view other attendees' profiles and join discussions. As the conference nears, Engage AEC will allow you to build your conference schedule and connect with workshop presenters and trade show exhibitors. See you online!

Last chance to get recognized

Get your Golden Bell application in by Monday, June 30

Don't forget—the application deadline for CSBA's Golden Bell Awards is right around the corner, and this is your last chance to assemble all the required information and complete your online application. In addition to program excellence, awards will be given based on the program's impact on students, connections between the board's vision, goals or strategic plan, and the potential for replication in other districts or COEs. We hope to see you and your winning program at the awards ceremony this December. Visit the [Golden Bell Awards website](#) for more information.

CSBA 2014 Legislative Awards Program

Nomination period to open

The time has come to be thinking about nominating your legislator for one of CSBA's legislative awards. Watch your email for more information, nomination forms, and criteria on the improved CSBA Legislative Awards Program (formerly known as Outstanding Legislator of the Year, or OLY). Changes to the program now allow for members of California's Congressional delegation as well as state or federal elected or appointed officials to be nominated in addition to state legislators. The bar for CSBA's awards is set high, as awardees must have demonstrated leadership and strong commitment to public schools and support for the role that governing boards play in California public education. Awards now consist of Outstanding Legislator Award, Outstanding Freshman Legislator Award, Special Recognition Award, the Albert S. Rodda Lifetime Achievement Award and Dede Alpert Award for Exemplary Service. The nomination period ends Sept. 12, 2014, for some awards while others have no deadline, and all forms must include a resolution adopted by the nominating school board. Also new is the ability for a CSBA Region or County School Boards Association to submit a nomination. Nominations are reviewed by the CSBA Legislative Committee and final decisions, including whether or not to grant an award, rest with the CSBA Board of Directors. Additional details will be forthcoming via email. Questions may be directed to [Vicki McCrary](#) in the Governmental Relations

Department.

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Smart Assessment helps you save Maximize Prop 39 energy efficiency funds

Would you like to know more about the current status of available funding for school facility projects and the ways you can maximize the impact of those funds? CSBA partners with Ameresco, the largest independent energy services company in North America, to provide the Smart Assessment Energy Program. With this program, your district will receive a complete energy profile along with a step-by-step implementation plan to help maximize Prop 39 funds so you can make informed decisions on operating your facilities in the most cost-effective and energy-efficient manner. For more information, [visit us online](#) or call 800-500-6711.

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

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