

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews

weekly update



September 17, 2014

Upcoming Events

Agenda Online Training Webinars

Sept. 18 - Online

Sept. 24 - 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

Education Insights: Legal Update Webcast

Oct. 15 - Online

CSBA Annual Education Conference and Trade Show

Dec. 14-16 - San Francisco

News

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California's elementary school truancy crisis *New report from Attorney General Kamala Harris*

A new report from the California Attorney General Kamala Harris describes public elementary school truancy as an ongoing crisis, one that costs the state and school districts billions of dollars. The report, [In School+On Track 2014](#), discusses the economic and social costs of students missing school, particularly among low-income and African-American communities. Those costs include higher crime and incarceration rates, reduced life-long learning opportunities and a drag on the economy. Individual school districts also lose out on average daily attendance funding under the Local Control Funding Formula. Further, California lacks an effective system to track transient students' attendance from one district to the next. The report follows-up on a 2013 report that found student dropouts cost California billions of dollars each year.

CSBA partners to provide guidance on PCBs *Schools can contain toxins harmful to students and staff*

CSBA is working with ACSA, CASBO and the Coalition for Adequate School Housing to address the growing awareness of the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls, commonly known as PCBs, in schools. Manufactured in the United States between 1950 and 1979, PCBs are a concern because of potentially adverse effects on health and the environment. Since banned by Congress, PCBs can still be found in fluorescent light ballasts and fixtures, and in caulking and elastic sealant materials used for windows, door frames, stairways, masonry columns and other masonry building materials. Based on the small number of test samples gathered from different parts of the country, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency believes that the presence of such caulk in schools built or renovated between 1950 and 1979 could be widespread. This year CSBA and its partners have met with the EPA and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control to determine the scope of the problem and provide guidance. The four organizations are jointly sending out an [initial advisory memo](#) to all members.

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Gov. Brown signs education legislation ***Bills include sick days and health programs***

Last Wednesday, the Governor signed [AB 1522](#) (Gonzalez, D-San Diego), which will provide three paid sick days to most Californians, including substitute school employees. This Monday, the Governor signed two bills involving employee and student health. [AB 1667](#) (Williams, D-Santa Barbara) replaces current mandatory TB testing for school employees and volunteers with a TB risk assessment. The second bill is [SB 1266](#) (Huff, R-Diamond Bar) that requires school districts, county offices of education and charter schools to provide epi-pens to school nurses or trained personnel. [SB 949](#) (Jackson, D-Santa Barbara) establishes the Distinguished After School Health Recognition Program to recognize after school programs that provide healthy snacks and physical activity for students. [SB 1221](#) (Hancock, D-Berkeley) modifies the eligibility, types of grants, amount of grants, and outcome measures for three statewide after school programs. The Governor has through Sept. 30 to sign or veto bills. [Read the full story.](#)

State Board of Education recruiting applicants ***Student board member for 2015-16 among open positions***

The State Board of Education is now recruiting applicants for the following posts and commissions: 2015-16 Student Board Member; the Advisory Commission on Charter Schools; and the Instructional Quality Commission. Any student who is a California resident, enrolled in public high school and enrolled in good standing in the twelfth grade in the 2015-16 school year is invited to apply for the Student Board Member position. Individuals with strong knowledge, experience and interest in effective charter operations and authorization are encouraged to apply for one of three open positions on the ACCS. The ACCS' role is to advise the SBE on all aspects of the board's duties under the Charter Schools Act of 1992. The IQC, which is responsible for advising the SBE on matters related to curriculum and instruction, is recruiting currently-practicing teachers with teaching experience and expertise in science, history, social science, world language and/or health to apply for a position on the commission. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 20, for all positions. For more information about the positions and the application process, please visit the [CDE's website](#).

Strong attendance pays off ***School board member says benefits long-lasting***

"I received an award for perfect attendance in high school," writes Mike Walsh, a board member of the Butte County Office of Education and CSBA Director-at-large County, in a [new blog post](#). "I look back on those four years and wonder how in the world did that happen?" He attributes his success to a strong work ethic instilled by his grandparents, both of whom stressed the importance of school. He hopes other parents and guardians share that value with their children as well. Walsh cites a 2011 survey of 640 students that entered kindergarten in 2004 in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. The survey found that schools with low or middle API scores had worse attendance rates and more issues with chronic absence. "Even a small attendance risk (missing 5-9 percent of the school year) made a significant impact on test scores by the 3rd grade," he adds, concluding "Attendance mattersWe have a choice to either pay the price to help students succeed or we will continue to pay an ever increasing price for our failure to do so."

Events, Training and Opportunities

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California Latino School Boards Association 2014 Unity Conference

Single-day conference registration also available

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. Single-day conference registration is also available. [Register now.](#)

Register now for AEC to receive lower rate

Be sure to book hotel room

CSBA's 2014 **Annual Education Conference and Trade Show** takes place Dec. 14-16 at the Moscone Center in San Francisco. Through the general sessions, the workshops/critical issue sessions, or the trade show floor, the event offers opportunities for key networking and learning. Make sure you secure your spot and a place to stay. Regular registration ends Nov. 12 and prices increase closer to the date of the event. Hotel space is still available at some of our conference hotels. Please check CSBA's [AEC website](#) for current inventory.

Input wanted on design of LCFF evaluation rubrics

Online dialogue session open Sept. 18 through 22

On behalf of the **State Board of Education, WestEd** is organizing online sessions to gather input for development evaluation rubrics related to Local Control Funding Formula. These sessions will provide opportunity to offer local insights to the evaluation rubric development process. The evaluation rubrics are an integral part of the LCFF performance and accountability system. Once developed, the rubrics will serve as tools to ensure LEAs are able to align resources to implement strategies that result in meaningful student outcomes. The rubrics will also direct attention to areas in need of additional support to meet standards for school district and individual school site performance and expectation for improvement. A facilitated online dialogue will open for comment from Sept. 18-22. [Register now.](#)

Oct. 7 webinar to focus on LCFF public engagement requirements

***Expert panel will discuss lessons learned and future
opportunities***

CSBA Policy & Programs Officer Peter Wright and Redwood City School District Board Member Shelly Masur, who is the CEO of Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation, will head an upcoming webinar titled **Meeting and Exceeding LCFF Public Engagement Requirements**. The webinar will address the next steps involved in community engagement as part of the Local Control Funding Formula requirements. Panelists will discuss: public

engagement designs from the first year of LCFF implementation; tips on how to better engage parents and community members; and opportunities to build trust with members of the community who may be more challenging to reach. Read more about the webinar on Oct. 7 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., or go directly to the [registration page](#).

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Smart Assessment helps you save **Maximize Prop 39 energy efficiency funds**

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