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### In this issue

- [Action alert: Vote no on AB 438, advocate for independent study changes](#)
- [CDE launches School Emergency Reporting System](#)
- [COVID-19 update: CIF allows for Sunday competitions due to postponements resulting from natural disasters](#)
- [Guidance clarifies mandated reporting and ACEs screening](#)
- [Deadline for Golden Quill Awards submissions extended](#)
- [New CSBA professional development program centers equity](#)

## Action alert: Vote no on AB 438, advocate for independent study changes



As the legislative session winds down, **trustees need to make their voices heard on critical issues now.**

### Layoff notices

**Assembly Bill 438** (Reyes, D-San Bernardino), a critical bill for California schools, will soon be considered by the full State Senate. **AB 438 would eliminate the existing 60-day layoff notice requirements for**

**classified staff and instead require school districts to issue classified staff layoff notices by March 15, which is the same layoff notice date afforded to certificated employees.** 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.

Before this key vote, **the Senate needs to hear from school leaders about the dire consequences this change would cause by requiring districts to act upon nearly the entirety of their budget a full three months before the state budget is adopted and six months before student enrollment numbers are clear, thus leading to a mass over-noticing of classified staff during lean budget years.** 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. [Contact your Senator »](#)

### Independent study

As students return to the classroom, the delta variant surge and subsequent student quarantines have led to a significant increase in interest surrounding independent study. **The sudden rise in demand for independent study raises capacity and logistical challenges for districts, and creates challenges related to continuity of instruction requirements under the current independent study statute.**

**The Legislature needs to hear from local education leaders about the reality schools are facing and what support they need to serve every student this school year.** Reach out now to tell your representatives that California's schools are doing everything they can to serve their students, but they need help from the Legislature to do so. [Learn more and email your legislators »](#)

## CDE launches School Emergency Reporting System



The California Department of Education launched a new [School Emergency Reporting System](#) to allow CDE and local educational agencies to communicate and quickly share critical information with each other in the event of a natural disaster or other urgent incident such as wildfires, earthquakes, drought, levee breaks, civil unrest and more. The system will facilitate

the identification of needs and the rapid response of resource distribution and support for schools when there is an incident.

The CDE Emergency Services Team will send a unique access code by email to each superintendent on Sept. 1, 2021, from [emergencyservices@cde.ca.gov](mailto:emergencyservices@cde.ca.gov) titled “School Emergency Reporting System Access Code.” LEAs should designate a contact within their administration who may use the provided access code to log into SERS. All LEAs are encouraged to attend a short training session. Multiple opportunities will be available. Dates and registration links can be located on the CDE’s School Disaster and Emergency Management [web page](#). Contact Joe Anderson of the CDE Emergency Services Team with any questions, at [joanderson@cde.ca.gov](mailto:joanderson@cde.ca.gov).

## COVID-19 update: CIF allows for Sunday competitions due to postponements resulting from natural disasters



As a result of the pandemic and wildfires ravaging the state, the California Interscholastic Federation [announced late Aug. 31 a temporarily suspension of Bylaw 504.M. for the 2021 fall sports season as it relates to competition](#). The suspension of the Bylaw — which prohibits a school from interscholastic participation on seven consecutive 24-hour days — does not apply to practices

or any other team activities. “If a CIF competition is postponed directly due to documented COVID-19 cases (or the quarantine resulting from such cases), wildfires (or the poor air quality resulting from such wildfires), other natural disasters, or a declared state of emergency, the schools involved in those competitions may mutually agree to use the Sunday immediately following the postponement as a possible day to reschedule that competition,” Ronald Nocetti, CIF executive director, said in a [statement](#).

In other COVID-19 developments:

- The Federal Communications Commission [announced Aug. 25 that it received \\$5.1 billion in requests for the aid in the first round of Emergency Connectivity Fund applications](#), which were due Aug. 13. The money — approved in as part of the broader American Rescue Plan — can be used for laptops and tablets, Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers and broadband connections for students and school staff to use off-campus. California local educational agencies and libraries requested more than \$812 million. If all projects are approved, about \$2 billion will be left in the fund. The second application window to support connectivity at schools and libraries during the 2021–22 academic year will be open from Sept. 28 to Oct. 13. [Learn more »](#)
- The U.S. Department of Education on Aug. 24 [released the first Q&A in a series of documents addressing questions about Individuals with Disabilities Education Act child find activities, evaluations, multi-tiered systems of support, referrals for students who have contracted COVID-19 and more](#). The [Q&As document on Child Find Under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#) reaffirms the importance of appropriate implementation of IDEA’s child find obligations, which requires the identification, location and evaluation of all children with disabilities. The Department’s Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services also sent a [letter](#) to its state and local partners reiterating its commitment to ensuring children with disabilities and their families have successful early intervention and educational experiences in the 2021–22 school year. CSBA staff is currently updating policies that align with the new guidance.
- The U.S. Department of Education released guidance on Aug. 31 — [“Strategies for Using American Rescue Plan Funding to Address the Impact of Lost Instructional Time”](#) — to support educators as they implement, refine and work to continuously improve upon strategies for supporting students as they return to in-person learning after more than a year of varied access to the educational opportunities. The resource is part of the Return to School Roadmap, a guide for states, schools, educators and parents that focuses on priorities

including building school communities and supporting students' social, emotional, and mental health. [Learn more »](#)

## Guidance clarifies mandated reporting and ACEs screening



New **guidance** from the California Department of Social Services, the California Department of Health Care Services and the Office of the California Surgeon General **clarifies the responsibilities of health care clinical teams who conduct screenings of youth for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in the context of the state's mandated reporting requirements.** The Child Abuse and

Neglect Reporting Act requires individuals that fall into the category of a "mandated reporter" to report suspected child abuse or neglect to Child Protective Services.

**Mandated reporters are professionals, such as teachers, who have regular contact with children or are otherwise in a position to observe indicators of abuse and are, therefore, legally required to report suspected child abuse.** A [joint letter](#) published in August explained the guidance was released in response to questions from stakeholders about the interaction between ACE screening and mandated reporter requirements. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

## Deadline for Golden Quill Awards submissions extended



Has a journalist in your local educational agency's community gone the extra mile to really **understand the schools, district or county office of education and report in an accurate and transparent manner?** Have they developed relationships with your school board and staff? If so, **nominate an outstanding journalist in your community for CSBA's Golden Quill Awards, due by**

**Thursday, Sept. 30.** The [Golden Quill Awards](#) highlight the **essential role that journalists play in increasing understanding of the accomplishments, challenges and opportunities in public schools** and includes representatives from print, broadcast or online news media. [Learn more and make a nomination »](#)

## New CSBA professional development program centers equity



The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on student learning — especially for the most vulnerable students. **CSBA's Equity Network training will help governance team members begin to address educational equity moving forward from this pandemic.** This yearlong network will provide a platform for superintendents and two trustees per local educational agency to collaborate and build

capacity to govern through a lens of equity that will lead to improved opportunities and outcomes for historically marginalized students. **Facilitators will offer best practices that can be immediately developed and implemented at the school level while engaging all stakeholders and encouraging student voice as a valued and necessary contributor to positive change towards equity.** [Learn more »](#)

COVID-19 resources

Business Services

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 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](#)

