

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

May 5, 2021

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COVID-19 update: Biden announces \$1.8 trillion American Families Plan



The [American Families Plan](#) — a \$1.8 trillion proposal that would be funded by tax cuts and new spending — was announced by President Joe Biden on April 28. It includes \$200 billion toward free universal preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds and \$225 billion to improve the quality of child care and make it more affordable, while increasing pay for providers. It would

also provide \$9 billion to address teacher shortages, improve teacher training and supports, and boost teacher diversity. Another \$45 billion would go to nutrition programs including expanding summer EBT eligibility to help low-income families whose children are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals purchase food during summer.

For college students, the plan would give \$109 billion to offer tuition-free community college for two years, \$85 billion in Pell Grant increases and \$46 billion for historically Black learning institutions, tribal colleges and other minority-focused institutions of higher education. Additionally, a national, comprehensive paid family and medical leave program would be created. [Learn more »](#)

In other COVID-19 developments:

- The U.S. Department of Education **launched the [National Summer Learning & Enrichment Collaborative](#) on April 26** with a National Convening, which featured an array of education stakeholder perspectives from across the country, joining in the conversation around planning and implementation of strong summer learning and enrichment programs for students most impacted by the pandemic. **The collaborative aims to design evidence-based summer programs that address the lost instructional, social and extracurricular time students have experienced as a result of the pandemic, while also facilitating regional and local partnerships to ensure speedy and robust implementation of state- and district-level plans.** Convening materials and session recordings can be [found here](#).
- The Department of Education issued two-thirds of each state's allocation of American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund on March 24, 2021. **To receive the remaining third of a state's ARP**

ESSER allocation, the department is requiring that the state develop and submit a plan that describes, among other things, the current education needs within the state, the state educational agencies' intended uses of ARP ESSER funds, and the plans for supporting LEAs in their planning for and use of ARP ESSER funds. Public comment is now being accepted on the interim final requirements for the funds related to consultation with stakeholders, state plans to use the funds, and the statutory requirement that LEAs receiving ARP ESSER funds develop plans for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. **Comments are due by May 24.** [Learn more »](#)

Update: LEAs should continue to use CDPH's graduation ceremony guidance



In a recent email communication, CSBA shared an [updated guidance](#) from the California Department of Public Health and Cal/OSHA that provides a plan for Californians to gather outside their households, applies to all private gatherings, and is intended to replace prior guidance. CSBA's email noted that local educational agencies could use the guidance to plan for in-person graduation

ceremonies, but upon further review, **please note that CDPH's [Guidance for the Prevention of COVID-19 Transmission for Commencement/Graduation Ceremonies](#) released on March 26, 2021 remains in effect, and should continue to guide LEA in-person graduation ceremony planning in 2021.**

The March 26 guidance provides recommendations to help students, teachers, families and school administrators celebrate this academic milestone while also preventing the spread of COVID-19. Outdoor, in-person commencement ceremonies are permissible but must adhere to attendance limitations as defined within the current [CDPH Outdoor Seated Live Events and Performances Guidance](#). Ceremonies must also adhere to all California COVID-19 protocols for schools, travel, outdoor events and lodging. The guidance also requires school administrators to identify and monitor the [county risk level](#) in which the school is located and make required adjustments to commencement ceremonies, as local health departments can have more restrictive criteria and different closures.

CSBA webinar explores possibilities of expanded learning



School district leaders and researchers explored the strategies, investments and best practices for expanded learning initiatives that can best address the disruption of COVID-19 on education during a May 4 CSBA webinar, "Expanded Learning: Governance for Developing Effective Learning Recovery Plans." **Panelists highlighted a range of evidence-based practices and supports to re-engage students and accelerate**

learning. Several school district trustees and officials detailed their local educational agencies' expanded learning plans for the upcoming school year. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Panelists also explored topics including some of the best uses of significant one-time federal and state funding, as well as the need to rely on interventions and supports backed by data. The pandemic has created obvious challenges, but also significant opportunities to improve offerings for all students, said Del Norte County Unified School District Trustee Jeff Harris. "What we're talking about is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to engage our students, engage our staff and engage our communities in a very different way." [Watch a recording of the webinar](#) | [View the slide deck](#)

Legislative update: Ethnic studies still a hot topic



Policy committees in the Assembly and Senate reached a key deadline on April 30 to hear bills that originated in their house. **The next step is for the Appropriations committees in each house to consider bills that will have a fiscal impact on the state.** As the 2021–22 legislative session moves forward, ethnic studies has remained a priority. The following are key bills on this issue that CSBA is

following:

- **Assembly Bill 101** (Medina, D-Riverside) **would add the completion of a one-semester course in ethnic studies to high school graduation requirements, beginning with the class of 2029–30.** The bill would also require local educational agencies, including charter schools, to offer an ethnic studies course beginning with the 2025–26 school year. This bill was passed by the Assembly Education Committee on April 7 and is currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. **CSBA Position: Support if amended.** CSBA is seeking amendments to provide the funding necessary to address the cost of increasing student coursework.
- **AB 1039** (Nguyen, R-Westminster) **would extend the timeline for the Instructional Quality Commission to develop and submit model curricula relative to the Vietnamese American refugee experience, the Cambodian genocide, and Hmong history and cultural studies to the State Board of Education, and for the SBE to adopt, modify or revise or reject the curriculum by March 31, 2027.** This bill was passed by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on April 14 and is currently waiting for a vote on the Assembly floor. **CSBA Position: Support**
- **AB 1554** and **Assembly Constitutional Amendment 6** (Ramos, D-Highland) **would require the social studies curriculum for grades three, four, eight and 11 to include significant material on the history and culture of California Native Americans.** AB 1554 is currently in the Assembly Committee on Education and ACA 6 is awaiting referral to committees. **CSBA Position: Pending**
- **Senate Bill 693** (Stern, D-Canoga Park) **would establish the Governor’s Council on Genocide and Holocaust Education to develop best practices to facilitate the instruction on genocide and the Holocaust, and identify available resources that are aligned to the best practices and programs and resources to train.** The bill also requires the California Department of Education to make available the best practices and approved lessons, resources and materials to support the integration of instruction on genocide and the Holocaust, and to conduct a voluntary study to assess the impact of instruction based on the best practices. This bill was passed by the Senate Education Committee on April 14 and is currently in the Senate Committee on Appropriations. **CSBA Position: Pending**
- **AB 1040** (Muratsuchi, D-Torrance) **would require each community college district to offer courses in ethnic studies at each of its campuses beginning with the 2022–23 academic year.** This bill was passed by the Assembly Higher Education Committee on April 8 and is now in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. **CSBA Position: Tracking**

California Schools spring edition online now



Spring is here and CSBA is delving into **COVID-19 testing, lessons learned in the virtual environment and how to best market schools in a competitive era** in the latest edition of *California Schools* magazine. Other topics covered include a CEO’s note on **the Asian American experience and why it deserves attention in schools, upcoming changes in credentials for special**

education, and California’s labor relations laws and why our legal expert thinks they need flexibility during the state of emergency. [Read now »](#)

GEAR UP program aims to improve high school graduation rates



The Department of Education is now accepting applications for the [Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs Partnership Grants](#), also called the GEAR UP program. **The program aims to help low-income students earn a secondary school diploma in preparation for postsecondary education. Grants are available to partnerships consisting of at**

least one local educational agency and one institute of higher education. Potential partnership grantees should focus their application on activities including providing financial aid information, encouraging enrollment in challenging courses to reduce the need for remediation, and activities to improve the number of students who get a secondary school diploma and complete application and enroll in a postsecondary education program. Estimated available funds are roughly \$35.6 million with an average award size of \$1.2 million. **Applications are due by June 28.** [Learn more »](#)

Resister now for Delegate Assembly meeting



All Delegates are eligible to attend the **upcoming Delegate Assembly meeting, on Saturday and Sunday, May 15–16, 2021, via Zoom. There is no fee, but registration is required to attend.** CSBA's Delegate Assembly is a vital link in the association's governance structure. Working with local districts, county offices, the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, Delegates ensure that the association reflects the interests of

school districts and county offices of education throughout the state. There are two required Delegate Assembly meetings each year. [Register »](#)

Comprehensive performance audits for your district's bond funds

Annual Proposition 39
**PERFORMANCE
AUDITS**

CSBA believes that a performance audit of bond funds should be comprehensive enough to assess the **best use of taxpayer money and provide recommendations for improvements based on best practices in procurement and construction.** CSBA partners with Total School Solutions in providing **comprehensive performance audits to assist our members** in improving their bond-funded facilities programs. Please

contact Susan Lendway at 707-422-6393 to request a proposal for your performance audit. [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

2021 Delegate Assembly Meeting
May 15-16 | [Register here](#)

2021 CCSA Virtual Spring Workshop
May 21 | [Register here](#)

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](#)

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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](#)

[View complete calendar](#)



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