

California School News Weekly Update

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# California schoolnews

weekly update



October 29, 2014

## Upcoming Events

### Education Insights: Legal Update Webcast

[Episode 2: Nov. 12 - Online](#)  
(rescheduled from Oct. 22)

**CSBA Annual Education  
Conference and Trade Show**  
[Dec. 14-16 - San Francisco](#)

### 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](#)

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## News

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REALIZE THE POWER  
OF PARTNERSHIP.

### CSBA and California Forward launch LCFF Collaborative Working Group

*Will work to identify and promote best practices*

CSBA and California Forward have formed the **LCFF Collaborative Working Group** to share best practices. The collaboration includes 17 school districts and county offices of education across the state and will identify and promote promising LCFF and LCAP implementation strategies, solutions and best practices. The LCFF Collaborative kicks off on Oct. 29 and will meet at least quarterly. The Collaborative is a three-year project, allowing for several cycles of LCAP implementation, review, evaluation and revision. "The LCFF Collaborative Working Group will serve as a 'living laboratory' for participants to share their challenges, opportunities and ideas in the governance, management and implementation of the LCFF," said CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy. Anticipated outcomes include identifying best practices and systemic challenges of LCFF, and developing useful research, reports and presentations highlighting the work of the Collaborative with the goal of sharing the 'lessons learned' with other educators throughout the state. In addition, the work of the Collaborative will be incorporated in CSBA's trainings and education programs, and in advocacy efforts related to LCFF.

### New guidelines on preventing bullying *Federal standards address specific disorders*

As a part of October's **Stop Bullying Month**, the U.S. Department of Education has expanded its guidelines on addressing bullying of students with disabilities such as diabetes, depression or food allergies. The DOE Office for Civil Rights' new guidelines specifically refer to rules prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The DOE said the new standards aim to help schools stop **bullying of students with disorders** — disorders that might not be covered by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. "While there is broad consensus that bullying is wrong and cannot be tolerated in our schools, the sad reality is that bullying persists in our schools today, and especially so for students with disabilities," Catherine E. Lhamon, the department's



assistant secretary for civil rights, said in a statement on the issue. While there are no hard rules for schools to prevent bullying, the DOE encouraged them to intervene when a student has been prevented from receiving a free, public education.

### **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
- 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**.

### **CDE-sponsored webinar addresses chronic absence in the LCAP**

#### ***Register now for Nov. 13 event***

Every school district is required under the LCFF to establish annual goals and specific actions to reduce chronic absence as part of the development of local plans to help at-risk student groups stay in school and succeed. Yet only a small fraction of LCAPs submitted last year contained chronic absence data. In a webinar sponsored by CDE, the Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation and Attendance Works, you will learn how COEs can provide support to districts using chronic absence data to improve attendance and achieve more equitable outcomes. The webinar will provide materials you can use to explain what chronic absence is and why it matters, along with tools to calculate chronic absence rates. Speakers include Hedy Chang and Cecelia Leong from Attendance Works as well as several county offices that are leading the charge in promoting best practices in addressing chronic absence through the LCAP. **Register now** to attend the webinar, scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 13, from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

### **Campaign brings locally sourced food to schools**

#### ***15 districts eating local as part of healthy eating effort***

California schools are increasingly using locally grown food in their cafeterias. At the same time, school gardens are also providing a nutritional resource and a hands-on educational resource, writes Nathaniel Browning in a new **CSBA blog** post. These efforts have particularly borne fruit in the Oakland Unified School District, which passed a school food bond in 2012. Since, Oakland USD has worked with the Center for Ecoliteracy to enhance its curriculum and introduced the **California Thursdays** campaign. The campaign, now in place in 15 school districts across the state, provides California-

sourced meals in schools one Thursday a month. In an earlier blog post, [Browning](#), a CSBA policy and programs officer, discussed the unhealthy drinking water in some California schools due to nitrates and arsenic.

## Events, Training and Opportunities

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### **Education Insights: Legal Update Webcast** *Register now for next month's lunchtime webcast*

CSBA's Legal Update Webcast on the Brown Act and Open Meeting Laws takes place Wednesday, Nov. 12, from noon to 1 p.m. Business Affiliate panelists will include Kevin Dale of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo and Michelle Cannon of Kronick Moskovitz Tiedemann & Girard. This webcast is 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. Visit the [CSBA website](#) to learn more or to register.

### **Urban School Districts Luncheon at 2014 AEC** *Includes discussion on summer learning and networking opportunities*

Be sure to [register for this year's Urban School Districts Luncheon](#) event at CSBA's 2014 [Annual Education Conference and Trade Show](#). The Dec. 14 luncheon includes a panel discussion on innovative summer learning programs and partnerships and networking opportunities. Superintendents Richard Carranza from San Francisco USD and Antwan Wilson from Oakland USD will join community partner Keith Herron from Target Excellence and Katie Brackenridge from the Partnership for Children and Youth. Together they will share their perspectives on implementing innovative programs that combat summer learning loss and the achievement gap. This year's Urban School Districts Luncheon is sponsored by Renaissance Learning and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

### **Summit on school technology challenges** *CETPA to hold event for educational leaders*

The California Educational Technology Professionals Association is holding a leadership summit Nov. 17 in Sacramento from 1-5:30 p.m. The summit centers on technology challenges facing education leaders including superintendents and assistant superintendents. The event is in advance of CETPA's annual conference, also in Sacramento the week of Nov. 17. For more information and to register, visit the [CETPA website](#).

### **Openings for the Child Nutrition Advisory Council** *Council supports SBE on youth health and nutrition*

The State Board of Education is inviting applications for membership to the Child Nutrition Advisory Council. The deadline for submission of applications is Friday, Nov. 21, 2014, by 5 p.m. The CNAC supports the SBE by providing proactive leadership in health and nutrition for California's youth, including recommending plans and guidelines for school and child care meal service and nutrition education programs.

Members serve a term of three years (with the exception of the student member, who serves a term of one year). To learn more, visit the [CNAC website](#) or contact [Carolyn Pfister](#) at 916-319-0399.

### **Participants needed for Physical Activity Initiative** *Assessments, action plans for activity available for schools*

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation is looking for participants in its program, The Active Schools/Active Minds Initiative. With funding from the California Endowment, the program is dedicated to increasing children's physical activity before, during and after the school day. Organizations and schools participating in the initiative will have access to guidance and technical assistance, which includes online assessments and action plans, access to physical activity experts, model policies, practices, and programs, to ensure students have at least 60 minutes of physical activity a day. When a school joins the initiative, a school representative will fill out an online form to assess their school's current physical activity programs. Each school can create its own action plan that includes steps to increase student activity levels. Studies have shown that when students are more active, their classroom behavior and schoolwork improve. Research also shows students miss fewer school days, learn healthy habits early in life, and are better equipped to live healthier lives in the future when they are physically active. To learn more about the Active Schools/Active Minds Initiative, as well as a participation form, email [Annette Behr](#) on behalf of the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#).

## **Member Services**

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### **Recover money from utility and telecom overbillings** *Refunds and savings may be available to school districts*

Thousands of dollars in refunds and future savings may be available to your school district or county office of education from [Northwest Capital Recovery Group's](#) expert analysis of telecom and utility bills. NWCRG works on a strict contingency basis — if they don't get results, you pay nothing. The company is able to find refunds and/or savings more than 98 percent of the time, cutting through complex billing platforms, changes in tariffs and contracts, regulatory changes and other factors to determine if your district or county office has been billed inappropriately. Visit the NWCRG website or contact Maria Thomas at 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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