

California School News Weekly Update  
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# California schoolnews



weekly update



March 25, 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 21 - Rancho Cucamonga](#)

[April 28 - Sacramento](#)

[May 4 - San Jose](#)

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## News

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### CSBA's ELA Adequacy Committee holds first meeting *Members focus on increased funding and Robles-Wong v. Calif.*



CSBA's Education Legal Alliance Adequacy Committee met for the first time on March 18, at CSBA's headquarters in West Sacramento. CSBA President and ELA Steering Committee Chair Jesús Holguín welcomed committee members and

provided an overview of the committee's purpose, which is threefold. It will work to (1) assist CSBA's legal team in oral argument in the *Robles-Wong v. State of California* case, (2) push for more funding for education and (3) add value to the conversation about adequate funding in California in light of the LCFF. Funding adequacy is one of CSBA's top priorities for 2015. The Committee is composed of more than 30 education leaders, including CSBA delegates and directors, education finance and instruction leaders and superintendents. Committee members heard several presentations, including an update from CSBA General Counsel and ELA Director Keith Bray and CSBA Staff Attorney Josh Daniels on *Robles-Wong v. State of California*. Daniels also provided a summary of court decisions in other states that are addressing funding adequacy. "It's time to move on this issue of adequacy," Bray said. In the afternoon, committee members divided into four breakout sessions to examine two questions related to funding and reported back to the full committee for further discussion. A report on the meeting will be given to the Delegate Assembly in May and delegates will have an opportunity to conduct breakout sessions. The committee will meet for the second time in June. Look for the full story in the April issue of California School News.



## **CSBA's 2014 Policies in Review now available**

***Report provides overview of major policy issues addressed in 2014***

The state assessment system, homeless students, LCFF implementation, student discipline and Uniform Complaint Procedures and policies related to discrimination, harassment and bullying of students are just a few of the education issues that CSBA's Policy Services Department addressed in 2014. Now, CSBA members can access [2014 Policies in Review](#). This 25-page annual report provides an overview of the major policy issues addressed through new and revised sample board policies, administrative regulations, board bylaws and exhibits that recommend best practices to both improve student learning and assist school districts in complying with the law. A new document, called "Minor Revisions," was also added in 2014. This document includes relatively minor changes that might affect a single statement or paragraph in the text of a sample board policy, administrative regulation or board bylaw. While 2014 Policies in Review highlights issues that affect policy in school districts, many of these issues are also applicable to county offices of education. [Read the report.](#)

## **California in the middle nationally in high school graduation rates**

***Numbers for African-Americans, Hispanics show improvement***

California is near the middle of the pack when it comes to national high school graduation rates, ranking 31st of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. In newly released data from the [U.S. Department of Education](#), California's 80.4 percent graduation rate is close to the national average of 81.4 percent. However, the numbers, based on information from the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics, showed some improvement for students across the board. White students in California had an 87.7 graduation rate and Asian students had a 91.6 graduation rate, with both showing marginal improvements of .5 and 1 percent. Meanwhile, 68.1 percent of African-American students graduated, up 5.3 percent; and 75.7 percent of Hispanic students, up 2 percent. According to the Department of Education, graduation rates for African-American and Hispanic students nationally also increased and the gap between those groups earning a diploma, and white students earning a diploma has narrowed. Graduation rates for these two groups rose nearly 4 percent between 2011 and 2013, improving more than the overall national average.

## **Deadline extended for federal subsidies for broadband and wireless networks**

***Demand has increased from school systems***

The Federal Communications Commission has extended the deadline for E-rate applications from March 26 to April 16. The extension comes as school systems are adapting to complicated new requirements for the FCC program, which helps subsidize the cost of high-speed broadband and wireless networks. There is high demand for the E-rate program and schools are expected to ask for more than \$5 billion this year. Adding to the demand, the FCC has agreed to provide greater support for internal wireless networks and to allocate \$2 billion for routers, switches, wireless accesspoints and other equipment. For more information, visit [E-Rate — Schools & Libraries USF Program](#).

## Events, Training and Opportunities

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### **Showcase educational excellence in California** ***CSBA now accepting applications for Golden Bell Awards program***

CSBA will accept applications through June 26 for the 2015 Golden Bell Awards program promoting excellence in education and school board governance by honoring outstanding programs in districts and county offices of education throughout California. CSBA is looking for applicants that show:

- Key governance practices that support, sustain and inspire the creation and continuance of exemplary education programs
- Sustainable, innovative or exemplary programs that have been developed and successfully implemented by California teachers and administrators
- Educators who invest extra energy and time to make a demonstrated difference for students
- Models with positive student outcomes
- Commitment to ensure that the needs of all students are met

Winners will be showcased at the 2015 CSBA Annual Educational Conference and Trade Show at the San Diego Convention Center, December 3-5, 2015. To view last year's winners, visit [2014 CSBA Golden Bell Awards](#). Celebrate a program and the hardworking staff and community members behind it and submit a Golden Bell Award application! For additional information on guidelines and applications, please contact the [Golden Bell Program](#).

### **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. 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](#).

### **Informational handout on LEAs now available**

***Handout explains role of boards, English and Spanish language versions***

Do you have constituents who are unsure about what school boards and county boards do? Need help explaining the importance of school boards and county boards to the community? CSBA has developed a handout, one in English and one in Spanish, on the role of school boards and county boards. The handouts cover four key areas: elections, governance, service to the community and civic leadership. View the school board handouts: [English language](#) and [Spanish language](#). View the county boards handout in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

## **Member Services**

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### **Simplify hazardous material compliance**

***CSBA's HazMat management program offers resources***

Is your school district or county office of education in compliance with its Safety Data Sheet requirements or SDS? If you answered no or you're not sure, contact CSBA's District and Financial Services Department today and inquire about the HazMat Communication Program. The CSBA program eliminates the need to maintain paper copies of SDS on site by providing access via 3E Online and 24-hour hotline to 3E's extensive database of over 4.5 million SDS. This is a low-cost, paperless way to comply with federal and state health & safety regulations. Visit the [CSBA HazMat program website](#) for more information or call [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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