

California School News Weekly Update  
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# California schoolnews

weekly update



March 18, 2015

## Upcoming Events

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

[April 17-18 - Redding](#)

### MIG Course 2: Student Learning/Policy

[March 21 - San Bernardino](#)

### MIG Course 3: School Finance

[April 18 - Rancho Cucamonga](#)

### MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining

[May 2 - Riverside](#)

### MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Gov. Integration

[May 15 - San Diego](#)

### Board Self-Evaluation and Superintendent Evaluation

[April 28 - Sacramento](#)

[May 4 - San Jose](#)

### CSBA Training for Executive Assistants

[April 28 - Sacramento](#)

[May 4 - San Jose](#)

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## News

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### State Board takes action on accountability, assessment

#### *Suspends API for 2014-15, favors multiple-measures accountability system*

By unanimous vote, the State Board of Education suspended the Academic Performance Index for the 2014-15 school year at its meeting on March 11. Instead, SBE aims to develop and launch a new accountability system as early as fall 2016. State Board members and other public education stakeholders expressed a shared goal of moving away from the API's single-number measure, which is based exclusively on student test scores, to a system of multiple measures as recommended by the Public Schools Accountability Act Advisory Committee. These measures could include expulsion and suspension rates, graduation rates and even the condition of school facilities. "We heartily support moving to a multiple-measures system of accountability, as was initially envisioned even in the early days of the API," CSBA Senior Director of Policy & Programs Teri Burns said in a memo sent to the State Board. "Districts and county offices of education are complex entities that serve communities in many different ways, meeting the needs of diverse groups of students and parents. It is critical that schools be judged on how they are serving their communities, not on a single metric." [Read the full story on CSBA's website.](#)

### Magna Awards announced for educational best practices

#### *Honorees include several Calif. school districts*

The Magna Awards 21st annual winners have been announced. ABC Unified School District in Cerritos, California has been named one of the grand prize winners. First place winners from California are Encinitas USD (also winner of a Golden Bell in 2014) and South Bay USD. Honorable mentions from California included Cajon Valley USD and Pomona USD. Co-sponsored by the American School Board Journal and Sodexo, the Magna Awards places a national spotlight on school board best practices and innovative programs that further



student success. Candidates for the awards are independently judged in three categories: under 5,000 enrollment, 5,000-20,000 enrollment and over 20,000 enrollment. In each category a grand prize winner and honorable mention winner were chosen. Grand prize winners receive a \$5,000 contribution from Sodexo. American School Board Journal will also recognize all recipients in a special section in the journal. Additionally, all recipients will be honored at the Best Practices for School Leaders Luncheon during the [NSBA Annual Conference](#). For more information about the awardees visit [NSBA](#).

### **New effort to showcase Common Core**

#### ***Organizations to demonstrate Common Core in progress***

CSBA and several other organizations have partnered with the Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation Showcase to demonstrate new ideas for aligning curriculum to Common Core in California. The This Is Common Core California initiative aims to better inform parents and the general public statewide about the new standards. The effort will highlight examples of Common Core in action, including photos, videos, student work, and other testimonials. Those involved with Common Core, from administrators to students to parents, are encouraged to send examples. Possibilities include classroom activities and professional learning materials. To submit an example and learn more about criteria and requirements, visit [This Is Common Core California Showcase](#). All submissions will also be entered in a random drawing for prizes, which will be provided by the Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation.

### **NSBA names '20 to watch' education technology leaders**

#### ***Two leaders in California among 2014-15 honorees***

Mike Guerena, director of educational technology at Encinitas USD, and Sonya Wrisley, principal of Poway USD's Design39 Campus, are the two California honorees on the National School Board Association's 20 to Watch list for 2014-15. Now in its ninth year, the 20 to Watch program recognizes education leaders across the country for their ability to inspire colleagues, embrace innovative technology solutions that contribute to high-quality instruction and support personalized learning experiences for students. [NSBA's Technology Leadership Network](#) announced the 2014-15 honorees earlier this month. "These teachers and administrators, with support from their school boards, share a vision for learning that will prepare students for future success," said Thomas J. Gentzel, NSBA's executive director. "Their accomplishments serve as examples that can inform local, district, and state approaches to education technology decisions in the future," Ann Flynn, NSBA's Director of Education Technology said. The honorees were recognized at the 2015 Consortium for School Networking Conference in Atlanta on March 16. [View the press release](#), which includes the complete list of honorees.

## **Events, Training and Opportunities**

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### **CSBA accepting proposals for the 2015 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show**

***Workshop or table talk proposals on best practices for school leaders sought***

CSBA is now accepting proposals for the 2015 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show. The conference planning committee is looking for workshop or table talk proposals to help board members, superintendents and other school leaders learn about successful programs and how to replicate that success throughout the state. This is a wonderful opportunity to share details about your program. It's also important and necessary work to create dialogue around lessons learned during implementation so that successes might be replicated throughout the state. This year's AEC will be held in beautiful San Diego at the San Diego Convention Center, December 3-5. Proposals should reflect the current environment in which California schools operate as well as the relevant resources to advance student achievement and public education. Additionally, they should correspond to one or more of the major strands identified for the 2015 conference:

- Connected communities
- Equity, access and opportunity
- Funding, finance and facilities
- Leadership through governance
- Student learning

You still have plenty of time to put together a winning proposal! Deadline to submit is Friday, April 10, 2015. Accepted proposals will be notified by July 2015. For additional information and to submit through CSBA's online system, [visit the AEC 2015 website](#).

### **Looking for a new superintendent?**

#### ***CSBA webcast discusses superintendent search process***

Midway through the academic year you learn your superintendent has decided to move on at the end of the year. What happens next? CSBA's Education Insights: Legal Update addressed this issue, centering on the superintendent search and contract process, in its March 11 webcast. Moderator Keith Bray, CSBA general counsel, guided panelists through the entire process of filling a superintendent vacancy and contract negotiations. Marie Nakamura, shareholder, Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard; Roy A. Combs, partner, Fagen Friedman & Fulfrost LLP; and Dr. Steve Joel, McPherson & Jacobson LLP also took part in the hour-long discussion. [View the webcast on superintendents and the search process.](#)

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### **Finance your capital projects with industry experts**

#### ***CSBA Certificates of Participation Program helps districts with property acquisitions***

CSBA's Certificates of Participation Program helps school districts and county offices of education with their efforts to raise funds for real property acquisitions, capital projects, construction and interim/bridge financing. CSBA works with Piper Jaffray & Co., an underwriter with years of experience that you can count on. Ask about our fixed and variable rate options, flexible repayment provisions and low costs of issuance. For more information, visit the [Certificates of Participation Program 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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