

California School News Weekly Update  
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# California schoolnews

weekly update



September 24, 2014

## Upcoming Events

### MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

Sept. 26 - San Diego  
 Feb. 6 - Burlingame  
 Feb. 21 - Rancho Cucamonga  
 Mar. 13 - San Diego

### MIG Course 2: Student Learning/Policy

Sept. 27 - San Diego  
 Feb. 7 - Burlingame  
 March 14 - San Diego  
 March 21 - San Bernardino

### MIG Course 3: School Finance

Sept. 27 - San Diego  
 Feb. 6 - Burlingame  
 March 13 - San Diego  
 April 18 - Rancho Cucamonga

### MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining

Sept. 26 - San Diego  
 Feb. 7 - Burlingame  
 March 14 - San Diego

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

Sept. 26 - San Diego  
 Feb. 7 - Burlingame  
 March 14 - 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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### CDE releases high school exit exam results Scores remain at record levels

Preliminary results for the California High School Exit Examination show 95.5 percent of the class of 2014 passed. The number of seniors passing remained steady, while the number of sophomores with successful results increased. **CAHSEE** measures competency in reading, writing and mathematics among high school graduates. California students must pass the test in order to receive a diploma. The 95.5 percent mark represents a 5 percent increase in the number of students passing CAHSEE since 2006. According to the California Department of Education, the demographics of students who passed were: "98.6 percent of white students, 94.2 percent of students from low-income families, 93.8 percent of Hispanic or Latino students, and 80.6 percent of students who are learning English." The CAHSEE is one of several state and local graduation requirements for all students. However, the exam is aligned to earlier state learning standards and not the Common Core State Standards. Going forward, the future of the exit exam is unclear as California transitions to tests aligned to CCSS. [Read](#) the CDE's release of the exit exam results.

### Now archived for viewing—CSBA's Back-to-School Webcast

*Panelists discuss LCAP process to-date, legislative news and forecast*

"All of you out in the field, don't lose heart—it's going to take several years to craft this," were CSBA's Dennis Meyers' closing words of advice for governance leaders. At the start of the new school year, these leaders are in the process of implementing, assessing and fine-tuning their first LCAPs. Meyers, assistant executive director of governmental relations at CSBA, was joined by CSBA Senior Director of Policy & Programs Teri Burns and two outside panelists in the first segment of last Thursday's two-hour live webcast, moderated by CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy. The panel discussed the LCAP process to-date, including community engagement efforts, real and anticipated challenges, best practices and what to expect in the near future. Burns was joined by two California Department of Education staff members in part two of the webcast for a review of

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recent CDE and State Board of Education activities. The identification of foster youth, the LCAP evaluation rubric and testing dominated much of the conversation, but the panel also took viewers' questions on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and supplemental funding. In the final 40-minute segment, Meyers, CSBA Legislative Advocate Andrea Ball and a CSEA staff member provided an overview of recent legislative action with an eye on the big issues of the coming year. The panel agreed that despite some surprises, including the CalSTRS rate hike, overall this was "a good session for education." [Read the full story](#) and [watch the webcast](#).

### **Fact sheet on attendance and truancy**

#### ***Attendance Awareness Month wraps up***

September is Attendance Awareness Month. To celebrate, CSBA and Attendance Works have put together a helpful fact sheet highlighting recent attendance research and clarifying the difference between truancy, chronic absences and other commonly used attendance measures. This is an important document to read—with the passage of LCFF in June 2013, school districts are for the first time required to monitor and address chronic absence. Not sure what the difference is between chronic absence and truancy? In the state of California, truancy is missing three days of school or being 30 minutes late to class without a valid excuse three times. Chronic Absence is missing 10 percent or more school days for any reason, both excused and unexcused. Check out the complete [Attendance Awareness Fact Sheet](#) and get ideas for how school boards can implement strategic planning around attendance problems. Read also a recent CSBA [blog post](#) on attendance lessons learned.

### **Benefits of two-language immersion are far reaching**

#### ***Exposure to dual languages helps prepare students for future***

In an increasingly globalized economy, California will need a population with the skills and understanding to thrive in multiple settings, languages and cultures. One way to prepare our young people for this interconnected future is by providing them with the fluency in two languages, cross-cultural experience and understanding and increased brain flexibility that they can gain through dual language or two-way immersion programs, writes Julie Maxwell-Jolly, CSBA policy & programs officer, in a [new blog post](#). She notes that while there are challenges to implementing dual immersion programs, they are being met by an increasing number of schools and districts that see the value of these programs for their students. To learn more about the benefits of dual language immersion, read the [CSBA governance brief](#).

## **Events, Training and Opportunities**

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### **Nominations due for Magna Awards**

#### ***Honors achievements and innovative school districts***

The Magna Awards nomination period is now open for the 2015 competition. Co-sponsored by the American School Board Journal and [Sodexo](#), the Magna Awards places a national spotlight on school board best practices and innovative programs that further student success. Candidates for the awards are independently judged in three

categories: under 5,000 enrollment, 5,000-20,000 enrollment and over 20,000 enrollment. In each category a grand prize winner and honorable mention winner will be chosen. Grand prize winners receive a \$5,000 contribution from Sodexo. American School Board Journal will also recognize all recipients in a special section in the journal. Additionally, all recipients will be honored at the Best Practices for School Leaders Luncheon during the NSBA Annual Conference. For more information on how to nominate a program, submission deadline, and Magna Awards FAQ, visit the [ASBJ website](#).

### **National civics opportunity**

#### ***Oct. 1 deadline for U.S. youth program***

High school principals have until Oct. 1 to nominate students for United States Senate Youth Program. The program, coordinated by the California Department of Education, sends students to Washington, D.C. to learn about the federal government. According to the CDE, "students must be nominated by their high school principal to participate and they have to be juniors or seniors currently enrolled in any California public or private secondary school. In addition, they have to be serving in an elected or appointed capacity in student government or a civic or educational organization." Two students will be selected, and two alternates. The winners will participate in an intensive study of the federal government as guests of the U.S. Senate from March 7–14, in Washington, D.C., with all expenses paid. The delegates will also receive a \$5,000 college scholarship from the Hearst Foundation. For more information, visit [United States Senate Youth Program](#) or contact [David Carriker](#) in the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction at 916-319-0173.

### **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 LCFF 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](#).

### **Call for CSBA Director-at-Large Nominations**

Nominations for CSBA Director-at-Large, Asian/Pacific Islander and Hispanic are currently being accepted through Friday, Oct. 3, 2014. Elections will take place at the Delegate Assembly meeting in San Francisco on Dec. 13-14, just prior to the Annual Education Conference and Trade Show. Please note that 2014 nomination forms and information about the elections will not be mailed. For information about the election process and to download nomination forms, please visit [CSBA's website](#).

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### Mandates matter

#### ***Advisory, compliance and filing services for districts***

CSBA knows that mandates matter for all California school districts regardless of their election choice. That's why we partner with SI&A for everything MANDATE. SI&A provides advisory, compliance and filing services for all districts. Their best-in-class services include: district/site specific compliance reviews, expanded training for district/site staff, preparation/filing claims outside the block grant, flexibility to switch filing methods, and for Traditional filers, preparing/filing all claims and the Revenue Opportunity Report. Learn more about upcoming professional development courses like Mandates Matter: What ALL districts need to know about test claims, initial filing and the future of mandates. [Visit their website](#) or contact [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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