

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews

weekly update



July 29, 2015

Upcoming Events

**Student Accident Insurance:
Best Practices to Protect Families
in Your District**
[Aug. 12 - Online](#)

2015 CCBE Annual Conference
[Sept. 11 - Monterey](#)

2015 Back-to-School Webcast
[Sept. 15 - Online](#)

**MIG Course 1: Foundations of
Effective Governance / Setting
Direction**
[Sept. 11 - Hayward](#)
[Sept. 19 - Visalia](#)
[Sept. 25 - Anaheim](#)

**MIG Course 2: Student Learning &
Achievement / Policy & Judicial
Review**
[Sept. 26 - Anaheim](#)
[Oct. 10 - Visalia](#)
[Oct. 16 - Hayward](#)

MIG Course 3: School Finance
[Sept. 25 - Anaheim](#)
[Nov. 7 - Visalia](#)
[Nov. 13 - Sacramento](#)

**MIG Course 4: Collective
Bargaining / Human Resources**
[Sept. 26 - Anaheim](#)
[Nov. 14 - Sacramento](#)

**MIG Course 5: Community
Relations & Advocacy /
Governance Integration**
[Sept. 26 - Anaheim](#)
[Nov. 14 - Sacramento](#)

News

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REALIZE THE POWER
OF PARTNERSHIP.

CSBA creates SBAC talking points for board members *Key messages to assist communications with parents, constituents*

As families this summer receive individual student score reports for California's new statewide assessments in English language arts and mathematics, they may have questions and need assistance understanding the results. To aid board members in their conversations with parents and community members about the Smarter Balanced scores, CSBA has developed some talking points. Briefly stated, the three key messages to convey are: 1) the tests are just one part of a much bigger K-12 remodeling effort that will require time and effort to carry out; 2) the SBAC results are different from the previous state test, and it is important to understand that 2015 results *cannot* be compared to previous years' results; and 3) the tests represent just one gauge on California's new dashboard approach to measuring student learning, with the 2015 scores establishing a new baseline. [Download the Talking Points for Board Members](#). As a reminder, the California Department of Education recommends LEAs avoid releasing Smarter Balanced results until the CDE publicly releases statewide results in mid-to-late August.

AEC 2015 early registration ends Monday, Aug. 3 *Conference includes workshops, General Session speakers*

Register by Monday, Aug. 3, for CSBA's 2015 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show to receive a discount. AEC 2015 includes workshops, exhibits, networking opportunities and three dynamic General Sessions. AEC is CSBA's premier continuing education program — delivering practical solutions to help governance teams from districts and county offices of education improve student learning and achievement. Whether you are a veteran board member, a superintendent, a board support professional or a first-time attendee, you'll come away from conference with practical ideas and a renewed commitment to help your board accomplish the critical work ahead. AEC 2015 will be held Dec. 3-5 at the San Diego Convention Center. Check your mailbox in late July for more information. For help with planning your registration, [visit the AEC website](#).

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California Schools magazine summer issue now available

Magazine discusses issues relating to student well-being



Check out the summer issue of CSBA's California School magazine for feature stories on head injuries and student athletes, how school districts are responding to the drought, and careers in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) fields. With the theme "Conditions of Children," the new issue also includes commentary by CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy on youth suicide, a profile of CSBA member Ralph Fernandez and legal insights from CSBA General Counsel Keith Bray. The Class

Acts section highlights a successful fitness program in the Tuolumne County Office of Education and an innovative girls club in the San Ysidro School District. [Read California Schools magazine.](#)

Read issue 4 in CSBA's Climate for Achievement series

Governance Brief recommends actions boards can take to improve school climate

Education reform efforts often fail because they are too big, happen too fast, are pursued in isolation, lack long-term commitment or are not clearly understood by stakeholders. But school boards have the power to overcome these and other barriers to improving school climate by focusing their governing work in five areas, according to a [new CSBA Governance Brief: "How boards change school climate."](#) Boards should: 1) Establish the current reality of school climate — measure and discuss; 2) set clear direction for school climate; 3) align school climate improvement with other key systems; 4) provide resources to support improving school climate; and 5) create partnerships. The brief discusses each area and provides examples of how boards, when establishing or revising policies related to school climate, can ensure clarity of expectations and consistent accountability. Although school climate is just one of eight state priority areas identified in the LCFF statute, "Improving school climate may be a highly effective overarching strategy for improving student achievement and district performance," [states the brief.](#)

Events, Training and Opportunities

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CCBE Annual Conference early registration ends Friday

Monterey event includes networking, learning opportunities

Register for the CCBE Annual Conference by this Friday, July 31, to receive the early bird discount. This event provides county board members with learning opportunities specifically focused on issues

unique to county boards of education. Board members will be able to network with other county board members, share tips and best practices and gain new ideas. The 2015 CCBE Annual Conference takes place Sept. 11-13 in Monterey. [Learn more or register to attend.](#)

CSBA Legislative Awards Program now taking nominations

Nominate a federal/state elected or appointed officer today

Attention CSBA School Board Members and Superintendents: CSBA is pleased to announce the opening of the annual Legislative Awards Program. For the past 29 years, CSBA has honored current members of the state Senate and Assembly who work actively to improve public schools, support local school board governance and exercise leadership in the legislative arena. CSBA encourages all boards to participate in this program by nominating a member of the California State Legislature, the California Congressional delegation, or a federal/state elected or appointed office for CSBA's 2015 Legislative Awards Program. Nominees must be from within district boundaries. Nominations must be postmarked or received by Sept. 11, 2015 to be considered. For more information, nomination forms or to submit an online nomination, [visit the Legislative Awards Program Web page](#) on CSBA's website.

August webinar to discuss student injuries

Risks and challenges to school districts will be focus

Join CSBA for a one-hour webinar on the challenges facing schools and families when students are injured. These challenges include access to care — and how to pay for it — California Education Code compliance and liability mitigation. The webinar, Student Accident Insurance: Best Practices to Protect Families in Your District, takes place Wednesday, Aug. 12, from noon to 1 p.m. [Learn more or register.](#)

Member Services

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Fagen Friedman & Fulfroft LLP

Student injuries — is your district properly covered?

A well-designed student accident program can mitigate your liability exposure, facilitate Ed Code compliance, improve access to activities for your students and provide vital help to families in need. It also fosters good community relations. CSBA's partner, Myers-Stevens & Toohey, has designed and fully administered both blanket purchase and voluntary purchase student accident programs for nearly 50 years. Cost-effective options range from modest "call 911" style plans to catastrophic injury coverages with combined limits exceeding \$6,000,000. Contact them at 800-827-4695 for a custom quote or [visit them online.](#)

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

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