

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews



weekly update



September 10, 2014

Upcoming Events

Agenda Online Training Webinars

[Sept. 18 - Online](#)

[Sept. 24 - Online](#)

Agenda Online Regional Training

[Sept. 17 - 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

[Sept. 19 - San Jose](#)

[Sept. 26 - San Diego](#)

News

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REALIZE THE POWER
OF PARTNERSHIP.

SBE hears public comments on latest LCAP changes CSBA recommends 'moving ahead,' passing final regulations

The State Board of Education at its Thursday, [Sept. 4 meeting](#) heard testimony from CSBA, CASBO, ACSA, students, student advocacy organizations and other groups on the latest changes to the Local Control and Accountability Plan regulations. Many of the representative stakeholders who testified at the SBE's July meeting were in attendance, but their numbers were fewer, as were their concerns with the latest changes to the regulations, which include a clarified definition of the term "parent advisory committee" and a requirement that districts involve pupils in the "development of the LCAP." Some commenters pressed for further changes, including attaching to the LCAP a copy of the district or county proportionality calculation. However, speakers across the board commended the SBE for listening to their comments in July and for the work they've done to get the LCAP to where it is today—"within a hair's length," of being completed, said SBE Member Sue Burr after hearing comments from many who said they were ready to progress to the next stage. "Districts would rather have a template sooner than later," said CSBA Senior Director of Policy & Programs Teri Burns. "We are already in the process of preparing next year's LCAP. We would like to know what that document would look like. Moving forward would be a tremendous help." [View the webcast](#) of the meeting on the SBE's website. The latest changes are now in a second [15-day comment period](#). The SBE will either approve the final regulations at its next meeting, in November, if no further changes are made, or it will delay adoption until January 2015.

California's higher education systems declare support for Common Core

Letter to SBE summarizes progress, calls for continued 'collaborative efforts'

"We believe California's implementation of the Common Core standards and aligned assessments has the potential to dramatically improve college readiness and help close the preparation gap that exists for California students," wrote the leaders of the state's four

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

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systems of higher education in an [Aug. 29 letter](#) to the State Board of Education. The SBE issued a [news release](#) on the following Wednesday commending this “unprecedented” endorsement of the CCSS by the California State University, University of California, California Community Colleges and Association of Independent California Colleges. “This endorsement reinforces other significant actions by higher education to align standards and assessments with Common Core ...,” said Mike Kirst, president of the SBE. In their letter, the higher education leaders note that revisions were made to CSU and UC admission requirements to align with the CCSS, and that faculty are working in teams on the performance standards for the Smarter Balanced 11th grade assessment. The letter observes that “collaborative efforts” will help ensure that the tests measure standards that K-12 and higher education systems agree address appropriate expectations for preparing high school students to succeed. Visit CSBA’s dedicated [CCSS Web page](#) for a Common Core Communications Toolkit and many other resources.

**Brookings report examines superintendents’ impact
on student achievement**
NSBA issues comments

The impact of superintendents on student achievement is the subject of a new commentary by the National School Boards Association. The NSBA discussed a [report](#) by the Brown Center on Education Policy at the Brookings Institution. That report determined it is the school system—including students’ socio-economic background and teachers—that has the most influence on student achievement, not the superintendent. For the NSBA, this finding underscored the importance of strong collaboration between school boards and superintendents. “What is left unsaid in the Brookings report is that such partnership is central toward effective collaboration with principals, teachers, and parents,” Thomas J. Gentzel, NSBA executive director, said. In its own report, NSBA’s Center for Public Education found that school boards with unclear or slow-to-form visions often hired superintendents with other goals. As a result, such school systems struggled to present unified goals and make progress towards them. [Read NSBA’s comments](#) on the report.

California Student Mock Election to take place Oct. 28
Students, teachers, principals encouraged to participate

Share the word with your schools: Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and Secretary of State Debra Bowen invite middle and high school students, teachers and principals to participate in the [2014 MyVote California Student Mock Election](#), scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 28. Now in its seventh year, the mock election, which takes place just one week before the state’s General Election, provides students with hands-on experience in the electoral process through standards-based lesson plans and activities, access to the Secretary of State’s Official Voter Information Guide and a mock election day, followed by the announcement of statewide student polling results. Principals can [register their school](#) by Sept. 19 to receive election materials by mail, or by Oct. 27 to print materials from the website. View the [fact sheet](#) for more information.

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Events, Training and Opportunities



California Latino School Boards Association 2014 Unity Conference

Register to attend by Sept. 12 to save

School board members, administrators and community members are invited to attend the **2014 Unity Conference**, which will be held at the Hilton Del Mar San Diego, Oct. 2-4, 2014 and is hosted by the California Latino School Boards Association. This year's conference is organized around the theme "Building Excellence Through Local Leadership." All meal functions and receptions are included in the \$400 conference registration fee. **Register to attend** by Sept. 12 to take advantage of the Hilton San Diego Del Mar's \$125 nightly conference rate. Single-day conference registration is also available. The California Latino School Boards Association looks forward to seeing you in Del Mar, at the CLSBA 2014 Unity Conference!

Tune in to CSBA's Back-to-School Webcast on Sept. 18

Register by Sept. 15 to hear expert coverage on education issues

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 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, WestEd and other outside panelists, explore key topics in real time, including: the Local Control Funding Formula and Local Control and Accountability Plan; the Common Core State Standards; teacher tenure; November ballot measures; testing; improved identification of foster youth; science, technology, engineering and math (STEM); and much 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, September 18 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Smarter Balanced recruiting participants for online panel

***Educators, school leaders, parents to recommend Achievement
Levels***

Setting student achievement levels based on rigorous, yet fair, expectations is a process that relies on the professional judgment and experience of educators, administrators and school leaders. To assist that effort, Smarter Balanced is recruiting individuals to participate in an online panel to recommend Achievement Levels for its assessments. The panel will occur during a two-day window between Oct. 6 and Oct. 17. Panelists can expect to take up to three hours to

complete the orientation process, review test questions and recommend an Achievement Level score. As the online panel is open to the public, parents and business and community leaders are encouraged to participate. In addition, Smarter Balance is seeking Teacher Involvement Coordinators to assist in the recruitment of K-12 educators, parents and members of their communities to participate in the panel. Learn more about [TIC assistance](#), view the [FAQ](#) about the online panel, or visit the Smarter Balanced website to [register to participate](#). Registration closes on Sept. 19.

NSBA seeks school districts' input on impact of Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act

Response to brief online poll requested by Friday, Sept. 26

[The federal law](#) governing school nutrition programs is up for reauthorization in 2015 and the National School Boards Association is calling on school districts to share their experience complying with the law in order to assess its financial and operational impact and advise Congress on needed improvements. "What was the tangible impact of compliance with national nutrition standards on school district operations," asks one question on NSBA's multiple-choice poll, which can be completed in as little as three minutes. Each question includes a text box for optional comments. At NSBA's request, please [complete the poll](#) by Friday, Sept. 26.

Member Services

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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, becoming compliant with GASB 45 just got easier through the streamlined approach known as the alternative measurement method. 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 May Saechao at 800-266-3382, ext. 3328.

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

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