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California schoolnews

Weekly Update

September 15, 2021

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In this issue

- [CSBA webinar offers tips and techniques to manage contentious board meetings](#)
- [COVID-19 update: President Biden emphasizes role of screening testing, vaccination in schools](#)
- [Legislative update: Education bills on the Governor's desk as session ends](#)
- [Register for the Coast2Coast federal advocacy trip](#)
- [New *California School News* issue available now](#)
- [State Board Report: LCAP template raises concerns and condensed assessments approved](#)
- [Convert property ownership into an active asset](#)

CSBA webinar offers tips and techniques to manage contentious board meetings



CSBA's Sept. 13 webinar, "**Governing in a Time of Chaos: Board Meetings in the Age of COVID and CRT,**" featured district officials, legal experts and Safe Schools for All Team lead Dr. Naomi Bardach on the current state of school reopenings and **managing tensions at board meetings over issues like COVID-19 mitigation strategies and debates on topics such as ethnic studies and critical race**

theory.

"It's clear that it is harder to be a school trustee now than it ever has been before," **CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy** said in his opening statement. "This isn't just about a loss of civility or the fact that some board members feel unsafe — although that would be enough. The bigger problem is that the current environment is hindering the ability of boards to do what they've been elected to do: to serve our students."

Dr. Bardach explained that due to California's strict layered COVID-19 mitigation measures, the state is faring far better than most in low child hospitalization rates. While the state's masking mandate undoubtedly contributes to this success, **board members from Los Alamitos Unified School District and Rim of the World USD shared that they have had board meetings disrupted by anti-mask groups** that flood into meetings unmasked. Presenters **shared tips and techniques for managing public comment, disruptive speakers and setting expectations** so board meetings can run as smoothly as possible. [Read more on the CSBA blog](#) | [View the webinar](#) | [View the slide deck](#)

COVID-19 update: President Biden emphasizes role of screening testing, vaccination in schools



President Joe Biden on Sept. 9 released the “[Path out of the Pandemic](#)” plan, a six-pronged, **comprehensive national strategy that employs a science-based approach to combat COVID-19**. Priority number three is “**Keeping Schools Open Safely**,” which **includes regular testing for students and staff**. The plan calls on all schools to set up regular screening testing for students, teachers

and staff consistent with Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidance, which recommends that **screening testing should be offered to students who have not been fully vaccinated when community transmission is at moderate, substantial or high levels, and to all teachers and staff who have not been fully vaccinated at any level of community transmission**. The plan states that these efforts, “in combination with promoting and providing access to vaccination to all eligible members of a school community,” will better allow schools to remain open for in-person instruction. [Learn more »](#)

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released a **COVID-19 toolkit intended to help K-12 school administrators respond quickly when someone with COVID-19 has been in the school or at a school event**. Resources include a guide for addressing cases in schools, case and contact notification letter templates, information on quarantine and more. [Access the toolkit »](#)

Legislative update: Education bills on the Governor’s desk as session ends



The Legislature recessed for the rest of the year on Sept. 10, following an unusually quiet final night of the first year of the 2021–22 legislative session. The Legislature will return for the second year of the session on Jan. 3, 2022. **Gov. Gavin Newsom now has until Oct. 10 to sign or veto any legislation that has reached his desk**. Any bill not acted upon within that time period, i.e., not signed

into law nor vetoed, will automatically become law.

The following are among the top education bills passed by the Legislature and awaiting action by the Governor:

- [Assembly Bill 101](#) (Medina, D-Riverside): Would require local educational agencies serving **grades 9-12 to offer at least a one-semester course in ethnic studies** commencing with the 2024–25 school year and **add a semester-long ethnic studies course to the statewide graduation requirement**, commencing with the 2029–30 school year. **CSBA Position: Support**
- [AB 361](#) (Robert Rivas, D-Salinas): An urgency measure that would **continue the authority granted during the COVID-19 crisis** and allow local agencies, including school boards, **to meet remotely during a declared state of emergency**. **CSBA Position: Support**
- [AB 438](#) (Reyes, D-San Bernardino): 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 would automatically extend to classified staff. **CSBA Position: Oppose**

[Read about all the education bills of note on the CSBA blog »](#)

Register for the Coast2Coast federal advocacy trip

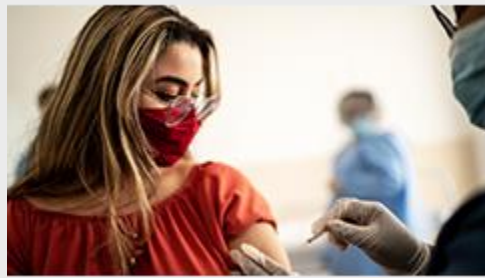


Join **CSBA and the Association of California School Administrators’ Coast2Coast 2022 federal advocacy trip to Washington, D.C. from April 25–27, 2022**, to shine a light on issues affecting the state’s 6 million students. California governance team members — school and county board members and superintendents — are urged to attend this **three-day inaugural event held in**

our nation’s capital. The event will begin with a day of education policy issues specific to California, an “insider’s” briefing on the latest politics affecting federal education policy, and a networking opportunity with prominent D.C. figures and fellow educators. **The**

training is 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. [Learn more and register »](#)

New *California School News* issue available now



The September issue of CSBA's newsletter provides **information and analysis on California's mandate that all school employees be fully vaccinated for COVID-19** or be tested weekly. **CSBA President Dr. Susan Heredia writes about the convergence of back-to-school season and her experience at a recent, contentious board meeting, and provides tips to manage meetings effectively.** Other articles break down the basics of the new transitional kindergarten law, ways to support student mental health during Suicide Prevention Month, and ways to celebrate and support Latino students and their families during National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15–Oct. 15) and beyond. [Read the September issue now »](#)

State Board Report: LCAP template raises concerns and condensed assessments approved



In a highly technical meeting, the California State Board of Education discussed changes to the Local Control and Accountability Plan template and took action on Smarter Balanced assessments. **Several members of the board worried that the latest changes to the draft LCAP template and instructions** that incorporate the requirements in Senate Bill 98 and Assembly Bill 130 — legislation passed in response to the needs stemming from the pandemic — **stray too far from its original intent.** A letter submitted to the board by the Coalition of Education Management and Labor, of which CSBA is a part, stated that **“the LCAP is long past the point where one can reasonably claim that it is simple and transparent for members of the community, as was originally intended.** Adding components to either document that are not required in statute will further cloud the level of transparency.”

The board **approved the continued use of the shortened Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments** implemented last year to reduce the amount of time students spend on assessments, **allowing for increased instructional time and flexibility in scheduling,** as well as minimizing the risk of connectivity or network issues. While individual student overall scale scores and achievement levels will continue to be reported, the shortened tests provide less detail. Reports for groups of students cannot be reported until the 2022–23 academic year. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Convert property ownership into an active asset



Property Planning Solutions by DCG Strategies aims to **help school leaders explore the ways in which their real estate assets can be leveraged to secure additional funding for district initiatives, equip students with the education and experiences they need to be successful, invest in deferred facilities maintenance and capital improvements, reduce cost and liability from holding closed or grossly underutilized sites, bolster general fund reserves and even attract new staff.** School leaders and board members can gain access to real estate experts that work to align a local educational agency's priorities with the realities of the real estate market. Services include real estate consulting, property planning, strategic asset management, educator housing development and real property brokerage services. [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 COE Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review
Sept. 23 and 25 | [Register here](#)

Governance with an Equity Lens – 2021
Sept. 25-Nov. 6 | [Register here](#)

MIG Course 3: School Finance
Oct. 1-2 | [Register here](#)

MIG Course 3: Finance
Oct. 7 & 9 | [Register here](#)

In-person events

MIG 1: Foundations of Effective Governance | Setting Direction
Sept. 24 | Rancho Cucamonga | [Register](#)

MIG 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review
Sept. 25 | Rancho Cucamonga | [Register](#)

MIG Course 3: School Finance
Oct. 8 | Rancho Cucamonga | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

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