

California School News Weekly Update

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# California schoolnews



weekly update



January 28, 2015

## Upcoming Events

**Board Presidents Workshop**  
Mar. 14 - San Diego

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

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. 30 - Anaheim  
Feb. 6 - Burlingame  
Mar. 6 - Fresno  
Mar. 13 - San Diego

### County Board Governance Workshop

March 7 - West Sacramento

### 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

## News

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REALIZE THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP.

## CSBA releases statement on LAO Analysis of School District Reserves

*Analysis highlights fiscal concerns and unexpected costs*

“CSBA is pleased with the Analysis of School District Reserves released [Jan. 21] by the LAO as it shares our concerns with the reserve cap and recommends that the legislature repeal it,” CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy said of the [Analysis of School District Reserves](#) issued by the Legislative Analyst’s Office. “Since July, CSBA has aggressively advocated for the repeal of the reserve cap because we strongly believe it is fiscally irresponsible, inconsistent with the principle of subsidiarity, and would jeopardize the financial solvency of school districts across the state.” In early December, CSBA released its [Report on School District Reserves](#) outlining the potential negative impacts on California school districts resulting from SB 858, Section 27, which became operational when Proposition 2, the state Rainy Day Fund, was passed in November. This month’s LAO analysis highlighted the difficulty in maintaining programs in tight fiscal times, and the difficulty in addressing unexpected costs, greater fiscal distress and higher borrowing costs. The reserve cap is far below the reserve level generally needed to receive a top credit rating. Added CSBA President Jesús M. Holguín, “the first dollar contributed to the state Proposition 98 reserve account would force school districts to bring local reserve balances to arbitrarily imposed levels that could lower district bond ratings, limit borrowing ability, and threaten their ability to meet financial obligations, including deferred maintenance, retiree and employee benefits, and school programs.”

## 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, followed by lunch and afternoon meetings with your Senator(s) and Assembly Member(s). It is critically important that Legislators hear directly from you about what’s happening at the local level. Key issues include repealing the school district reserve cap, the importance of a state partnership in

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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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.

**Help CSBA's ELA fight for Smarter Balanced  
Assessment funding**

***Santa Ana, Porterville, Plumas and Vallejo file mandate test claim***

Today, CSBA issued a [news release](#) announcing the Education Legal Alliance has filed a mandate claim with the Commission on State Mandates to secure more funding for school districts and county offices of education administering the new California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress tests. The ELA is supporting and guiding Santa Ana USD, Plumas COE, Plumas USD, Porterville USD, and Vallejo USD, and it is estimated that the annual, ongoing cost to school districts and COEs from the CAASPP, which includes the Smarter Balanced Assessments, is at least \$1 billion. 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.

**CSBA's annual Forecast Webcast concludes  
*Experts provide economic forecast and discussion***

CSBA's annual [Forecast Webcast](#), an in-depth discussion on the most pertinent topics in the year ahead, took place Jan. 22. Moderated by CSBA's CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy, the discussion touched on the coming year's economic climate, budget issues, and federal and legislative matters most likely to impact public education. Chris Hoene, Executive Director, California Budget Project, provided an economic forecast. CSBA Assistant Executive Director of Governmental Relations Dennis Meyers added a budget breakdown. And in a discussion moderated by Billy, panelists Meyers, Teri Burns, CSBA Senior Director of Policy and Programs, Erika Hoffman, CSBA Legislative Advocate, Daryl Camp, Superintendent, Riverbank USD, Christine Frazier, Superintendent, Kern COE, and Dan Walters, Political Columnist, The Sacramento Bee talked about LCFF: next steps, repeal of the reserve cap, funding adequacy, CCSS/SBAC, school bonds and a ESEA Federal update. A recording of the webcast will be available later this week on [CSBA's website](#).

**Increasing, improving water access in Calif. schools  
*New CSBA blog post looks at innovative solutions***

Proper water consumption ensures students stay healthy and hydrated, is associated with reduced risks of obesity, diabetes and dental decay, and can improve the physical and cognitive functioning, energy levels and overall achievement of students, says CSBA Policy and Programs Officer Nathaniel Browning in a new blog post, "May I have a glass of water?" However, recent reports show that approximately one in four schools in California does not meet the state and federal legal requirements for providing free, potable water during meal times. Traditional drinking fountains remain the primary delivery

system for drinking water in schools; however, they can be inadequate and poorly maintained or perceived by students as unhealthy and unclear. To address this issue, school districts throughout California are updating their systems to make them more appealing to students, installing new [hydrating stations](#), or even supplying all students with reusable water bottles. [Read the blog post](#) for more innovative solutions for improving students' access to water and to find additional resources.

### **Latino students make strides, still face challenges, report shows**

A new report from Excelencia in Education, [The Condition of Latinos in Education: 2015 Factbook](#), pulls data from a number of sources to give a state-level look at Latino K-12 enrollment and shed light on national advances and challenges. The report dispels the perception that most Latino students are English-language learners. Among students ages five to 17, the report found that 84 percent who speak a language other than English at home speak English with no difficulty. Latinos represent the fastest-growing segment of all students in U.S. public schools. In 2011, they represented 24 percent of public school enrollment. Within a decade, they are projected to represent nearly one-third of all U.S. students in K-12 public schools.

## **Events, Training and Opportunities**

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### **CSBA Delegate Assembly elections ballots mailed *Districts, COEs and candidates to be notified of results April 1***

Ballots for this year's CSBA Delegate Assembly elections were mailed to school districts and county offices of education by Feb. 2. Completed ballots should be returned to CSBA's West Sacramento office and must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service no later than Monday, March 16, to be valid. All districts, county offices of education and candidates will be notified of the results by April 1. Run-off elections will be conducted in the case of tie votes. The [Delegate Assembly](#) meets twice each year. It sets CSBA's general policy direction and fulfills a critical governance role within the association. Delegates act as liaisons between CSBA and local board members in their regions, and they also meet with the other delegates and the CSBA director in their regions. Delegates serve two-year terms that begin April 1. All new and re-elected delegates are eligible to take part in the May 16-17 Delegate Assembly in Sacramento. For further information, please contact Leadership Services Department at 800-266-3382.

### **Workshops on developing community resources for student success**

*Two-day institute to take place in Los Angeles*

[California Community Schools Institute](#) is holding a two-day session on strategies for organizing resources for student success. Organized by the National Center for Community Schools and the Los Angeles Education Partnership, institute workshops are intended for practitioners and policymakers and take place in Los Angeles Feb. 27-28. Topics include community needs assessment, developing and organizing partnerships and linking planning and implementation.

## **Workshops for Sustainable Communities applicants**

### ***Proposals sought for safe routes to school***

The California Strategic Growth Council will hold six **workshops** across the state in early February to help applicants understand the process for submitting a concept proposal for the new \$130 million fund for Sustainable Communities. School districts are encouraged to send proposals involving active transportation, including bicycling and walking, transit and other programs that help with safe routes to school. Concept proposals are due by Feb. 19. Lauren Michele of Policy in Motion has offered to review concept proposals from school districts that have attended a workshop. [Email Lauren](#) to find out more.

## **Symposium on new science standards**

### ***Workshops to be held in northern and southern Calif.***

Science teachers can take advantage of three professional learning opportunities to prepare them for implementing California's new science standards. The first "Next Generation Science Standards State Rollout Symposium" will be in San Jose on Feb. 2-3, 2015. Two others are being planned for April 17-18 in San Diego, and June 1-2 in Ventura. [Register here.](#)

## **Member Services**

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## **CSBA offers Executive Search Service**

### ***Partners with consultant to streamline executive hiring process***

Are you looking for a new superintendent? CSBA offers a new Executive Search Service in partnership with McPherson & Jacobson LLC, a company that has placed more than 500 superintendents and other officials in public and nonprofit organizations across the country. The service provides CSBA members with help from California-based consultants who are experienced in the state's educational landscape and understand the needs of local districts. McPherson & Jacobson consultants works with local boards and key stakeholder groups to implement a comprehensive hiring process that results in selection of the most qualified candidate. [Visit our website](#) for more information about CSBA's Executive Search Service, or call 800-266-3382.

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

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