

California School News Weekly Update  
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# California schoolnews



weekly update



April 22, 2015

## Upcoming Events

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

May 15 - San Diego

### CSBA Training for Executive Assistants

April 28 - Mather/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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## News

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REALIZE THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP.

### 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 continuing through May 18. The survey is the second phase of CSBA's comprehensive 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. (Members who do not have access to the online survey and would like to participate can call CSBA no later than Friday, May 15, at 800-266-3382, ext. 3278.) There are two 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 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.

### LCFF Collaborative Working Group dives into 2015-16 LCAPs

*LCAP development, data and metrics highlight April meeting*



The **LCFF Collaborative Working Group** held its third meeting on April 16 at CSBA's headquarters in West Sacramento. A partnership between CSBA and **California Forward**, the Collaborative was convened to identify and promote

promising LCFF and LCAP implementation strategies, solutions and best practices. Guest speaker Rick Miller, executive director of the California Office to Reform Education, joined the meeting and offered a presentation, "How CORE Districts are using data to inform strategies and monitor progress," with a key emphasis on successes and challenges with metrics for parental involvement, pupil engagement and school climate. Two member districts also presented their own promising practices on the topics of positive behavior intervention and community engagement. As a focal point of the meeting, CSBA staff provided the Collaborative with a summary review of the 2014-15 LCAPs for each of the districts and county offices which form the Collaborative. This review prompted extensive feedback from Collaborative members on how their LCAP development processes are being improved and expanded for 2015-16. A summary of outcomes from this discussion will be published in the May issue of CSBA's California Schools newsletter.

### **Funds available to school districts with unaccompanied children**

***Money to be distributed beginning July 1, 2015***

Local school districts that experienced a significant increase in the number of immigrant children and youth enrolled in their schools in calendar year 2014 are eligible to receive additional support through the U.S. Department of Education. The funds, totaling \$14 million, were made available through the 2015 Appropriations Act, which was signed into law on Dec. 16, 2014. The DOE will distribute funds to states based on each state's share of unaccompanied children, as reported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement in 2014. States will then allocate funds to local school districts according to each state's definition of "significant increase." California will allocate funds using the Title III Immigrant Education Subgrant Program criteria. Districts will receive the money next fiscal year – beginning July 1, 2015.

### **Secure Rural Schools Act reauthorized**

***Bill provides funds for schools near national forests***

A bill that extends the Secure Rural Schools Act, which provides timber revenue to schools located near national forests, passed the U.S. Senate this week as part of a Medicare bill that reauthorizes or extends several programs for children. The timber revenue program was established in 2000 and expired in 2006, but received multiple extensions until its final expiration in 2014. At that point, the funding formula reverted to one that was created in 1908, which severely cut revenue to schools. Last year, 41 states shared about \$300 million in funding, compared to about \$50 million this year under the 1908 formula. The reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools Act is for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 fiscal years. The bill awaits President Obama's signature.

### **CSBA Spring magazine now available**

***Topics include education reform, digital divide, advanced math and Common Core***

The spring 2015 issue of California Schools Magazine, which centers on the achievement gap, has arrived. Among the article highlights are: Focus on Equity, the story of one school district's turn-around from

one of the lowest performing in the state to having several schools reach distinguished status; After-school Connections, a discussion of the digital divide for low-income students and its influence on homework assignments, preparing for tests, applying to colleges, and how household income is predicting students' access to technology at home; Turning Negatives into Positives, which documents the rise of Advanced Placement math tests and teacher Jaime Escalante's role in changing long-standing assumptions about traditionally disenfranchised students; Common Core—with California classrooms scheduled to adopt the Common Core State Standards this year, the article details related education reforms statewide. The quarterly publication [available online](#) also includes CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy's discussion of the achievement gap and interviews with Jody London, Dr. Michael Fullan and Michael H. Lin.

### **Contributors discuss achievement gaps on CSBA blog** *Creative community partnerships are highlighted*

A series of guest [blog posts for CSBA](#) highlights creative partnerships between communities, boards and school districts. The writers, including retired military officials, business leaders and law enforcement officers, discuss bridging the achievement gap with high-quality afterschool and summer learning programs, access to safe drinking water, and more. The bloggers are members of [Council for a Strong America](#). CSA's work focuses on public policy issues that strengthen public investments in evidenced-based policies and programs for children.

## **Events, Training and Opportunities**

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### **Submit an entry for earth-friendly programs** *Golden Bell Awards recognize educational innovation and excellence*

Earn recognition and celebrate the Earth by submitting a Golden Bell entry in the Sustainable, Renewable, Energy and Resource Efficient Programs category. Winners will qualify to receive the F3 Education Award from Golden Bell sponsor Fagen Friedman and Fulfrost, along with \$5,000. [Learn more](#) about the CSBA Golden Bell Awards, which recognize outstanding programs and governance practices of school boards in school districts and county offices of education.

## **Member Services**

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### **Get the funding you need through CSBA's FlexFund Program** *Program finances improvements to property and equipment*

CSBA's FlexFund Program offers lease/purchase financing for equipment and real property needs of \$5 million or less. Administered by George K. Baum & Company, the program can finance improvements to existing property and almost any major purchases of equipment, land or buildings, as well as smaller items such as furnishings and equipment. Our FlexFund lease program is also

popular for financing interim construction in anticipation of receiving state aid or bond monies. Visit our website or **contact Alest Walker** at 800-266-3382, ext. 2603, for more information.

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

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