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# California schoolnews

Weekly Update

July 14, 2021

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**COVID-19 update: CDPH and CDC release updated school guidance**



The California Department of Public Health on July 12 released [updated COVID-19 guidance for K-12 schools](#). Like [guidance released last week](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the **foundational principle of the CDPH guidance is that all students should have access to safe and full-time, in-person instruction** at the start of the 2021–22 and that practices should be designed to minimize any missed days throughout the year.

**While the CDPH guidance adheres in most ways to the CDC’s, one major difference is apparent in the rules for masking.**

Since physical distancing is not possible in many facilities, **CDPH is requiring universal masking while indoors in all K-12 schools. However, in a correction released late Monday evening, the CDPH backedpedaled on what was initially characterized as absorbing “as much of the impact as possible at the state level so that it’s not a local fight,” and later “clarified” that it would remain within the discretion of local educational agencies as to how they enforce the mask mandate.**

**Outdoor mask use is optional.** In addition, schools can take advantage of a less-strict quarantine period for unvaccinated students if universal masking is in the school policy. [Read the guidance »](#)

## Independent study provisions for the 2021–22 school year



Gov. Gavin Newsom on July 9 signed the Education Budget Trailer bill, [Assembly Bill 130](#), which contains several revisions to the Education Code provisions regarding independent study. Because it is a trailer bill, AB 130 became **effective immediately. AB 130 requires all local educational agencies to offer independent study in the 2021–22 school year, after which offering independent study again becomes optional. LEAs that did not**

**previously offer independent study will be required to create an independent study program and adopt policies** for that program as a condition of receiving apportionment for independent study. **Or, an LEA may contract with a county office of education or enter into an inter-district transfer agreement with another district to provide the independent study.** However, the requirement to offer independent study in 2021–22 may be waived by the

county superintendent or by the state superintendent of public instruction (SPI) for county offices and single-district counties under certain circumstances.

LEAs that already offer independent study will need to update their policies as AB 130 requires additional items be included. Many of these requirements apply moving forward and are not limited to the 2021–22 school year. It is important to note that AB 130 added a requirement that LEA compliance with the Education Code’s independent study provisions be part of each LEA’s annual audit. In addition, most provisions are not subject to waiver by the SPI or the State Board of Education. **CSBA will issue an update to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 6158 – Independent Study early next week so that LEAs may adopt them and be in compliance with AB 130. The update will include all statutory requirements for independent study programs. [Read details about the bill requirements »](#)**

## Legislative update: Take action on AB 438



**Assembly Bill 438** (Reyes, D-San Bernardino), a measure that would **provide classified staff with the same layoff notices and rights as certificated employees, is set to be heard by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Thursday, July 15.** The bill would require school districts to issue a layoff notice to classified staff every March 15 and provide

**that any future layoff notice or hearing rights adopted by statute to certificated staff in future years would automatically extend to classified staff.** CSBA has taken an **Oppose** position on this bill.

If approved by the Appropriations Committee, the bill will proceed to a vote by the full Senate. **CSBA urges members to reach out to their Senators to oppose the bill and give perspective on how it would negatively impact local educational agencies:**

- AB 438 applies a “one size fits all” approach and **removes flexibility districts need** to make locally controlled and locally informed decisions.
- Recognizing that staff salaries and benefits make up the vast majority of school district budgets, amounting to as much as 90 percent, **if adopted, AB 438 would require school districts to act upon nearly the entirety of its budget a full three months before the state budget is adopted, and nearly six months prior to districts making informed budgetary revisions** based upon the adopted state budget.

- During both the dot-com recession and the Great Recession, school districts were forced to over-notice teachers due to the March 15 requirement. **If adopted, this bill will also result in the over-noticing of classified staff.**
- It comes at a time when school districts both large and small enter the testing window, which is already a challenging time of year for students, teachers and staff.
- This will exacerbate and unnecessarily increase the disruption and uncertainty the March 15 deadline already creates, which **sows fear and uncertainty in teachers and creates doubt among students and families.**

## First two cohorts complete CSBA's Executive Assistant Certification Program



As an important part of the local educational agency administrative team, executive assistants are relied upon to keep things running smoothly. **CSBA identified a need for professional development and networking opportunities for executive assistants who support governance teams and created the Executive Assistant Certification Program. More than 100 executive**

**assistants from around the state have participated in and completed the new certification program**, including aspiring, new and veteran executive assistants. Participants complete a four-course program and a digital portfolio of work reflecting their growth across four areas of focus. **CSBA congratulates these professionals on the completion of their certification.** [Learn more about the program »](#)

## Register for MIG for County Offices of Education



CSBA's Masters in Governance program for County Offices of Education **is offering in-person and virtual opportunities for trustees to continue their professional development** in preparation for fall and beyond. **This program is specially designed for county office board members to provide the knowledge and skills to build and support an effective governance structure.** MIG COE courses

that will be offered between August and October include: Foundations of Effective

Governance/Setting Direction; Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review; Finance; Charter Schools; and Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration. **Interwoven into each course is a focus on equity and issues specific to COEs.** [Learn more and register »](#)

## New poll shows support for schools, with partisan divisions



Policy Analysis for California Education and the USC Rossier School of Education released their [ninth annual poll on education](#) on July 8. **Findings show record-high support for schools and teachers after more than a year of learning during a pandemic, and that Californians are concerned about the impact COVID-19 has had on student learning and support specific efforts to meet their needs.**

Although opinions about how schools performed during the pandemic are positive overall, there are **substantial partisan differences in how Democrats and Republicans see the issue.** Forty-seven percent of Democrats gave California public schools A or B grades statewide and 58 percent gave A or B grades to their local public schools. In contrast, only 29 percent of Republicans gave A or B grades to California public schools, and 41 percent gave A or B grades to their local public schools. Forty-two percent of Republican respondents gave California public schools a D or F grade. [Read more about the poll »](#)

## Assistance with state eligibility and funding applications

Assistance with  
**STATE ELIGIBILITY  
& FUNDING  
APPLICATIONS**

The State Facilities Funding Programs are complex and ever-changing. **Total School Solutions provides assistance with all aspects of the funding process, from the initial establishment of eligibility to the closeout audit process.** TSS professionals meet with the representatives of agencies to determine the needs of specific projects and assist in optimizing benefit from the programs. The

expertise of the TSS staff can help secure additional funding for districts which had not previously been identified. [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

### **MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction**

July 26 and 28 | [Register here](#)

### **MIG Course 3: School Finance**

August 6-7 | [Register here](#)

### **MIG COE Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction**

August 19 and 21 | [Register here](#)

### **MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining**

August 20-21 | [Register here](#)

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

August 23 and 25 | [Register here](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

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