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California schoolnews

Weekly Update

June 16, 2021

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Legislative update: Placeholder budget passed



The Legislature on June 14 adopted a budget bill, [Assembly Bill 128](#), meeting the constitutional requirement for the Legislature to pass a budget by June 15. Notably, **the Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom have not yet reached a final budget deal** — negotiations will continue until a budget is signed on June 30.

The Legislature's budget bill contains some good news for schools by **fully paying off all \$11 billion in apportionment deferrals, providing \$3 billion in pension cost relief, and reducing the looming increase in the Unemployment Insurance rate** for the School Employees Fund (SEF) from 1.23 to 0.5 percent.

However, significant issues for schools remain, and CSBA advocacy will continue as negotiations develop, including the following priorities:

- *Super COLA for special education and compounded COLA for other programs:* Protect the Legislature's proposals to provide a compounded cost-of-living adjustment of 4.05 percent for all eligible programs outside of the Local Control Funding Formula; urge the super COLA of 5.07 percent also be extended to special education; and request a compounded COLA for home-to-school transportation.
- *Close Excess Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) loophole:* Include trailer bill language to close the loophole that is currently exploited to exclude charter school average daily attendance from local ERAF calculations.
- *Unemployment Insurance relief:* Provide a full paydown of the rate increase with a \$642 million one-time state General Fund payment to the SEF.
- *Eliminate apportionment deferrals:* Protect the Legislature's proposal to eliminate ALL apportionment deferrals.
- *Pension buy down for out years:* Protect the Legislature's proposal to allocate additional General Fund revenues to buy down the long-term pension liability and rates on behalf of school employers.

CSBA advocacy will also continue to highlight the fact that the Governor's May Revision and the Legislature's response contain an overwhelming amount of one-time money, much of which is spread over a three- to five-year period. The timeline and sheer amount of money raises concerns of whether LEAs can meet the associated program requirements to draw down the funding, spend the money in a timely fashion or even qualify for the funding — a particular concern for small and rural districts and county offices of education.

[Read CSBA President Dr. Susan Heredia's statement on the budget here »](#)

COVID-19 update: CDPH keeps mask guidelines for schools



A new [public health order](#), released June 11 by the California Department of Public Health, **will keep certain COVID-19 restrictions in place at K-12 schools**. While, as of June 15, fully vaccinated individuals will no longer need to wear a mask in most settings, **everyone, including those who are fully vaccinated, will be required to wear a mask while indoors at a**

school campus, child care facility or other youth settings. Those who are not vaccinated are still required to wear a face covering in indoor public settings and businesses.

The health order says that individuals should continue to adhere to requirements laid out in the current [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California](#) as well as the [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Programs and Providers](#) and guidance on day camps and other youth activities. **An update to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's K-12 operations guidance is expected in the near future.** "I will continue to monitor the scientific evidence and epidemiological data and will amend this guidance as needed by the evolving public health conditions and recommendations issued by the CDC and other public health authorities," said Tomás J. Aragón, director and state public health officer.

In other COVID-19 developments:

- Guidance released by the Biden administration on June 9 **addresses the maintenance of equity provisions in the American Rescue Plan that must be met for state and local educational agencies to receive their share of the funding**. These provisions are meant to help ensure schools and LEAs serving large proportions of historically underserved student groups receive an equitable share of state and local funds allocated for pandemic recovery. **Accordingly, if state or local funds are cut, the maintenance of equity provisions ensure that LEAs and schools serving a large share of students from low-income backgrounds do not experience a disproportionate share of such cuts in fiscal years 2022 and 2023**, and that the highest poverty LEAs do not receive a decrease in state funding below their fiscal year 2019 level.
- The Federal Communications Commission **announced** that the **first Emergency Connectivity Fund Program application filing period will open on Tuesday, June 29 at 9 a.m.** The program is meant to fund equipment and service needs in the new academic year for off-campus use by students, school staff and library patrons who may otherwise lack this access. **Interested applicants will have until Aug. 13, 2021, (45 days) to submit funding requests for purchases to be made between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022.** The Emergency Connectivity Fund Program, part of 2021's American Rescue Plan, will provide up to \$7.17 billion in support toward the purchase of tablets, WiFi hotspots, modems, routers and broadband connectivity. Four [webinars](#), taking place over the course of the next week, will provide more information. [Learn more »](#)

School Boards in Action video series launches



CSBA is proud to showcase the hard work of our members through a **new four-part video series as part of our year-long multimedia School Boards in Action campaign**. From expanded learning initiatives to wellness centers, mental health services and food distribution, **school trustees have stepped up to serve students and families in a time of crisis. From Arcata to**

Agua Dulce, school boards have demonstrated resourcefulness, dedication and creativity during the pandemic and in preparation for the return to full-time, classroom instruction. In this video series, four board members from across the state

share how their districts are implementing programs to support student mental health, broadband access, wellness and summer learning. [Watch the videos »](#)

In addition to the video series, **CSBA has also taken to the airwaves to spread its message of appreciation with a radio ad** playing in multiple markets across the state and a [weekly blog series](#).

CSBA releases companion guidance to Delegate Assembly report



On June 10, CSBA released **“Turning crisis into opportunity: Resources for board members planning for the 2021–22 year and beyond”** — a resource guide that is a companion piece to the [May 2021 Delegate Assembly Report](#). **The guide is a collection of timely resources, recent research and evidence-based practices**

to address the topics most commonly identified by Delegates during a May 16 breakout session at the event. The topics include mental and social-emotional health of students and staff; professional development and new hire training; use of one-time funds; learning recovery; program delivery; return-to-campus protocols on health and safety; and other challenges related to fall planning and implementation. [View the resource guide »](#)

Charter Schools: A Guide for Governance Teams available on Amazon



CSBA is debuting its first e-book with an **update to *Charter Schools: A Guide for Governance Teams*, which includes the latest changes effecting charter school laws, oversight and policy.** This guidebook made specifically for board members and superintendents serving as charter school authorizers in California is available in Amazon’s [Kindle Store](#). The book is a

powerful resource for CSBA members to execute their governance and charter school oversight responsibilities in a productive manner.

The new edition **includes an overview of California’s charter schools laws and funding, and provides guidance about the petition review process, facilities and oversight responsibilities. It also includes updated content related to California’s renewal process, revocation of charters, revocation appeals and charter school closures.** In addition, the guidebook provides governance team members information about CSBA’s charter school policies, and a summary of key state legislation and legal cases. [Read more on the CSBA blog](#) | [Purchase the e-book](#)

Newsom issues executive order setting expiration dates for previous COVID-19-related executive order provisions



Since Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency due to COVID-19 on March 4, 2020, he has issued more than 60 executive orders to address pandemic-related issues. Executive orders are issued by the Governor to require action by various state agencies and to order other actions within the Governor’s authority

without action by the Legislature. **On June 11, 2021, Gov. Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21, which provided for the expiration of portions of several of those previous 60 COVID-19-related executive orders, with provisions expiring either June 30, 2021 or Sept. 30, 2021.**

A number of the expiring executive order provisions apply to local educational agencies and CSBA members, including the expiration of provisions suspending portions of the Brown Act to allow teleconference and videoconference meetings on Sept. 30, 2021; the cessation of distance learning on June 30, 2021; and the expiration of provisions that suspended limitations on the employment of CalPERS retired annuitants, also on June 30, 2021. **LEAs will need to carefully review new Executive Order N-08-21 to ensure they are in compliance with any legal requirements that may have**

been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. CSBA has prepared a summary of relevant provisions to assist with that review. [Learn more »](#)

Professional development opportunities for county office board members



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 »](#)

Districts can diversify investments with OPEB Solutions Program



The OPEB Solutions Program is a full-service GASB-compliant, IRS-approved **trust program designed to help local educational agencies safely and securely set aside funds to address and lower your Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability.** This program gives districts local control of assets, providing LEAs with the flexibility to make contributions as

deemed appropriate and the ability to access and withdraw funds to pay for OPEB expenses at any time. [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 Alumni Association Summer Book Club Series

July 10 | [Register here](#)

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

July 16-17 | [Register here](#)

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

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

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining

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

[View complete calendar](#)

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