

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews

weekly update



April 8, 2015

Upcoming Events

Institute for New and First-Term Board Members

April 17-18 - Redding

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

April 25 - Eureka

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

CRCS Reporting in a Successful LEA Billing Option Program

May 6 - online

Delegate Assembly

May 16 -17 - Sacramento

Budget Perspectives Workshop: May 2015-16 Revision

May - Northern California

May - Central California

May - Southern California

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LAO issues report on budget revision scenarios State revenue projections likely to increase

On Tuesday, the Legislative Analyst's Office released a report, The 2015-16 Budget: Possible May Revision Scenarios. The report is based on the significant potential that, come May, state revenue projections will significantly increase from the January 2015 estimates tied to the Governor's proposed 2015-16 budget. The report details what these increased revenues could mean for Proposition 98 funding and state reserve accounts and outlines five potential hypothetical scenarios that could emerge. Four of the five scenarios could create budget issues for 2015-16. Most notably, if the majority of the projected revenue increase in 2014-15 goes to Proposition 98 spending, it could create budget pressures on the non-Proposition 98 side of the state budget in 2015-16. Additionally, the LAO offers that the state could explore changes in Proposition 98 calculations, but if state revenue does rise significantly by May, schools still would receive significantly more funding than assumed in the Governor's January budget, even if the state were to adopt these changes. The [full report](#) can be found on the LAO website.

CSBA publishes fact sheet on Assembly Bill 420 Provides guidance on complying with the new discipline legislation

A new [fact sheet](#) published jointly by CSBA and Public Counsel offers school board members guidance for complying with Assembly Bill 420, which took effect at the beginning of 2015. AB 420 eliminates the authority of school districts to issue both in-school and out-of-school suspensions to students in kindergarten through third grade for disruption or willful defiance. The fact sheet provides background information on the use of suspension as a disciplinary practice, summarizes studies that show how suspensions and expulsions are harmful to students and explains that district compliance with AB 420 will help students by keeping them in learning environments for longer periods and providing them with needed supports. Los Angeles USD's Garfield High School and schools in Oakland USD are cited for their effective use of alternative approaches, such as Restorative Justice



and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. The fact sheet addresses what AB 420 means for board members and provides action items, questions for board members to consider and additional discipline and suspension resources. [Read the fact sheet.](#)

New federal option simplifies school lunch, breakfast programs ***Schools no longer required to collect applications for meals***

A new federal option that simplifies the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs administrative processes aims to help students go to school with hungry minds, not stomachs. The Community Eligibility Provision simplifies National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs for districts that serve a high percentage of students from low-income families. Under CEP, schools offer breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students and will no longer have to collect school meal applications. According to a new [CSBA fact sheet](#), a major benefit of the CEP is that it increases participation in school meal programs and reduces the stigma for children from low-income families. It frees up staff time for education priorities and frees up resources that can be invested in meal improvements. In addition, schools that adopt the CEP do not have to track meals served by eligibility categories. Instead, schools simply count the total number of meals served and receive reimbursements based on a formula. CEP is part of the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, and administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. [Read the Fact Sheet](#) and learn how districts can adopt CEP.

Latest issue of California School News available now ***Get updates on Legislative Action Day, Special Ed Task Force and more***

The March issue of [California School News](#) has now been posted to CSBA's website. An informative newsletter, CSN highlights news and content targeting California's education leaders, specifically, school board members and COE trustees. News events covered in the March issue of CSN include Legislative Action Day, the Statewide Special Education Task Force report, LCFF Collaborative Working Group and Form 700. [Read the newsletter.](#)

CDE CAASP Communications Toolkit now available ***Find informational Smarter Balanced Assessment documents and videos***

The CAASPP Communications Toolkit, available on the CDE website, provides resources on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments. Encourage school sites, education leaders, teachers, families and community stakeholders to visit the CDE website to learn more about summative testing. [The toolkit page](#) is updated regularly with a wide range of information, including FAQ, videos, fact sheets and more.

**Events,
Training and
Opportunities**

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Ensure students get 60 minutes of physical activity ***Join Healthier Generation's Healthy Schools Program***

When children are active, they become better learners and lead healthier lives, which is why CSBA supports the Active Schools/Active Minds Initiative along with the California Department of Education, the California PTA, and many others. The Active Schools/Active Minds Initiative is a part of the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Healthy Schools Program and is being funded by The California Endowment, a statewide and national leader in physical activity promotion. Schools participating in the Initiative will work towards ensuring students have 60 minutes of physical activity per day, including before, during and after school. The Alliance will help schools achieve this goal by providing guidance and technical assistance, including an online assessment and action plan; access to physical activity experts; and model policies, practices and programs. The Initiative will share school successes with district superintendents, statewide and national policymakers, and stakeholders to help these leaders better understand how daily physical activity affects students and schools. If your school isn't a member of the Healthy Schools Program, [join today](#). Once you've joined, you can assess your school's daily physical activity through the "Physical Education and Other Physical Activities" module. The Healthy Schools Program already provides guidance, tools and support for more than 27,000 schools across the country, including nearly 2,000 schools in California.

Register for CSBA's Practi-Cal webinar ***Webinar covers CRCS reporting, LBO and more***

Would your district like to dive deeper into Cost Reimbursement and Comparison Schedule (CRCS) reporting to maintain a financially healthy, school-based Medicaid program? CSBA's Practi-Cal is offering a unique online webinar on Wednesday, May 6, from Noon to 1:00 p.m. to assist in answering questions about CRCS or Local Educational Agency Billing Option (LBO) program questions. Topics will include: federal funding, tips for capturing eligible costs, standardized account code structure (SACS) coding, CRCS, LBO program participation and more. Visit CSBA's website to [register for the event](#). You may also submit your CRCS report for review and analysis at no cost for training purposes. [Email your report](#) to Alest Walker in Excel format.

Advancing Equity in Education & Health Care ***Register to attend statewide school health conference***

The California School-Based Health Alliance invites you to join hundreds of health care providers, educators and children's health supporters for the [Advancing Equity in Education & Health Care Conference](#). The conference, which will be held at the Bahia Resort Hotel in San Diego on May 1 (with pre-conference workshops and a welcome reception on April 30), will feature workshops on increasing health and education equity for children. Attendees will have an opportunity to network with other educators and children's advocates, hear a keynote address by California Assembly Member Shirley Weber, view exhibits and gather resources to advance the collective mission to give all kids an opportunity to succeed. Visit the [conference website](#) for more information, including a preliminary conference schedule, workshop titles and hotel booking options. You

may [register to attend here](#).

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Smart Assessmentsm Energy Plan *A roadmap to securing Prop 39 funding*

CSBA partners with Ameresco, the largest independent energy services company in North America, to provide the Smart Assessment Energy Plan. This program will provide your district with all of the necessary components required to apply for and receive your designated Prop 39 funding and will also identify all available additional discretionary funds. Your district will receive a complete energy roadmap along with a step-by-step implementation plan to help maximize Prop 39 funds so you can make informed decisions on operating your facilities in the most cost-effective and energy-efficient manner. For more information, visit [Smart Assessment](#) online or call 800-500-6711.

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

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