

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews

weekly update



October 8, 2014

Upcoming Events

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

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

MIG Course 2: Student Learning/Policy

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

MIG Course 3: School Finance

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

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining

Feb. 7 - Burlingame
 March 14 - San Diego

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

Feb. 7 - Burlingame
 March 14 - San Diego

Education Insights: Legal Update Webcast

Episode 1: Oct. 15 - Online
 Episode 2: Oct. 22 - Online

CSBA Annual Education Conference and Trade Show

Dec. 14-16 - San Francisco

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REALIZE THE POWER
OF PARTNERSHIP.

CSBA, partners, work to repeal the cap on local reserves

Governance leaders' advocacy efforts needed

CSBA continues to work on repealing the cap on local reserves. To do so, CSBA is collaborating with a coalition of education organizations, including ACSA, CASBO, school districts and county offices of education as well as public interest groups to urge the Governor and Legislature to repeal the cap. The cap on the level of reserves that districts may maintain was passed as part of the education budget trailer bill, SB 858, Section 27, and is now in Education Code 42127.01. The statutory requirement becomes operative in the following situation: (1) voters pass Proposition 2, the state "Rainy Day Fund" and (2) the state makes a deposit into the state-level Proposition 98 Reserve that is created pursuant to Proposition 2. Both conditions must be met. CSBA seeks a repeal of this statutory provision so that it will not become operative should Proposition 2 pass. CSBA is not proposing to repeal the increased transparency requirements contained in a separate section of the trailer bill. Those transparency requirements are in Education Code 42127(a)(2)(B) and require a district to provide greater information and public discussion on the reasons for a reserve level higher than the minimum recommended for economic uncertainties. Visit [Repeal Cap on District Reserve Levels](#) to learn more about how you can advocate to repeal the reserve cap. [Read the Q&A](#) on repealing the reserve cap.

Most high school students attend some college ***Report highlights importance of life-long learning***

A recent report from the National School Boards Association shows that the majority of high school students attend at least some college, with four out of five attending two- or four-year schools by age 20. By age 26, the number of high school students who have not attended a two- or four-year college is only 12 percent. The NSBA's Center for Public Education report, *The Path Least Taken: A Quest to Learn More About High School Graduates Who Don't Go on to College*, underscores the importance of ensuring high schools prepare students to be life-long learners. Although non-college track students took fewer and less rigorous courses than those planning on going to college,



many are still likely to take two- or four-year college courses. As such, they need to be prepared, the [CPE report](#), based on the class of 2004, says.

New online tool to help administrators *CDE offers resource to help with local-level planning*

The California Department of Education has launched a new online tool, the [Quality Schooling Framework](#), to provide guidelines and best practices to administrators. The QSF aims to help school leaders with planning, policies and financial decisions as they work toward local decision-making under the LCAP. Based on research, the QSF centers on 10 areas to improve teaching, testing, learning, leadership and home-school connections. The online tool is a result of CDE efforts to share its resources as a way to improve schools across California, an initiative known as [A Blueprint for Great Schools](#).

New site for supportive discipline *Resources available to help end "zero tolerance"*

A new website, [The National Clearinghouse on Supportive School Discipline](#), provides resources on positive school discipline and ending "zero tolerance" policies. As part of this, the NCSSD site has topic pages dedicated to Conditions for Learning, The Pipeline to Prison, Positive Approaches and Discipline Disparities. There is also a resource site for each state, including California. The NCSSD aims to reduce exclusionary discipline, which it says contributes to a "pipeline to prison." Instead, the organization advocates supportive discipline methods and provides related reference guides, intervention strategies and tip sheets.

Events, Training and Opportunities



Education Insights: Legal Update Webcasts *Register now for two lunchtime discussions*

CSBA will offer two legal webcasts this month. The first, Collective Bargaining and the Local Control Funding Formula, is on Wednesday, Oct. 15, from noon to 1 p.m. Scheduled guest panelists from Business Affiliates include: Jon Pearl of Dannis Woliver Kelley, Namita Brown of Fagen Friedman & Fulfrost and Karen Rezendes of Lozano Smith. The second webcast, the Brown Act and Open Meeting Laws, takes place on Oct. 22, and also starts at noon. Business Affiliate panelists include Kevin Dale of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo and Michelle Cannon of Kronick Moskovitz Tiedemann & Girard. Both sessions are scheduled for viewing during the lunch hour, so tune in from your home or office for a one-hour discussion on today's hottest issues in education law. [Register now](#) as space is limited.

Grants available for environmental and energy projects *Awards for teachers, principals and others*

PG&E is now accepting applications for [Bright Ideas Grants](#). This award is open to northern and central California teachers, principals, district administrators and facilities managers in public K-12 schools.

This competitive grant award funds innovative classroom projects about energy and the environment. Grant awards range from \$1,000 — \$10,000. Previously awarded grant projects include hosting solar car derbies, installing solar panels and designing and using energy-saving ideas in the classroom. Proposed projects should fall under the following: Solar Projects, Youth Energy and Environmental Programs, Renewable Energy or Science-Related Field Trips, Green Your School Projects, and Professional Development/Service Learning Projects/Workforce Development Programs. The deadline to submit an application is Nov. 1. Visit the [Bright Ideas toolkit](#) for additional information.

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Retirement savings program

CSBA offers simple planning program for school districts

CSBA partners with TDS Group to offer employees of school districts and county offices of education a comprehensive, safe and simple retirement planning program. We offer a choice of 403(b) savings and 457(b) deferred compensation programs. The program's common remitting feature makes it hassle-free and reduces staff workload. Participants may choose from an extensive range of investments within their savings plans to provide numerous growth options. Visit [CSBA's Tax Deferred Retirement Savings Program](#) for more information or call 800-266-3382, ext. 3304.

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

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