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California schoolnews

Weekly Update

February 17, 2021

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

In this Issue

- COVID-19 update: CDC ‘operational strategy’ guidance provides little new direction for LEAs
- March 15 deadline for layoff notices approaching
- CCEE debuts new ‘field guide’ to support immediate learning needs during pandemic
- CSBA resources among those recommended by CDE for grading student progress
- Fiduciary responsibility: Protect your district

COVID-19 update: CDC ‘operational strategy’ guidance provides little new direction for LEAs



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Feb. 12 released new guidance, “**Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Mitigation,**” which provides an **overview of steps local educational agencies can take to reopen schools nationwide.** The guidance emphasizes the use of “**layered**” mitigation **strategies to provide the most protection.** The five key layers are universal and correct use of masks; physical distancing (at least 6 feet) should be maximized to the greatest extent possible; handwashing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy

facilities; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the health department. [Learn more »](#)

In other COVID-19 developments:

- The California Department of Public Health on Feb. 12 released [Safe Schools Reopening maps](#) that track the learning mode of district, charter and private schools throughout the state. The modes of instruction include in-person, hybrid and distance learning only. If there is no information displayed for an LEA, it means that none was submitted. The information displayed on the three maps is based on self-reported data. To provide up-to-date information, schools will input their data every two weeks. CDPH will be adding other key data to the map, including outbreaks reported in each school district and whether the school has partnered with the Valencia Branch Lab for COVID-19 testing.
- To supplement the CDC's operational guidance, the U.S. Department of Education has released the first volume of its [ED COVID-19 Handbook, Volume 1: Strategies for Safely Reopening Elementary and Secondary Schools](#), which provides practical examples for how to implement mitigation strategies.
- The House Education and Labor Committee [passed](#) (27-21) a **\$170 billion proposal for new emergency education relief, including \$130 billion for K-12 schools** and \$40 billion for postsecondary institutions. The education committee's bill is one element of a broader \$1.9 trillion pandemic relief package moving through Congress. The House Budget Committee will integrate this funding into a multipart emergency bill that will later be considered by the full House.

March 15 deadline for layoff notices approaching



For any member of a school board governance team, few situations are more sensitive than a district delivering March 15 layoff notices. **The March 15 notice is a formal, written announcement from a school district informing its certificated employees that their**

services may not be required for the following school year beginning July 1.

Districts must adhere to the notice, hearing and layoff procedures in Education Code 44949, 44955 and other applicable provisions of law.

Boards may reduce the number of probationary and permanent certificated employees for either declining average daily attendance or a reduction or discontinuation of a particular kind of service, described further in CSBA's Model Board Policy 4117.3. **The law requires that no later than March 15, the district board must adopt a resolution stating that services are to be reduced and/or discontinued and that it is necessary to reduce the staff, specifying the extent of the reduction.** The resolution must also direct the superintendent to provide written notice to the affected employees. [Read more about the process »](#)

CCEE debuts new 'field guide' to support immediate learning needs during pandemic

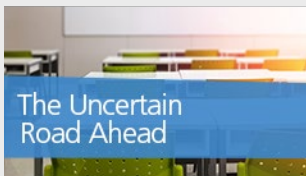


In its first meeting of the year on Feb. 4, the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence reviewed the organization's 2020–21 goals, provided an update on the System of Support and debuted a new website designed to provide assistance directly to educators and

administrators in key areas related to education during the pandemic.

The Field Guide for Accelerating Learning, Equity and Well-Being is a virtual hub that provides LEAs with tools to reflect on key lessons learned from 2020, plan a safe return to campus, respond to logistical needs of scheduling, develop effective communication plans, create continuity of learning, facilitate goal-setting, gain inspiration for what lies ahead and more. As part of *The Field Guide*, the CCEE has also launched the **Leading Forward 2021: Accelerating learning, well-being and equity initiative to address the immediate needs of educators**. Partnering with educational leaders to identify tools, videos, courses and other resources, the [new website](#) aims to share best practices and research on accelerating student learning, while advancing equity for the vulnerable student groups and addressing the whole child. [Read more »](#)

CSBA resources among those recommended by CDE for grading student progress



The California Department of Education last week released a **compilation of resources for making local decisions regarding student grades**. As educators and schools continue to respond to distance learning needs, the CDE sees an **opportunity to reflect on how student**

progress is measured and consider how to shift to more equitable grading systems and policies, whether the instructional setting is in person, virtual or hybrid. The recommended resources address the intersecting issues of equity and grading in a distance or hybrid learning model. Included among resources is **CSBA's report *The Uncertain Road Ahead: Reopening Schools in the time of COVID-19***, which offers guiding questions and considerations for school board members considering this issue. [Learn more »](#)

Fiduciary responsibility: Protect your district



a defensible position. [Learn more »](#)

SI&A's Good Governance program **provides comprehensive assistance for school districts in conducting Education Code trainings and maintaining the vital processes of the education mandate program.** Good Governance assures both financial accountability and risk management so your district can secure

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

Institute for New & First Term Board Members

Feb. 26-27 | [Register here](#)

2021 CCBE County Board Governance Workshop

March 9-30 | [Register here](#)

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

March 26-27 | [Register here](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

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