

California School News Weekly Update  
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# California schoolnews

weekly update



January 14, 2015

## Upcoming Events

### Forecast Webcast

Jan. 22 - Online

### Board Presidents Workshop

Jan. 24 - Sacramento

Mar. 14 - San Diego

### Institute for New and First-Term Board Members

Jan. 23-24 - Sacramento

Jan. 30-31 - Anaheim

Feb. 6-7 - Burlingame

Mar. 6-7 - Fresno

Mar. 13-14 - San Diego

April 17-18 - Redding

### The Brown Act

Jan. 23 - Sacramento

Jan. 30 - Anaheim

Feb. 6 - Burlingame

Mar. 6 - Fresno

Mar. 13 - San Diego

### 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

## News

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REALIZE THE POWER  
OF PARTNERSHIP.

## Governor's budget increases investment in Calif. education by \$7.8 billion

### LAO releases response to Governor's budget proposal

After Gov. Jerry Brown's [proposed budget](#) announcement Jan. 9, CSBA said it is pleased by the proposed investment of an additional \$7.8 billion in California's K-14 schools in the current and following fiscal year. Recognizing that Proposition 98 is above pre-recession levels, many districts have yet to catch up because of the distributional effects of the Local Control Funding Formula. Gov. Brown's budget proposes a third-year investment of \$4 billion in the LCFF, which would move districts and charter schools to 61 percent of their LCFF targets. County offices of education are fully funded in the current year. Gov. Brown acknowledged concerns regarding the school district reserve cap and committed to discuss the issue in the coming months to protect the financial security and health of local school districts. "While the \$7.8 billion increased investment in education is positive news, California is 46th in the nation in per-student state spending and 30 percent below the national average," Jesús Holguín, CSBA President and board member in the Moreno Valley Unified School District, said in CSBA's [press release](#) and [This Just In video](#). On Tuesday, the Legislative Analyst's Office released its initial response to the Governor's budget proposal. The LAO finds the Governor's priorities "generally prudent ones." The LAO concludes that the state will likely collect more tax revenue in 2014-15 than the administration estimates and notes that a revenue gain of \$1 billion to \$2 billion seems likely and that additional 2014-15 revenues will go "largely or entirely" to K-14 education. The LAO is generally favorable to the Governor's K-12 budget proposals but has some initial concerns with the proposed \$100 million for internet infrastructure and connectivity. The report also notes that there is room for improvement in the Governor's workforce development proposals. Read the [LAO report](#). For updates on budget and funding, please check the CSBA Legislative Advocacy [Web page](#).

## iCount member census now available online

### More than 30 percent counted after strong AEC launch

**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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iCount is off to a great start. Thank you to the almost 1,700 board members who participated in the census at our Annual Education Conference and Trade Show in San Francisco. This amazing response means we've counted more than 30 percent of our total membership. Every CSBA member counts, so please make sure you participate. If you were unable to attend the conference, or did not have an opportunity to complete the census form while you were there, please take five minutes to [complete an online version](#) and make your voice heard. Let's keep the iCount momentum going in 2015 — because you count!

**Help CSBA's Education Legal Alliance fight for Smarter Balanced Assessment funding**  
*Santa Ana, Porterville, Plumas, and Vallejo file mandate test claim*

This year, all districts are required to administer the Smarter Balanced Assessment, which is part of the new California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress. In order to comply with the SBA requirements, districts have had no choice but to invest funds to significantly expand their internet infrastructure, increase their software and hardware purchases, offer additional professional development, and hire more staff. CSBA is estimating the overall costs to districts statewide to total more than \$1 billion dollars annually. Under the California Constitution, the state is required to reimburse school districts for the cost of any new program or higher level of service imposed on districts by state law. In order to get reimbursed, however, a test claim must be filed with the Commission on State Mandates. With the support and guidance of CSBA's Education Legal Alliance, a test claim has been filed by Santa Ana USD, Porterville USD, Plumas USD and COE, and Vallejo USD. There is now an opportunity for other districts to file comments in support of the test claim explaining the new expenses districts have had to incur as a result of the SBA mandate. Remember that while the state has provided some one-time funding for SBA implementation, the expenses of SBA implementation will be ongoing. Please [email CSBA](#) if your district is interested in filing a comment.

**Jesús Holguín new CSBA President**  
*New officers for Executive Committee, Director-at-Large and Director positions*

Jesús Holguín, a board member from the Moreno Valley Unified School District in Riverside County, took office as [CSBA's President](#) following the Annual Education Conference and Trade Show in San Francisco. Holguín succeeds Josephine Lucey of the Cupertino Union School District. Lucey will serve another year on the association's Executive Committee as CSBA's Immediate Past President. Joining Holguín and Lucey on the Executive Committee is President-elect Chris Ungar, a board member in the San Luis Coastal Unified School District. Calaveras Unified School District board member Sherri Reusche was elected Vice President.

**Also elected at the 2014 Delegate Assembly were:**  
Robert Gin, Director-at-Large Asian/Pacific Islander  
Kathryn Ramirez, Director-at-Large Hispanic

**The following are new directors for their respective regions:**  
Region 8 – Matthew Balzarini, Lammersville Joint Unified School District  
Region 12 – Bill Farris, Sierra Sands Unified School District  
Region 20 – Albert Gonzalez, Santa Clara Unified School District

**Two new members of the Board include:**

Juliana Feriani, Tuolumne County Office of Education, California County Boards of Education 2015 President  
 Lillian Tafoya, Bakersfield City School District, Chair of National School Boards Association's National Hispanic Council of School Board Members

**Federal officials release guidance on English-language learners*****Reminder for school districts on federal obligations***

New [guidance](#) from the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice stresses the legal obligation of public schools to ensure English-language learners have equal access to a high-quality education. California is home to more than 20 percent of the roughly 5 million language learners nationally. Federal law requires schools to identify and support students whose first language is not English. With four out of five states experiencing growth in the number of English-language learner students, the federal agencies published the guidance as a reminder to state and local education agencies, and a [toolkit](#) to ensure compliance. In particular, federal officials cited concerns that some districts, including 13 in California, are not properly meeting the needs of English-language learners.

**Addressing health literacy in the new K-12 science curriculum*****Support from school boards critical***

"As we update our K-12 educational curriculum in California, for the health and safety of the population it is imperative that the new science curriculum address health literacy," writes S. Todd Stolp, Tuolumne County's health officer, in a new [CSBA blog](#) post. Health literacy, broadly defined as how individuals understand and process basic health decisions, is complicated by an overwhelming number of confusing messages in today's information-driven culture. In consequence, Stolp writes, "health literacy has become a critical part of survival." Trends in obesity, diabetes, cancer and heart disease tell us that the personal health decisions we make — from food selection to exercise and work habits — matter, as does knowing how these choices are influenced by the media and our social environment. With this in mind, Stolp says the integration of human health science into the Next Generation Science Standards is necessary, and can be achieved through education leadership in partnership with public health colleagues.

## Events, Training and Opportunities

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**Register for CSBA's annual Forecast Webcast**  
***Experts to discuss topical issues in education for 2015***

CSBA's annual Forecast Webcast, an in-depth discussion on the most pertinent topics in the year ahead, takes place Jan. 22 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Panelists will discuss the coming year's economic climate, budget issues, and federal and legislative matters most likely to impact public education. The Forecast Webcast is moderated by CSBA's CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy, and presented by a panel

of industry experts. To learn more, or register, visit CSBA's [Forecast Webcast page](#).

### **2015 Governance U guide has opportunities for you** *Sign up for the Institute and The Brown Act workshops*

Have you browsed through CSBA's 2015 [Governance U catalog](#) yet? If not, now is a great time to plan out which learning opportunities you'll be attending this year. If you are new to your district or county governance team, the [Institute for New and First-Term Board Members](#) is a great place to start. [The Brown Act Workshop](#), centering on open meeting laws and guidelines, is also invaluable for governance team members. The following are January dates for the Institute for New and First-Term Board Members and the Brown Act Workshop.

- Jan. 23-24, Sacramento, Hyatt Regency
- Jan. 30-31, Anaheim, Sheraton Park Hotel at the Anaheim Resort

### **Sharpen legal and advocacy skills at NSBA Advocacy Institute 2015**

*Registration for CSBA members now open*

Register for the National School Boards Association's Advocacy Institute 2015 in Washington, D.C. The institute runs from Feb. 1-3 and features keynote speakers James Carville; Mary Matalin; and Gwen Ifill. Topics include developing a winning strategy in Washington, how to showcase your district's story, and how your school district can expand their advocacy network. Other sessions will cover how districts can navigate the administration's efforts to drive local school board decisions, best strategies to establish better relationships with members of Congress, and ways to work with the media during crisis management. CSBA members must first register online through CSBA to attend the NSBA Advocacy Institute 2015. To register or for more information, contact CSBA's [Governmental Relations](#) department.

### **Hear discussion, analysis of changes to state accountability system**

*Register to attend Jan. 20 conference in Sacramento, organized by PACE*

Policy Analysis for California Education has organized a [conference](#) to discuss the changes that are underway in California's accountability system, and to analyze what they mean for the state's schools and students. The conference will include a discussion with state and local policy leaders. [Register](#) to attend the free conference, which will be held at the California Secretary of State Building in Sacramento, on Tuesday, Jan. 20, from 1-4 p.m.

## **Member Services**

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### **Need temporary cash?**

*CSBA program helps school districts and county offices of education*

CSBA proudly works with Piper Jaffray & Co., Dale Scott & Company and Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP to provide the California **Cash Reserve Program**. This program helps school districts and county offices of education with temporary cash flow needs by creating an additional cash reserve to the general fund. Participants issue Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes through a streamlined, pooled process. Ask about our low borrowing costs, flexible use and repayment process, and easy, efficient administration today. Visit our 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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