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California schoolnews

Weekly Update

August 25, 2021

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COVID-19 update: CDPH reinforces K-12 universal indoor masking mandate



On Aug. 23, **California Department of Public Health Director and State Public Health Officer Tomás J. Aragón issued a letter to school leaders** titled “Requirement for Universal Masking Indoors at K-12 Schools,” which was prompted by “some elected officials and school leaders [who] have expressed their intent to violate the law — and risk their students' safety — by failing to enforce the

universal mask requirement for indoor school settings.” The letter cites the **supporting scientific evidence for the efficacy of masking. Noting that California is experiencing a significant uptick in infections due to the delta variant, which “poses significant health risks to students,” failure to follow the mandatory public health directive will expose schools and school leaders personally to substantial legal and financial risks.** The letter also states that “**schools and school officials involved in the decision not to follow the mandatory public health guidance may face civil lawsuits by concerned families and staff compelling them to comply with the guidance.** As noted, the **public health directive has the force of law,** and a mandatory duty therefore exists for schools to implement the guidance.” [Read the full letter »](#)

- On Aug. 23, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration **approved the license for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older.** The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine continues to be available under emergency use authorization for those 12 through 15 years old and for a third dose in certain immunocompromised individuals. FDA-approved vaccines undergo the agency’s standard process for reviewing the quality, safety and effectiveness of medical products. This could mean an increase in vaccine mandates, as evidenced by a quick announcement from [New York City public schools](#) that mandates vaccines for all school employees.
- The California Department of Public Health and Physicians for a Healthy California are providing **grants for COVID vaccination clinics to school-based health centers already enrolled in or in the application process for myCAvax** — the state COVID-19 vaccination program. Grants range from \$10,000 to \$55,000 and can be used for a broad range of expenses related to enrolling and administering COVID vaccines. Applications are due Sept. 10. [Learn more »](#)

Legislative update: A critical bill for California schools is up for a key vote this week



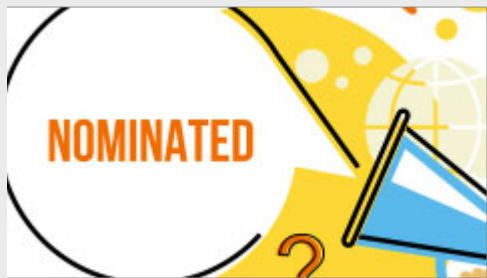
Assembly Bill 438 (Reyes, D-San Bernardino) would delete the existing 60-day layoff notice requirements for classified staff and instead provide the same layoff notices and rights as those afforded to certificated employees. Specifically, **it would require school districts to issue a layoff notice to classified staff every March 15. It would also provide that any future layoff notice or hearing rights**

afforded to certificated staff in future years would automatically extend to classified staff.

CSBA has taken an Oppose position on the bill, which **strikes at the heart of local control** and would **restrict the ability of local school boards to make informed budgetary decisions**. Members have reached out to their legislators throughout the legislative process to share how AB 438 would require districts to act upon nearly the entirety of their budget **a full three months before the state budget is adopted** and eliminate the important ability to make personnel decisions at the appropriate time.

In bad budget years, forcing schools to act on the often more austere January budget proposal rather than the final budget will lead to the mass over-noticing of classified staff. As schools face the many challenges of the pandemic era, as well as the pre-existing challenges of declining enrollment, the state's long-term projected budget deficit, increasing pension costs, and other fiscal impacts, now is not the time to make changes of this scale to the employment process. **AB 438 will be considered as part of the Appropriations Committee's suspense file on Thursday, Aug. 26.** If passed out of committee, it will then move to the Senate floor — **stay tuned for more opportunities to advocate with your legislators on this critical bill in the coming days.**

2022 CSBA officer candidate



CSBA's Nominating Committee met on Aug. 20, 2021, via Zoom to review the Declaration of Candidacy Packets submitted on July 12, 2021.

The Nominating Committee agreed to interview candidate for President-elect, Susan Markarian, of Pacific Union Elementary School District, via Zoom on

Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021. [Learn more »](#)

Save the date: Coast2Coast federal advocacy trip



Take your advocacy for California's students to the next level at **CSBA's and the Association of California School Administrators' (ACSA) Coast2Coast 2022 federal advocacy visit in Washington, D.C.!**

This three-day event will begin with a **day of training and breakout sessions on education policy issues specific to California, followed by two days of**

meetings on Capitol Hill to advocate directly with California congressional representatives, White House officials, key federal agency leaders and other top policymakers. Registration opens soon.

California Senate hearing discusses youth mental health as students return to schools



In an Aug. 18 informational hearing, "**Back in School: Addressing Student Well-Being in the Wake of COVID-19,**" the Senate Education Committee heard from state and local education leaders and advocates about the **importance of centering mental wellness and social-emotional learning** as students return to the classroom for the 2021–22 school year and **a need to connect the**

health and education systems. Since schools were closed in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the **proportion of mental health-related visits for children**

aged 5-11 and 12-17 increased about 24 percent and 31 percent respectively. Representatives from La Habra City School District and Fullerton SD shared with senators the ways in which their districts were using pandemic-relief funds to address student well-being. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

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

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction
August 27-28 | [Register here](#)

2021 CCBE Annual Conference
September 10-12 | [Register here](#)

MIG Course 3: School Finance
September 13 and 15 | [Register here](#)

MIG Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review
September 17-18 | [Register here](#)

MIG COE Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review
September 23 and 25 | [Register here](#)

2021 CCSA Virtual Fall Workshop
September 24 | [Register here](#)

In-person events

MIG 1: Foundations of Effective Governance
September 24 | [Register here](#)

MIG 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review
September 25 | [Register here](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

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