

California School News Weekly Update  
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# California schoolnews

weekly update



January 21, 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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### Significant drops in suspensions, expulsions in Calif. *Innovative programs help keep students in school*

The **California Department of Education** reported a decline in the number of students suspended and expelled. According to the CDE, there was a 20 percent drop in the number of students expelled in 2013-14 and a 15.2 percent decline in students suspended compared to the year before. This marks the second year in a row of declines in both areas, the agency said. Before such programs were implemented, the greatest percentage of students suspended or expelled was for "willful defiance." This disruptive behavior became identified with the problem of high rates of expulsions and suspensions — especially among minority groups. Subsequently, Assembly Bill 420 (Dickinson) was signed into law last year to limit suspensions and expulsions in certain grades. The CDE has also provided forums and workshops and published positive **behavioral intervention strategies** online. Additionally, the CDE has worked with school districts and education groups on restorative justice programs — initiatives that promote respect, responsibility and relationships.

### Experts to discuss topical issues in education for 2015 *CSBA's annual Forecast Webcast takes place Jan. 22*

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. CSBA's Assistant Executive Director for Governmental Relations Dennis Meyers and Chris Hoene, Executive Director of the California Budget Project, are scheduled to join him. Panelists will assess educational issues and provide practical advice.

### New LAO report on LCAPS *Recommendations echo CSBA work*

## **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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A newly released Legislative Analyst's Office report examines a sample of 50 LCAPs. The report, [Review of School Districts' 2014-15 Local Control and Accountability Plans](#), includes findings on the LCAP design, goals, actions and metrics and a set of recommendations. The recommendations center on making the LCAP a more useful document that will "emphasize clear, strategic plans over detailed, comprehensive plans." One recommendation that echoes the work of CSBA's new LCFF Collaborative Working Group, is a call for disseminating examples of model LCAPs.

## **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.

## **Asian-American student health initiatives focus on obesity, physical activity and access**

***Shared Use and Safe Routes to School programs address community needs***

The National Partnership has collaborated with the Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership to create four tools to help Asian-American, Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian communities. The initiative centers on [Safe Routes to School and Shared Use](#) programs to support healthy lifestyles and physical activity. The National Safe Routes to School movement encourages students to walk safely to and from school and highlights the health benefits of walking and riding bikes. Shared Use supports partnerships with Asian-American communities and a school, community center or church, to allow shared use of a school or facility's playground, track, or sports field. This provides Asian-American families with access to safe areas for physical activities. According to the National Partnership, Asian-Americans are 1.2 times more likely than white Americans to fail federal physical guidelines. Filipino-Americans are also 70 percent more likely to be obese compared to the overall Asian-American population.

## Events, Training and Opportunities



### **CSBA's Legislative Action Day** *Save the date — March 10, 2015*

CSBA asks all members to join us in Sacramento for CSBA's Legislative Action Day on Tuesday, March 10. The day will include two to three briefing sessions in the morning, lunch, and then afternoon meetings with your Senator(s) and Assembly Member(s). It's critically important that Legislators hear directly from you about what's going on at the local level. Key issues include repealing the school district reserve cap, the importance of a state partnership in school facilities, budget and funding adequacy issues, and more. Details on how to register for the day will be provided shortly, but we hope you will make plans to participate in CSBA's Legislative Action Day. We suggest planning your travel arrangements to arrive in the morning to attend a briefing session, which will be offered hourly starting at 9 a.m., and depart the Capitol after 5 p.m. Once registration opens, CSBA's Governmental Relations staff will begin setting appointments.

### **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.

### **CIF to hold clinics on youth sports concussions** *Latest policies to be reviewed and techniques demonstrated*

The California Interscholastic Federation is conducting free clinics Feb. 4-5. With concussions and head injuries related to football a hot topic, the clinic will review [California's youth sports concussions law](#) and corresponding CIF policies. Former football professionals, including Warren Moon, will also demonstrate progressive techniques. For more information and event locations visit the [CIF website](#).

### **Campaign to enroll children, families in health care** ***Schools encouraged to take part***

On Jan. 24, schools, early learning centers, and after-school sites across California will launch a 22-day [ALL IN For Health campaign](#) to help all eligible families and individuals connected to the education community enroll in health coverage before open enrollment ends on Feb. 15. The campaign advocates for connecting families to health coverage options. The benefits range from healthy kids, engaged learners, and improved family life. [Campaign activities](#) include sending bookmarks and flyers home with students and hosting an enrollment event.

## **Member Services**

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### **CSBA's Practi-Cal Aids with Medi-Cal and Medicaid billing**

***Can help school districts save time and money***

CSBA's Practi-Cal provides local educational agencies with superior fee-for-service Medi-Cal billing claims processing and MAA consulting services. Our broad range of expertise allows us to identify areas of revenue often overlooked by others while minimizing your efforts. LEA and MAA reimbursement are crucial for covering the costs of providing care and special education services to your students. Find out how Practi-Cal can save you time and money, provide training for staff and providers, and provide program compliance support to simplify the complicated reimbursement claim process. [Visit us online](#) today or call 800-266-3382, ext. 3304.

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for school districts, county offices of education and ROCs/Ps.***

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