

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews

weekly update



September 3, 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

News

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OF PARTNERSHIP.

Vergara v. State of California decision upheld, Gov. Brown appeals CSBA issues statement on teacher tenure ruling

Gov. Jerry Brown said he will appeal a ruling by the California Superior Court that struck down protections for teachers in California. In a case followed nationally, the Court held that five laws concerning teacher tenure, dismissals and layoffs affected the quality of education for students. Gov. Brown noted in his appeal that school districts were dismissed as parties to the lawsuit for reasons that are “unclear or unexplained.” State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, named in the lawsuit, **indicated he would ask** Attorney General Kamala Harris for the appeal. California’s two major teacher unions also have said they will appeal. Citing the important issues raised about inequality in education, **CSBA President Josephine Lucey** said in a statement issued on Friday: “We appreciate the judge’s additional consideration in the final judgment issued yesterday in the Vergara v. California trial. CSBA still believes that the Vergara case is a call for all stakeholders to work together to ensure that all of California’s 6 million school children have an equal opportunity to a quality education. We should not and cannot afford to wait for the appellate courts to address these critical issues. The education community should immediately begin working with the Governor and the California Legislature to resolve these important issues of inequality in education. CSBA has worked for years on these issues and remains committed to true reform by working with all of our education partners to meet the needs of our children.” **[Read more about the appeal efforts.](#)**

Bill limiting charter school authority sent to Governor CSBA continues to support Senate Bill 1263

Senate Bill 1263, by Sen. Fran Pavley (D-Calabasas), passed the senate last Thursday by a 23-to-11 vote and is headed for Gov. Jerry Brown’s desk. If signed into law, **SB 1263** “would delete the authority of a charter school to locate outside the jurisdiction or geographic boundaries of the chartering school district because the charter school has attempted to locate a single site or facility to house the entire program, but a site or facility is unavailable in the area in which the

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

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

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charter school chooses to locate.” The bill would authorize a charter school to establish or operate a facility outside the boundaries of the school district if certain conditions are met. [CSBA issued in June a letter of support](#) for the bill, noting that “SB 1263 addresses the loopholes in charter law that permit charter schools to locate outside of the authorizing school district.” The letter continues, “When a chartering district refuses to comply with the law, the only recourse is litigation. The hundreds of thousands of dollars spent on lawyers are better used in the classroom—serving children.”

CCSS communications webinar materials available *Make your back-to-school messaging about Common Core as powerful as possible*

If you were unable to join the [Aug. 27 webinar](#) titled Back-to-School Communications and the California Common Core State Standards, hosted by the Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation, you may now access the webinar materials, including the [presentation slides](#), [video](#) and [audio recording](#). Using research conducted by FrameWorks Institute, the webinar explores strategic ways—including the use of metaphors and values-based communications—governance and education leaders can reframe their communications in order to avoid unproductive conversations and build support for CCSS. You will also find practical examples that you can use or modify for your own communications. For additional Common Core resources, visit CSBA’s dedicated [CCSS Web page](#).

Leading questions about Common Core can lead to certain answers

New CSBA blog post examines the language of polls

In 1943, pilot and explorer Antoine de Saint-Exupéry wrote “Words are the source of misunderstanding.” In a new blog post, CSBA Policy and Programs Officer Christopher Maricle explores how the framing of words can drive misunderstanding about the Common Core State Standards. Comparing it to assumptions one makes about musical bands based on names and symbols (such as the Grateful Dead, in his case), Maricle discusses how poll questions on Common Core can shape results. He compares how the PDK/Gallup poll and Education Next poll ask their questions. As a result, both draw different conclusions, leading Maricle to make his own. “Maybe it’s time to get past assumptions and arguments based on labels, and see how these new standards will contribute to student learning,” he writes. For more on the language of polls, [read the full blog post](#).

September is Attendance Awareness Month *First installment in new blog series explores the attendance-achievement connection*

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. September is Attendance Awareness Month and 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 will celebrate Attendance Awareness Month and the attendance-achievement connection in a new series of blog posts that spotlight 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.

Events, Training and Opportunities

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Tune in to CSBA's Back-to-School Webcast on Sept.18 *Hear expert coverage on education issues, engage with presenters via live Q&A*

CSBA's 2014 Back-to-School Webcast gives governing board members a front-row seat to live expert coverage on the major education issues of the upcoming school year. Tune in from the comfort of your home or office, or as a group at your local county office of education to hear policy, legislative and legal experts from CSBA, as well as representatives from the California Department of Education and the California School Employees Association, and other experts, explore key topics in real time, including: the Local Control Funding Formula and Local Control and Accountability Plan; the Common Core State Standards; curriculum frameworks; teacher tenure; school district reserves; November ballot measures; testing; improved identification of foster youth; science, technology, engineering and math (STEM); and more. When the webcast concludes, you and your governance team will have a solid grasp of the challenges ahead and clear ideas on how to best meet them. CSBA believes that discussion and collaboration are vital to effective leadership and encourages viewer participation. This webcast, moderated by CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy, will include a question and answer session so that you can engage with the presenters from your home or district office. [Register](#) by Sept. 15 to catch CSBA's Back-to-School Webcast, airing on Thursday, Sept. 18 from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

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WestEd to hold input sessions on LCFF-related evaluation rubrics

Attend a regional session to offer insights on the rubric development process

Education and governance leaders, teachers, parents, students and community members will have an opportunity this month to offer their local insights on the development of evaluation rubrics related to the Local Control Funding Formula at a series of regional input sessions. As an integral part of performance and accountability under the new funding system, the developed rubrics will help ensure that districts and county offices of education are able to align their resources to implement strategies that produce meaningful student outcomes. The rubrics will also identify areas needing additional support to meet district and school performance standards. The sessions—Sept. 15

(Mather/Sacramento); Sept. 16 (Redwood City); and Sept. 22 (Fresno, Downey)—are organized by WestEd on behalf of the State Board of Education. They begin at 2:00 p.m. and end at 6:00 p.m. [Register](#) to attend a session or view the [invitation](#) for more information. Those unable to attend a regional session may participate in an online dialogue session Sept. 18-22. Check the SBE's [LCFF resource website](#) on Sept. 5 for details about the online session.

Executive Search Service

CSBA partners with McPherson & Jacobson

Are you looking for a new superintendent? CSBA offers a new [Executive Search Service](#) in partnership with [McPherson & Jacobson LLC](#), a company that has placed more than 500 superintendents and other officials in public and nonprofit organizations across the country since 1991. "Hiring the right executive to serve as superintendent is critical for any school district," said CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy. "Our partnership with McPherson & Jacobson provides districts with a new and effective resource for that purpose." The service provides CSBA members with help from California-based consultants who are experienced in the state's educational landscape and understand the needs of local districts. McPherson & Jacobson consultants will work with local boards and key stakeholder groups to implement a comprehensive hiring process that results in selection of the most qualified candidate. [Visit our website](#) for more information about CSBA's Executive Search Service, or call 800-266-3382.

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

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