

To learn more go to www.csba.org » | Trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#) »



July 28, 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 recommends universal masking in schools in latest guidance update](#)
- [Legislative update: State makes historic investment in broadband](#)
- [CSBA files suit to recover nearly \\$1 billion in school funding](#)
- [July edition of *California School News* available now](#)
- [Deadline for Golden Quill Awards submissions extended](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights releases Title IX Q&A](#)
- [Around-the-clock crisis communication services](#)

COVID-19 update: CDC recommends universal masking in schools in latest guidance update



As the delta variant of COVID-19 sweeps through areas of the United States with alarming speed, the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** on July 27 released **updated guidance recommending universal masking indoors in K-12 schools — regardless of vaccination status**. In addition, the CDC is recommending universal masking indoors for all people in areas

with high (50-100 cases per 100,000 people per day over a seven-day period) or substantial (>100 cases in the same time period) COVID-19 transmission.

The CDC continues to strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated. In response to a reporter's question, **CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky further clarified why the CDC changed its recommendation to universal masking in K-12 schools, including lower vaccination numbers than expected at this point.** "Next week, we have many school systems that are starting around the country and ... children age 11 and less are not going to be able to be vaccinated. And with only 30 percent of our kids between 12 and 17 full vaccinated now, more cases in the country and a real effort to try to make sure that our kids can safely get back to full, in-person learning — we're recommending that everybody wear masks right now." **The updated guidance brings the CDC in alignment with California Department of Public Health guidance** released on July 12, which requires universal masking in K-12 schools. [Read more »](#)

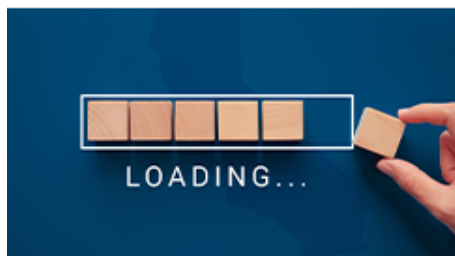
In other COVID-19 developments:

- The **COVID-19 pandemic and related school closures have resulted in an uptick in special education disputes, which are likely to continue to increase.** To address this, the adopted 2021–22 state budget includes \$100 million for the purpose of preventing and resolving special education disputes between local educational agencies and families. Specifically, **these one-time funds will be allocated to special education local plan areas (SELPAs) to support member LEAs "in conducting dispute prevention and voluntary alternative dispute resolution activities to prevent and resolve special education disputes resulting from school disruptions stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic."**

The superintendent of public instruction (SPI) is required to allocate the funds no later than Aug. 31, 2021, on a per-pupil calculation basis. **To be eligible for the funds, SELPAs must develop and submit to the SPI by Oct. 1, 2021,** a plan detailing how they will support their member LEAs in conducting dispute prevention and voluntary dispute resolution activities, including proposed expenditure information broken down by eligible activity. Assembly Bill 130 provides the eligible activities and additional requirements for receipt of funding. **LEAs that receive the funding must submit a report to their SELPA by Sept. 30, 2023,** regarding their use of the funds. [See Section 160 of AB 130 »](#)

- California's school districts and county offices of education are eager to welcome students back to the classroom and support efforts to return students to in-person instruction safely. **CSBA recognizes that the state's attempt to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 includes a multi-layered approach requiring that masks be worn in schools.** Students who decline to wear masks must be provided an educational alternative, such as independent study. **Unfortunately, the intersection of the masking law with the new independent study requirements in Assembly Bill 130 may keep some students out of the classroom without offering another viable educational option.** District and county board members must consider how new laws will be implemented and the real-world impacts such laws may have, even if these impacts may not be readily visible to those who are not engaged in the daily work of serving students. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Legislative update: State makes historic investment in broadband



The 2021–22 state budget includes a **historic \$6 billion investment in broadband access and infrastructure** — an equity issue elevated by CSBA since the early days of the pandemic, and long on its advocacy agenda. Details about how the state intends to allocate the funds are contained in the broadband trailer bill, [Senate Bill 156](#), which was signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom on July 20. **More than half of the**

investment, \$3.25 billion, will fund the construction of state-owned “middle-mile” broadband infrastructure that will connect “last-mile” local networks to the greater internet. Funds will be prioritized by areas and entities without sufficient connectivity, including elementary and secondary schools. SB 156 also creates a broadband advisory committee within the California Department of Technology that will hire and oversee a third-party administrator for the middle-mile network.

The budget also provides \$2 billion for last-mile projects, which will connect unserved and underserved households to high-speed internet. At least \$1 billion of the funds are required to be used for projects in rural counties, and \$1 billion is initially allocated to urban counties. Finally, the budget creates a continuously appropriated Broadband Loan Loss Reserve and allocates \$750 million in funding for the reserve over the next three years. This fund will assist school districts, nonprofits and local governments in financing their own local broadband services in unserved and underserved communities. **As one of the first organizations in the state to sound the alarm about the impact distance learning would have on students with inadequate internet access, CSBA will continue to advocate for equitable access for all students, particularly those in rural communities and low-income urban areas.**

CSBA files suit to recover nearly \$1 billion in school funding



In an effort to ensure that **California’s schools receive the funding due to them under law, CSBA has filed a Writ of Mandate and Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief against State Controller Betty Yee.** The suit aims to capture nearly \$1 billion in **Proposition 98 funding that was lost due to improper calculation of property taxes owed to school districts from five Bay Area counties.** The filing

pertains to the [Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund \(ERAF\) and calculation of Proposition 98](#) beginning with the 2019–20 budget year. The ERAF statute redirects a portion of property taxes statewide from cities, counties and special districts to local school districts and community college districts, reducing the demands on the state’s General Fund.

According to a March 2020 report by the Legislative Analyst’s Office, sometime before the 2019–20 fiscal year, the counties of Marin, Napa, Santa Clara, San Mateo and the City and County of San Francisco began excluding charter school average daily attendance in their ERAF calculations. This decision generated additional excess ERAF and reduced the amount of property taxes allocated to school districts and community college districts in those counties, with the funds redirected back to counties, cities and special districts.

Because of the counties’ calculations, for 2019–20, schools will receive approximately \$283 million less than they should have; for 2020–21, they will receive \$298 million less; and for 2021–22, they will receive \$315.9 million less. This is an ongoing loss in future years as well if not corrected. [Read more »](#)

July edition of *California School News* available now



Addressing adverse childhood experiences, a unique opportunity to support students who are English learners, how to best serve LGBTQ students as schools reopen and more is covered in the July issue of *California School News*. Also featured are articles on a pair of new reports synthesizing challenges related to the 2021–22 academic year and guidance to help address them, new CSBA briefs exploring Asian

American and Pacific Islander student demographics and experiences during the pandemic, and how **board policy can encourage civil behavior. [Read now »](#)**

Deadline for Golden Quill Awards submissions extended



The deadline for [Golden Quill Awards](#) submissions has been extended to Thursday, Sept. 30. The [Golden Quill Awards](#) highlight the essential role that journalists play in increasing understanding of the accomplishments, challenges and opportunities in public schools. **Nominate a representative from print, broadcast or online news media who has worked to understand your school, district or**

county office of education; developed relationships with your school board and staff; and whose reporting is accurate and transparent. [Learn more and make a nomination here »](#)

U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights releases Title IX Q&A

On July 20, the **U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights released a [Title IX Q&A](#) highlighting procedures schools should follow**



when handling reports of sexual harassment.

The 67-page document answers questions on general obligations, what sexual harassment is and where and when it occurs, formal complaints, timelines, standards of proof and more to give local educational agencies the knowledge needed to properly navigate these delicate and important situations.

Around-the-clock crisis communication services



CSBA has partnered with the Donovan Group to **offer urgent and crisis communication services to public schools and districts across the state.** The Crisis Communications program helps school leaders respond to difficult situations arising in their schools, with live counsel over the phone, custom content, and around-the-clock service. You can also get custom talking points, parent letters, news releases, social media posts

and other written content — delivered at a moment’s notice. [Learn more about Crisis Communications »](#)

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](#).

Business Services



Virtual events

MIG Course 3: School Finance
August 6-7 | [Register here](#)

Student Board Member Summer Training Session
August 11 | [Register here](#)

MIG COE Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction
August 19 and 21 | [Register here](#)

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

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

The Brown Act

August 27 | [Register here](#)

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

August 27-28 | [Register here](#)

[View complete calendar](#)



California School Boards Association | 3251 Beacon Blvd., West Sacramento, CA 95691

Phone: (800) 266-3382 | Fax: (916) 371-3407

[Website](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)