

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

December 16, 2020

Opt-in to receive texts about important education events and COVID-19 developments by **texting CSBA4Kids to 52886.**

The virtual CSBA offices will be closed from Dec. 23–Jan. 1. The weekly update will return Jan. 6.

In this Issue

- [COVID update: Cal/OSHA board adopts emergency regulations regarding COVID-19](#)
- [Legislative update: Assembly budget proposal calls for repayment of deferrals; Senate announces committee membership](#)
- [Sample resolution on climate change and other materials available now](#)
- [Final public comment period open for California’s Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum](#)
- [Additional executive assistant training dates available](#)
- [Legal updates: Ninth Circuit reinstates bar on revised public charge rule for California and several other states](#)
- [Public comment open for proposed school child nutrition program flexibilities](#)
- [New issue of California School News available online](#)
- [Streamlined superintendent hiring for districts and COEs](#)

COVID-19 update: Cal/OSHA board adopts emergency regulations regarding COVID-19



The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health, better known as Cal/OSHA, has released emergency regulations requiring employers to protect workers from hazards related to COVID-19. The regulations are now in effect, following their approval by the Office of Administrative Law Nov. 30. School districts and county offices of education are subject to the

temporary regulations, as the [emergency standards](#) apply to most workers in California not covered by Cal/OSHA’s [Aerosol Transmissible Diseases standard](#). LEAs should review the new regulations and ensure their protocols conform to the updated requirements. The regulations **require that employers implement a site-specific written COVID-19 prevention program to address COVID-19 health hazards**, correct unsafe or unhealthy conditions and provide face coverings. When there are multiple COVID-19 infections or outbreaks at the worksite, **employers must provide COVID-19 testing and notify public health departments**. The regulations also require accurate recordkeeping and reporting of COVID-19 cases.

Cal/OSHA has posted [FAQs](#) and a [one-page fact sheet on the regulation](#), as well as a [model COVID-19 prevention program](#). Employers are invited to participate in [training webinars](#) held by Cal/OSHA’s Consultation Services branch. **Cal/OSHA will convene a stakeholder meeting in December that will include industry and labor representatives** to review the requirements of the emergency regulation and solicit feedback and recommend updates.

In other COVID-19 developments:

- The California Department of Health on Dec. 14 released [new guidance](#) indicating when California recreational sports can expect to return during the COVID-19 crisis. This guidance provides direction on how to support a safe environment for outdoor and indoor youth sports as well as for recreational athletics involving adults. **The guidance applies to all organized youth sports — including school- and community-sponsored programs, and privately-organized clubs and leagues** — as well as adult recreational sports. **While counties must first exit the current Regional Stay-at-Home order**, CDPH says that competition could resume as soon as Jan. 25. The new guidance

places sports into low-, moderate- and high-contact categories, also taking into consideration whether the activity occurs outdoors or indoors. [Learn more »](#)

- President-elect Joe Biden laid out on Dec. 8 a [three-point plan](#) to address the coronavirus pandemic that **includes a pledge to reopen the majority of American schools during his first 100 days and that educators would be near the front of the line to receive a COVID-19 vaccine**. Biden also called on Congress to devote dedicated funding to install better ventilation and hire more staff to oversee the smaller classes needed to maintain social distancing to best keep both teachers and students safe.

Legislative update: Assembly budget proposal calls for repayment of deferrals; Senate announces committee membership



Assemblymember Phil Ting (D-San Francisco), chair of the Assembly Budget Committee, unveiled its **2021–22 Budget Blueprint on Dec. 10, which calls for the safe reopening of K-12 schools and would target education funding to prevent learning loss**. Ting said in a [press release](#) that the **Assembly budget would also**

seek to repay school and community college deferrals, as well as implement transitional kindergarten for all 4-year-olds beginning in 2021, and increase rates for all early childhood education providers facing increased costs due to COVID-19. [Learn more »](#)

Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins (D-San Diego) **announced on Dec. 14 the Senate’s committee membership assignments** for the 2021–22 Legislative session. **Three former school board trustees** — Sen. Mike McGuire (D-Healdsburg, Healdsburg Unified School District) and newly-elected Senators Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh (R-Yucaipa, Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint USD) and Dave Cortese (D-San Jose, East Side Union High School District) — **will sit on the Senate Education Committee**, while Asm. Megan Dahle (R-Bieber) **formerly a trustee of Big Valley Joint USD**, will serve on the Assembly Education Committee. [View the Senate committee members »](#) | [View Assembly committee members here »](#)

Sample resolution on climate change and other materials available now



CSBA is pleased to offer members a [sample resolution on climate change for California’s school districts and county offices of education](#). The language in this resolution was **crafted and adopted by the members of CSBA’s Climate Change Task Force, composed of 14 school and county**

board trustees and two student representatives. This resolution, which is **fully customizable**, can serve as a guide for your local educational agency in pursuit of objectives related to climate change. It can be tailored to fit your LEA’s existing goals and initiatives on sustainable practices and to reflect the interests of your students and families in addressing climate change. To support your LEA, **the task force has provided additional guidance on the sample resolution**. [Find this sample resolution and more »](#)

Final public comment period open for California’s Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum



Following its [Nov. 18–19, 2020 meeting](#), the Instructional Quality Commission **recommended 240 changes to the second draft of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum, based on more than 57,000 public comments**. The **45-day public comment period for the revised draft is open until Jan. 21, 2021**. Following this third and final field review, the California Department of

Education will present a final draft and a summary of public comments to the State Board of Education at its March 17–18, 2021 meeting. Written comments will be made available to the board prior to the meeting. [Read the draft and provide comment »](#)

Additional executive assistant training dates available



A great executive assistant keeps things running smoothly, but with so much to balance all at once, sometimes it can feel overwhelming. It doesn't have to be. **CSBA is excited to offer a program designed especially for executive assistants – CSBA's Executive Assistant Certification Program!** Due to high demand, a second cohort

has been added and registration is now open. [Learn more and register »](#)

Legal updates: Ninth Circuit reinstates bar on revised public charge rule for California and several other states



On Dec. 2, 2020, in a victory for immigrant families, state and local governments and school districts, **the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reinstated the lower court orders** barring the **Department of Homeland Security from enforcing the revised public charge rule** in several states, including California.

In 2019, California and other states challenged the revised rule, which would have prevented an immigrant from entering the United States or receiving a visa or green card if they are likely to participate, even for a limited period of time, in non-cash federal government assistance programs. **CSBA's Education Legal Alliance filed an amicus brief in support of the plaintiff states, arguing that the revised public charge rule may deter families from seeking assistances under affected programs, including food assistance (SNAP), Medicaid and housing vouchers, to the detriment of K-12 students and school districts**, as children of immigrant families became increasingly reliant on school-based health, nutrition and other services. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

- In a separate update, **the appellate court's recent decision in *Davis v. Fresno Unified School District* may have raised some member's concerns** about entering into lease-leaseback contracts, **but the court's decision should not dissuade boards from entering into the type of construction contract that best meets the needs of their district.** Alternatives to competitive bidding, including lease-leaseback and design-build contracts, have recently been addressed by the Legislature and remain an effective approach for many school districts. **Boards should refer to their board policies for up-to-date information regarding the options and procedures for public construction projects**, including Board Policy 3311 (Bids), Administrative Regulation 3311.2 (Lease-Leaseback Contracts) and Administrative Regulation 3311.3 (Design-Build Contracts).

Public comment open for proposed school child nutrition program flexibilities



In response to an April 2020 court decision, the **USDA announced a proposed rule for the "restoration of milk, whole grains, and sodium flexibilities"** in an attempt to **loosen the school child nutrition program restrictions.** The change would allow, among other things, National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program operators to permanently offer

flavored, low-fat milk as part of a reimbursable meal and for sale as a competitive beverage. It would also allow for half of the weekly grains in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program menus to be whole grain-rich and provide schools participating in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Programs more time for gradual sodium reduction by retaining Sodium Target 1 through the end of the 2023–24 school year. **The proposed rule is open for comment until Dec. 28, 2020.**

[Learn more »](#)

New issue of *California School News* available online



The November/December 2020 issue of *California School News* features COVID-19 updates, including **testing recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.** Other highlights include news of **shortened Smarter Balanced assessments for 2021** from the State Board of Education, a look at the **California Department of Education's new**

anti-hate initiative and an extensive **interview with CSBA Director-at-Large, American Indian, Crystal Martinez-Alire** in recognition of November's Native American Heritage Month. [Read the issue »](#)

Streamlined superintendent hiring for districts and COEs



CSBA, in partnership with McPherson & Jacobson, L.L.C., offers the Executive Search Service to **provide districts and county offices of education with a streamlined process to meet their executive hiring needs**. From identifying possible candidates, to the selection of a qualified superintendent, Executive Search Services offers an extensive and comprehensive

process that guides the board through this critical time with ease and professionalism.

[Learn more »](#)

COVID-19 resources

Stay up to date with the latest news and resources related to COVID-19 on [CSBA's dedicated webpage](#) and with articles frequently posted on the newly redesigned [CSBA blog](#).

Virtual events

Orientation for New Trustees

Jan. 9 | [Register here](#)

2021 The Brown Act

Jan. 15 | [Register here](#)

Institute for New & First Term Board Members

Feb. 2-3 | [Register here](#)

MIG COE Course 2: Policy & Judicial Review / Student Learning & Achievement

Feb. 16 & 27, 2021 | [Register here](#)

MIG COE Course 3: Facilities & Finance / Charter Schools

March 20 & 27, 2021 | [Register here](#)

MIG COE Course 4: Community Relations & Advocacy / Governance Integration

April 17 & 24, 2021 | [Register here](#)

*All 2020 in-person events have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[View complete calendar](#)

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