

# California schoolnews

Weekly Update

April 7, 2021

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## COVID-19 update: California to begin lifting COVID restrictions



Gov. Gavin Newsom announced April 6 that **California will fully reopen its economy June 15 as long as it has a sufficient supply of vaccines and hospitalizations are low.** Officials may push back the June reopening date if vaccine supply drops off and the state doesn't have enough to inoculate every Californian over 16 who wants to be vaccinated.

Newsom said in a press conference that he expects **all California students will be able to return to classrooms by June 15, and that schools should plan to conduct full-time, in-person instruction in the fall, in compliance with Cal/OSHA emergency temporary standards and public health guidelines. Face coverings will still be required at schools for the foreseeable future,** according to California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly.

The state will continue contact tracing and testing to detect cases early and contain the spread of the virus, as well as require mask wearing, but plans to end its color-coded tier system that has governed county-by-county reopening. [Learn more »](#)

### In other COVID-19 developments:

- In a study of more than 5,000 ninth and 10th graders in Chicago Public Schools, researchers at the University of Chicago Education Lab report promising results from **“high-dosage tutoring” — a model that is personalized, with specific student-to-tutor ratios of less than three-to-one.** The [study](#) found that **students continued to see persistent gains in math test scores and grade point average up to two years after tutoring, and that the intensive math tutoring was found to have spillover effects across subjects,** as student grades increased in math and non-math courses. High-dosage tutoring is being considered by LEAs as a strategy to address learning gaps many children experienced this past year as a result of the pandemic. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)
- The California Department of Public Health on April 2 **released updates to the state’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy reopening framework allowing additional activities to resume with modifications to reduce risk.** With vaccination rates increasing and the state’s COVID-19 test positivity rate near a record low, the updates loosen restrictions for some gatherings, private events or meetings such as receptions or conferences. **The changes may impact the ability to hold some form of in-person graduation ceremonies,** for which [new guidance](#) was

released March 26 to help students, teachers, families and school administrators celebrate this academic milestone while also preventing the spread of COVID-19.

## Ninth Circuit holds in favor of school district in First Amendment case



On March 18, 2021, in [Kennedy v. Bremerton School District](#), the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit once again upheld the school district's handling of a high profile First Amendment issue where a high school football coach was suspended after praying on the field immediately after games. The superintendent initially instructed

to the coach to avoid prayers at the 50-yard line in order to protect the district from Establishment Clause claims. The coach refused and sued the school district, claiming it had violated his First Amendment rights to free speech and free exercise of religion by limiting his practice.

The Ninth Circuit upheld the district court's summary judgment ruling in favor of the school district, finding that **the facts of the case and binding Supreme Court precedent compelled the conclusion that the school district would have violated the Establishment Clause** by allowing the coach to continue to engage in public prayer immediately after football games, while kneeling on the field's 50-yard line, with students who felt pressured to join him.

CSBA's Education Legal Alliance joined [an amicus brief](#) with the National School Boards Association and multiple other state associations in this case. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

## Register for CSBA webinar on broadband for California



Join CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy on **Tuesday, April 20 from 11 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.** as he leads a discussion on **the critical importance of universal broadband access to California's K-12 schools** and the state's economic future. **"Broadband for California: Connecting to Our Promise"** will feature panelists including **Sen. Lena Gonzalez (D-Long Beach),**

**Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance), East Side Union SD Trustee Lorena Chavez, Earlimart ESD Trustee Abigail Solis, Monterey Peninsula USD Assoc. Supt., Business Services Ryan Altemeyer** and other advocates for closing the digital divide. [Learn more and register »](#)

## Authorizing school districts reach repayment settlement in charter school fraud case



Six school districts that authorized charter schools involved in one of California's largest cases of charter school fraud must repay \$1 million to the state. In May 2019, a Grand Jury in San Diego County indicted 11 individuals involved in the group A3 Education, which ran 19 charter schools across California. The indictment alleged a scheme to siphon state funds for charter schools to A3 and the

criminal defendants. As part of the action, six authorizing school districts agreed to repay oversight fees they collected from A3 charter schools after Judge Frederick Link ruled that **authorizing school districts may only charge charter schools the "actual costs" of oversight responsibilities, rather than a flat fee.** [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

## Nominations open for 2022 CSBA officers



The **CSBA Nominating Committee** invites **CSBA members** to participate in this year's election process for the offices of **CSBA Vice President and President-elect**.

Members can submit a nomination form for themselves or for another member with their consent, and/or encourage potential candidates to run for office.

Officer Nomination Forms are due no later

than **Tuesday, June 1, 2021**. [Learn more »](#)

## 2021 CSBA Delegate Assembly election results



Results from CSBA's recently concluded **Delegate Assembly election** are **now available**. As CSBA's primary policymaking body, the Delegate Assembly is the key link in the association's governance structure. It is made up of approximately 270 local school board members who are elected or appointed in 21 geographic regions throughout the state. [Learn more »](#)

## Expert MAA and LEA billing assistance



CSBA's Practi-Cal offers the most comprehensive Medi-Cal and Medicaid Administrative billing services available to local educational agencies. Its broad range of expertise allows it to **identify areas of reimbursement often overlooked by others and simplifies the complicated billing process**, while minimizing your efforts. There are **no up-front costs to the district**. [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

**Webinar: Broadband for California: Connecting to Our Promise**  
April 20 | [Register here](#)

**2021 Executive Assistants Certification Program (Delta Cohort)**  
Aug. 13 - Nov. 19 | [Register here](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

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