

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews

weekly update



August 27, 2014

Upcoming Events

Agenda Online Training Webinars

Sept. 9 - Online
 Sept. 18 - Online
 Sept. 24 - Online

Agenda Online Regional Training

Sept. 10 - West Sacramento
 Sept. 13 - Rancho Cucamonga

CCBE Fall Conference

Sept. 12-14 - Monterey

Back to School Webcast

Sept. 18 - Online

CCSA Fall Workshop

Sept. 19 - San Diego

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

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

MIG Course 2: Student Learning/Policy

Sept. 20 - San Jose
 Sept. 27 - San Diego

MIG Course 3: School Finance

Sept. 19 - San Jose
 Sept. 27 - San Diego

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining

Sept. 20 - San Jose
 Sept. 26 - San Diego

MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Gov. Integration

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OF PARTNERSHIP.

Procedure, not policy, discussed in motions to repeal cap on local reserves

Repeal efforts to continue through the fall

Last week saw a flurry of activity in support of efforts to repeal the cap on local district reserves. Assembly Bill 146, by Assembly Member Kristin Olsen (R-Modesto) and co-author Sen. Jean Fuller (R-Bakersfield), was introduced at a [press conference on Aug. 18](#). Later in the week, Olsen and Fuller requested that the Senate Rules Committee refer the bill to Senate Education Committee for a policy hearing. That request was rebuffed and on Aug. 21 Fuller made the request on the Senate Floor, where six senators spoke in support of the motion. The motion failed on a vote of 10 to 22. The discussion on these motions in both the committee and on the floor focused on the process by which the reserve cap language was introduced—in a last minute budget deal—rather than on the problematic cap itself. As CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy observed, “[w]e heard opposition to the procedural maneuver, not the policy that we are working to repeal.” CSBA will work throughout the current legislative session and the fall to advocate for the repeal, and urges governance teams to 1) pass resolutions to support repeal of the cap, 2) meet with state legislators and 3) communicate the local impact of the cap. See [CSBA's dedicated AB 146 Web page](#) for a sample resolution, talking points and other materials. Please send copies of your resolutions to [Katie Lee](#) in CSBA Communications. For more on advocacy efforts, please [email Andrea Ball](#), CSBA legislative advocate. [Read the full story](#).

Funding available for schools with limited Internet connectivity

CDE asks COEs to help identify schools needing increased Internet capacity to administer testing

Did your district have Internet capacity issues during the field test of the SBAC assessments? State Schools Chief Tom Torlakson [announced Tuesday](#) that state funding is available through the Broadband Infrastructure Improvement Grant (BIIG) Program to “help students, educators and staff connect to a reliable high-speed network so they can implement the new computer-based California

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

**CSBA Annual Education
Conference and Trade Show**
Dec. 14-16 - San Francisco

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Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) assessments” this spring. County offices of education are encouraged to help the CDE identify schools that are potentially eligible for the funding. The grants, which will be allotted this fall based on prioritized need, would pay for necessary infrastructure and equipment to increase site capacity to effectively administer the online testing. Read more about the [BIIG grant process](#) and view the [flier](#), which covers eligibility and timelines. Two webinars on Sept. 10 will provide more information about BIIG—please [register to attend](#). K-12 High Speed Network, which is administering the program, will use input from COEs along with results from the SBAC field test and other data collection efforts to produce a School Site Eligibility List and will publish the [eligibility list](#) on its website on Sept. 2.

Bill would prohibit solicitation of campaign contributions for board members, candidates *AB 1431 awaits Governor’s signature*

Assembly Bill 1431, by Assembly Member Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego), has been enrolled and presented to Gov. Jerry Brown. This measure, which required a two-thirds vote in each house of the Legislature, amends California’s Political Reform Act. As described in the Assembly Floor Analysis, AB 1431 “prohibits a school or community college district administrator from soliciting campaign contributions for district board members and candidates for the district board, except as specified.” The bill provides that it “does not prohibit an administrator from soliciting, accepting or receiving a contribution for his or her own campaign for office. It prohibits elected officials and candidates for school districts and community college districts from requesting that administrators violate the provisions of this bill by soliciting, accepting, or receiving a contribution for the campaign of that elected official or candidate.” [In a press release](#), Gonzalez stated, “This important bill will help prevent real or perceived corruption in our school and college districts,” and noted that “violators would be subject to penalties assessed by the state’s Fair Political Practices Commission.”

PDK/Gallup poll reflects Americans’ support for school board governance

The 46th annual PDK/Gallup Poll of the Public’s Attitudes toward Public Schools shows that more than half of Americans (56 percent) say local school boards should have the greatest influence in deciding what is taught in the public schools. Alternately, the poll shows that the percentage of Americans who say the federal government should have the greatest influence in deciding what is taught in public schools decreased from 20 percent in 2007 to 15 percent in 2014. “The findings provide us with great insight on Americans’ support for local community public schools and state school board associations. Americans’ opinions on federal oversight and the public’s opposition to federal involvement have significant implications for our system of public education,” said Thomas J. Gentzel, NSBA executive director, in a [press release](#). View the [results of the poll](#) for more information on how Americans feel about the Common Core State Standards, student assessment using standardized tests, charter schools and vouchers.

Governor proposes late maneuver on developer fees

With this being the last week of the 2014-15 legislative session, full-time advocates have been on the lookout for last-minute attempts to

push through issues that may or may not have been able to pass earlier in the year. Last Friday, the Brown administration began work to repeal what should be an automatic increase in the amount of developer fees that school districts can levy on new home construction to help cover the shortfall in funding in the state school facilities program. The Governor's proposal includes an extension of the sunset on what is known as Level 3 developer fees, shifting uncommitted seismic and Overcrowding Relief Grant (ORG) money into school construction, and a requirement that the administration propose legislation in January on how to fund school construction. All of this comes on the heels of the Governor killing any chance of a school construction bond measure being placed on the November 2014 ballot. Assembly Bill 2235 (Buchanan, D-Alamo) was sailing through the Legislature without a single "no" vote when the Gov. Brown told Democratic legislative leaders that he opposed the bond and did not want to see it on the November ballot. While his position on state debt is well known, he has also called into question the state's role in school construction. The politics of these issues runs across party lines as Senate Democrats do not like shifting seismic or ORG monies. They denied a similar request by the governor during budget negotiations. The developer fee issue is being worked heavily by the building industry, which has support on both sides of the aisle in the Senate and the Assembly. CSBA opposes delaying the ability for local communities to increase developer fees to make up for the lack of state funding and has fought in the past for school boards to be able to levy fees to cover full mitigation when there is a lack of state funding. Senate Bill 50, which was passed in 1998, included a cap on developer fees unless the state runs out of bond money. This time around, the issue is receiving considerable attention not only because of the difficulty in trying to redirect seismic money just days after the Napa earthquake, but because there is a push for a break on developer fees just two weeks after a "no" vote on a bond that would have negated the need for districts to go after higher fees. The issue will not be an easy one for the Governor or developers.

September Is Attendance Awareness Month

Governance leaders encouraged to share successes, challenges in new series on CSBA's blog

Whereas chronic absenteeism at a young age has negative consequences throughout a student's academic career, strong attendance is central to student achievement—and school performance. With Attendance Awareness Month just around the corner, school board members and superintendents have an opportunity to think critically about developing strategies for maximizing attendance and collecting and utilizing attendance data in meaningful ways. Your board may choose to renew its focus on improving attendance and addressing chronic absenteeism within its long-term vision and goals, strategic plan and other key documents. Alternatively, your board can adopt a resolution affirming its commitment to strong attendance. Visit Attendance Works' website for a [sample resolution](#). Governance leaders may also wish to evaluate their attendance tracking systems to ensure that they are capturing relevant data, such as chronic absences. CSBA is celebrating Attendance Awareness Month by spotlighting the progress that some counties and districts are making toward boosting attendance. Visit [CSBA's blog](#) to catch this new series and to contribute your district's own attendance successes and challenges. Read more about [Attendance Awareness Month](#) in CSBA's August newsletter.

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Events, Training and Opportunities



Register to attend Second Annual California STEM Symposium

Regular registration rate extended to Aug. 30

Education leaders, teachers, administrators and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education partners are invited to share best practices, strategies and resources at the **Second Annual STEM Symposium**, to be held in San Diego Sept. 21-23. The theme of this year's symposium is "Invest in California STEM Education: Innovate, Integrate, and Inspire!" and the focus will be on increasing and supporting the participation of women, girls and other underrepresented groups in STEM fields. Keynote speakers include science educator Bill Nye, astronaut Dr. Mae Jemison and MythBusters co-host Jamie Hyneman. The symposium is hosted by The Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation (CDEF) in partnership with the California Department of Education, the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls and the California STEM Learning Network. **Register to attend** by Aug. 30 to pay the regular registration rate of \$300. After that date, the registration rate is \$350. View the **event flier** or visit **CDEF's website** for more information.

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

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