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California schoolnews

Weekly Update

May 26, 2021

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In memory of former 2021 CSBA President Suzanne Kitchens



It is with the deepest sadness that CSBA shares news of the death of former CSBA 2021 President Suzanne Kitchens. Suzanne passed quietly with her family on Sunday, May 23, just two weeks after she resigned her post as CSBA President due to health issues. **It is characteristic of Suzanne's dedication to children that she worked on their behalf nearly until her final day.**

Suzanne's [resignation announcement](#) detailed her long history of commitment to California's public schools as a parent, a volunteer, a local trustee, chair of numerous CSBA committees, a member of our Board of Directors and, finally, as CSBA President. **These titles, however, pale in comparison to Suzanne's great achievement, which was her profound humanity and concern for others.** The suddenness of Suzanne's passing only accentuates the grief and we at CSBA send our most heartfelt condolences to her family as they cope with this loss. [Read more in today's member eblast »](#)

New CSBA briefs examine AAPI student experiences; how districts can address student needs



In recognition of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, CSBA has released a pair of "Asian American and Pacific Islander Students in Focus" research and policy briefs. **"AAPI Students in Focus: Demographics and Enrollment Data"** discusses the importance of disaggregating data at the local level to identify student needs. There are wide variations in the academic,

economic and language acquisition needs for different AAPI communities that can be hidden when looking at the group as a monolith.

"AAPI Student in Focus: Experiences During the COVID-19 Pandemic" examines

the rise of anti-Asian hate crimes since the pandemic began and shares how the pandemic has disproportionately affected certain AAPI communities. For example, while Asian Americans have the lowest case rate of any racial or ethnic group in California, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders have a case rate of 10,735 per 100,000 and a death rate of 219 per 100,00 — both the highest rates in the state. The brief also examines how these factors and the rise in hate crimes against people of AAPI descent has contributed to a larger proportion of AAPI families who are hesitant to return to in-person instruction. [Read the briefs »](#)

Don't miss **CSBA President Dr. Susan Heredia speaking at the Asian Pacific Islander School Board Members Association's June 14 event on addressing the needs of AAPI students in fall planning.** Several CSBA materials released this month will be part of the required reading for attendees who will **discuss what they have learned in breakout rooms and start a draft action plan to bring to their LEA.** School board members and administrators are invited to attend. [Register here »](#)

Legislative update: Education bills that advanced from the suspense file



On May 20, the Appropriations committees in each house of the Legislature considered its “suspense file,” bills with a price tag of over \$150,000 that are set aside and considered all at once to weigh their fiscal impact as a whole. Unlike a typical hearing, the suspense file is a convenient time to stop politically difficult bills in their tracks. **Over 350 Senate and 500 Assembly bills were considered at this year's hearing, and ultimately more than 200 were shelved.**

Three possible outcomes awaited bills placed on the suspense file. Some were passed out of committee and continue on to the Senate or Assembly for a floor vote. The less fortunate were “held on suspense,” meaning they died in the Appropriations committee. And others continue on, but as a “two-year bill,” placing them on hold until next year. Among the key K-12 legislation passed during the suspense process this year:

- **Assembly Bill 101** (Medina, D-Riverside), which would add ethnic studies to the state graduation requirements. *CSBA Position: Support if amended.*
- **AB 1316** (O'Donnell, D-Long Beach), which would make **significant reforms** aimed at charter schools, particularly nonclassroom-based charter schools. *CSBA Position: Oppose unless amended.*
- **AB 438** (Reyes, D-San Bernardino), which would provide the same March 15 layoff notices and rights as those afforded to certificated employees to classified staff. *CSBA Position: Oppose.*
- **SB 22** (Glazer, D-Contra Costa), which would authorize a \$15 billion bond measure for the construction and modernization of public preschool, K-12, community college, University of California and California State University facilities to be placed on the ballot in 2022. *CSBA Position: Support.*

[Read about more bills that passed on the CSBA blog »](#)

Instructional Quality Commission moves Mathematics Framework forward



Revising California's Mathematics Framework is proving to be a controversial process. The **framework is meant to provide guidance for local districts to make the best choices for their students based on research and best practices in mathematics education,** said Brian Lindaman, one of its authors, during a May 19 Instructional Quality Commission meeting. **The notion that standards for all students would be lowered by new methods that might be used, as many public commenters alluded to, is misguided,** he explained. “We are seeking to elevate students and to bring them up,” Lindaman said. “We’re not bringing anyone down. We’d like to bring everyone up.”

Under the framework, **the practice of tracking students and separating them by assumed ability would end and students would generally be enrolled in the same math courses until their junior year** when they could pick from more advanced subjects like statistics and calculus. **This would avoid young learners missing out on a deeper understanding of foundational skills that would help them as they progress** instead of racing to take the most advanced classes for college resumes or other reasons. **It would also offer a more inclusive path to advanced courses for student groups who have traditionally been underrepresented in mathematics** such as “students of

color, girls, and students from low-income homes,” as defined in the framework. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

COVID update: Schools can help vaccinate young people



During a May 20 meeting hosted by the California Department of Public Health, **officials reported that 224,224 Californians ages 12 to 15 received their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine within the first five days of eligibility.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention endorsed the safety and effectiveness Pfizer's two-dose COVID-19 vaccine for the age group on May 12.

There are **two ways that local educational agencies can help** with the vaccine rollout to eligible students and community members: 1) **Schools wishing to serve as vaccination sites can fill out this [survey](#)** and be matched with local resources; 2) If a district (especially a larger one) **wants to become a provider and receive vaccines directly**, local leaders can review program requirements and [register here](#). [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

In other COVID-19 developments:

- The Schools, Health and Libraries Broadband Coalition on **June 9 is hosting a workshop on the E-rate Emergency Connectivity Fund to assist schools and libraries in understanding the program**, which was recently announced by the Federal Communications Commission. The \$7 billion program is a **historic chance to help connect families, students and library-goers to home broadband.** Unlike traditional E-rate funding, **schools and libraries will be able to pay for off-campus connectivity and devices like laptops and tablets.** The program does, however, have a slew of rules that will need to be understood in a short period of time due to the application window. **The June 9 workshop will give schools the strategies and information needed to complete a strong application.** [Register here »](#)

CSBA's May newsletter available online now



The **May issue of *California School News* covers California's Expanded Learning Opportunities Grants — for which the plan submission deadline is fast approaching on June 1 — as well as the latest in state COVID-19 guidance and regulations, and an overview of the U.S. Supreme Court case that could decide whether schools may discipline students for off-campus speech.** This is

likely to be a growing concern as the line between home and school is blurred by the increased shift to digital learning. Other stories include tips to help districts focus on equity during school reopenings, the need for universal broadband access, keeping board policies up to date and more. [Read the newsletter »](#)

Nomination forms for 2022 CSBA Officers due Tuesday, June 1



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.** Submit a nomination form for yourself or for another member with their consent or encourage potential candidates to run for CSBA office. **A nomination may come from a member nominating themselves, from**

another member or from a member board. Officer nomination forms are due no later than 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, June 1, 2021. [Learn more »](#)

Save with the GO Bond Refunding Pool



For more than 30 years, California school districts and community college districts have **saved time and money by issuing tax and revenue anticipation notes (TRANs) through the California School Cash Reserve Program Authority sponsored by CSBA and CASBO**, the largest pooled TRAN financing in the nation. The GO Bond Refunding Pool follows in this tradition by

allowing districts **to unlock taxpayer savings by driving down costs** through an easy-to-use shared financing platform. [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 (Virtual)
June 25-26 | [Register here](#)

MIG Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review (Virtual)
July 16-17 | [Register here](#)

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction (Virtual)
July 26 and 28 | [Register here](#)

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

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

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining (Virtual)
August 20-21 | [Register here](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

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