

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews

weekly update



April 15, 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

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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Calif. newspapers join call for repealing reserve cap *Law described as short-term gain causing long-term problems*

CSBA's efforts to repeal the reserve cap contained in SB 858 received an added boost this month, with several newspapers also calling for the law's repeal. The reserve cap limits school districts' ability to save for the future and undermines local control of schools. In mid-April editorials, both the [Riverside Press-Enterprise](#) and [Orange County Register](#) wrote, "we join the LAO and the California School Boards Association in calling for the immediate repeal of the school reserve limits." Earlier in April, a chain of newspapers in Los Angeles, including the Los Angeles Daily News and Long Beach Press-Telegram, also advocated for repeal of the reserve cap, stating "Brown's reserve cap has to go." The San Diego Union-Tribune also took on the law following a news conference on the issue with San Diego-area school board members and the League of Women Voters in San Diego. At the end of March, the [Union-Tribune](#) wrote: "Limit on school reserves is an awful law." So far, more than 15 newspapers across California have editorialized in favor of repealing the reserve cap. For more resources, visit CSBA's [Repeal Reserve Cap](#) Web page.

iCount member survey available April 27 *Survey begins second phase of iCount campaign*

CSBA's iCount member survey will be available online beginning on Monday, April 27, and continue through May 18. The survey is the second phase of CSBA's state-of-the-art iCount data-gathering campaign, and it represents a key element of CSBA's long-term planning efforts. The survey will be available only in an online format — no paper copies will be produced. There are two different versions of the iCount survey: one is specific to board members, while the other is designed for superintendents. The iCount survey allows board members and superintendents to exercise their voice in the association by offering valuable feedback about CSBA services and about critical statewide education issues. More than 2,000 board members have already completed the iCount census, and it is crucial that CSBA members match this participation level when the survey launches. Board members and superintendents will receive separate emails containing links to the corresponding survey on April 27.



Two recent court decisions favor districts

CSBA's Education Legal Alliance filed amicus briefs in both cases

Last week, two decisions were announced favoring school districts in which the Education Legal Alliance had filed amicus briefs in support of the school district. The **first case**, *California Charter Schools Association v. LAUSD*, concerned a Proposition 39 requirement that charter school students be given access to facilities that are “reasonably equivalent” to those available to other public school students. The primary issue of statewide concern in this case was which classrooms in a district would be courted for purposes of determining what would be “reasonably equivalent.” **The California Supreme Court primarily sided** with the district and the ELA on this issue by holding that the calculation need only count those classrooms actually used by district students, although it could include non-teaching station rooms used by district students.

The **second case**, *Sedlock v. Baird*, centered on the use of yoga instruction as a component of Encinitas ESD's physical education curriculum. The legal issue concerned yoga as an impermissible establishment of religion in violation of the California Constitution. While the Court of Appeal acknowledged that Ashtanga yoga was religious in origin, the court found that the district had properly removed religious components from the program. While yoga may be practiced for religious reasons by some, the court concluded that this did not necessitate that yoga is always religious. Thus, **the court sided** with the district and the ELA in concluding that the yoga program created by Encinitas emphasized the physical and mental well-being of students and not religion in violation of the California Constitution. **Read more** about these court decisions on CSBA's website.

Submit proposals for AEC 2015 by 5 p.m. today, April 15

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

CSBA is 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

The deadline to submit is Wednesday, April 15, at 5 p.m. Accepted proposals will be notified by July 2015. For additional information and to submit through CSBA's online system, [visit the AEC 2015 website](#).

Events, Training and Opportunities

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Register now for the 2015 Unity Conference *California Latino School Boards Association's conference focuses on equity*

California Latino School Boards Association is hosting the annual 2015 Unity conference at the Hilton San Diego/Del Mar, October 1-4. This year's conference will focus on Education Equity & Academic Achievement: The Opportunity Gap Undressed. CLSBA invites trustees, administrators and community stakeholders to attend. Early bird registration is \$375. After June 30, registration is \$450. CLSBA is also still accepting workshop proposals! For more information on Unity Conference 2015 call for proposals guidelines, [visit CLSBA's website](#). For additional event details or to register to attend, visit the [event registration page](#).

Webinar discusses Medicaid programs for school systems

Examples from school districts to be highlighted

A May webinar will explore best financial practices for school-based Medicaid programs. The webinar will discuss the current state of Cost Reimbursement and Comparison Schedule reporting and steps you can take to reduce the chance of overpayments. Topics to be covered include:

- Federal funding tips for capturing eligible costs
- Standardized Account Code Structure Coding and CRCS
- LEA Billing Option program participation in CRCS
- Time and costs for health aides
- Department of Health Care Services audits update

There will also be time to ask staff questions. A few CRCS reports will be reviewed and analyzed at no cost. If you would like to be considered, please [email an Excel file](#) to Alest Walker. [Register for the webinar](#) on CSBA's website.

Register for the Next Generation Science Standards State Rollout II

Learn about NGSS design and philosophy

Registration is happening now for the Next Generation Science Standards State Rollout Symposium. Presented by K-12 Alliance/WestEd, California Science Project, California Teachers Association, Curriculum and Instruction Steering Committee and the California Department of Education, this two-day symposium will be held April 17-18 at University of California, San Diego. If you can't make the April date, there will be another symposium, June 1-2, at the Ventura County Office of Education. Sessions will provide a deeper understanding of the design and implementation of the NGSS. Registration is \$200 per participant. To register, or for information on the symposium agenda, [visit the event page](#).

Member Services

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Retirement savings program available

CSBA offers a simple planning program for school districts

CSBA partners with TDS Group to offer employees of school districts and county offices of education a comprehensive, safe and simple retirement planning program. We offer a choice of 403(b) savings and 457(b) deferred compensation programs. The program's common remitting feature makes it hassle-free and reduces staff workload. Participants may choose from an extensive range of investments within their savings plans to provide numerous growth options. [Visit CSBA's Tax Deferred Retirement Savings Program](#) for more information or call 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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