

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews

weekly update



October 15, 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 2: Oct. 22 - Online

CSBA Annual Education Conference and Trade Show

Dec. 14-16 - San Francisco

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Help repeal cap on district reserve levels

Adopt resolution calling for repeal of the reserve cap language

CSBA continues its efforts to repeal the cap on school district reserve levels that was enacted in June as part of SB 858, the education budget trailer bill. These new requirements are in Education Code Section 42127.01. To help support the repeal efforts, CSBA is asking school boards to:

- **Adopt resolutions** calling for the repeal of the reserve cap language, which takes effect if Proposition 2 is approved by voters;
- Talk with legislators and candidates for legislative office about the reserve cap and how it runs counter to sound fiscal practices, including the legitimate uses and needs for reserves; and
- Send **letters and emails to editors** of local publications

CSBA has developed communication materials, including a **sample resolution, talking points, Q&A** and **press release**, for members to use when advocating for the repeal of the reserve cap. For additional information on this issue, please visit CSBA's dedicated **Repeal Cap Web page**.

CSBA opposes Proposition 46

No position taken on other measures

CSBA's Delegate Assembly voted in May to oppose Proposition 46 on the November ballot. The measure proposes increasing the award limit for medical malpractice lawsuits from the current limit of \$250,000 to an inflation-adjusted amount of \$1.1 million. According to separate analyses written by the state's Legislative Analyst's Office and by former Legislative Analyst William Hamm, the increase will likely result in higher health insurance costs for all consumers, including school employers. The school cost alone could reach \$200 million annually. CSBA did not take a position on any other measure. Many questions have been asked about Proposition 2, the state Rainy Day Fund, and its relation to budget trailer bill language capping school district reserves. The CSBA Board of Directors declined to take a position on



Proposition 2, opting instead to maintain focus on repealing the reserve cap through legislation.

LAO releases 2014-15 Budget Spending Plan *New report includes August and September legislative actions*

The Legislative Analyst's Office, a non-partisan fiscal and policy adviser to the California legislature, has released the report, the 2014-15 Budget: California Spending Plan. The publication summarizes California's 2014-15 spending plan, including legislative and gubernatorial action through October 2014. This final published version reflects bills that were approved in August and September 2014. Figures, however, reflect estimated spending totals as of the June version of the budget act. [Read the full report](#) now. Visit [CSBA's website](#) for other 2014 legislative news.

CSBA resources for Rainy Day Fund *What you need to know*

If you're still puzzled by the Rainy Day Fund and how that term is connected to Proposition 2, Proposition 98, SB 858, and AB 146, CSBA has resources to help you. The following articles and documents will provide a foundation in understanding how this affects school districts statewide. First, read [Saving for a Rainy Day](#), in the fall issue of California Schools. The article covers the history of the Rainy Day Fund, Proposition 98 basics, and why you should get to know SB 858 (passed Senate Bill which sets a 6 percent district reserve cap) and AB 146 (co-sponsored CSBA bill repealing reserve cap that failed to garner votes in the Senate). Next, check out the [Reserve Cap and Proposition 2 Backgrounder](#) and Q&A for CSBA's Board of Directors. If you need additional help or a visual guide, this CSBA [infographic document](#) about SB 858 is also helpful. With the news media writing stories about the Rainy Day Fund almost daily as November draws near, CSBA hopes the articles above shed light on very important financial issues affecting every California school district and county office of education.

Legal Guidance on Grade Span Adjustment (Class Size) under LCFF

Guide for districts on securing and maintaining GSA funding

The Grade Span Adjustment under LCFF provides school districts with additional funding if school districts limit K-3 class sizes or agree to class size averages via the collective bargaining process. The additional funding amounts to approximately 10 percent of the LCFF base grant. To learn more about GSA conditions, procedures, and requirements visit [CSBA's GSA Legal Guidance](#). This guidance is intended to provide districts with information relevant to securing and maintaining their GSA funding. However, questions relating to a district's particular situation should be directed to legal counsel.

Events, Training and Opportunities

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Education Insights: Legal Update Webcast
New episodes will stream live today, and next Wednesday

The first of CSBA's two legal webcasts, Collective Bargaining and the Local Control Funding Formula, will stream live today from noon to 1 p.m. Scheduled guest panelists from Business Affiliates include Jon Pearl of Dannis Woliver Kelley, Namita Brown of Fagen Friedman & Fulfroost 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. Expected Business Affiliate panelists include Kevin Dale of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud and Romo and Michelle Cannon of Kronick Moskowitz Tiedemann and Girard. Both sessions are schedule for viewing during the lunch hour so tune in from your home or office for an hour-long discussion on today's hottest issues in education law. [Learn more or register now.](#)

CDE boosts awareness of mental health issues ***CSBA provides sample policy for boards***

The California Department of Education is launching a pilot program to strengthen and increase awareness of mental health in school. The program plans to train 1,875 school staff members and others in awareness of mental health issues. Participants will learn how to identify and respond to students struggling with mental health concerns and how to get them help. (CSBA has a [sample policy](#) to help guide school boards on suicide prevention issues.) Trainees will then train other school professional across California. The five-year pilot program, funded by a federal grant from the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#), will take place at the Garden Grove Unified School District, Santa Rosa City Schools and the San Diego County Office of Education.

State Board of Education recruiting applicants ***Applications due by Monday, Oct. 20***

Applications are due Monday, Oct. 20, at 5 p.m. for the following State Board of Education posts:

- 2015-16 Student Board Member
- The Advisory Commission on Charter Schools
- 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. For more information about the positions and the application process, please visit the [CDE's website](#).

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Simplify hazardous material compliance
CSBA's HazMat management program offers resources

Is your school district or county office of education in compliance with its material safety data sheets, or MSDS? If you answered no or you're not sure, contact CSBA's District and Financial Services Department today and inquire about the HazMat Communication Program. The CSBA program eliminates the need to maintain paper copies of MSDS on site by providing 24-hour hotline access to 3E's extensive database of over 1.75 million MSDS. This is a low-cost, paperless way to comply with federal and state health and safety regulations. Visit the [CSBA website](#) 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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