July 13, 2022

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CSBA webinar provides LEA perspectives on using federal COVID relief funds

CSBA staff was joined by local educational agency leaders to discuss the association’s new research report, Unprecedented Times,
Unprecedented Responses: An analysis of federal COVID-19 relief fund spending in California public schools. The webinar explored the conclusions and implications of CSBA’s recent report and offered local context and perspective about the benefits and challenges associated with spending federal COVID relief funds.

"It’s important to keep in mind as we look at spending over time, that districts were at different starting points at the beginning of the pandemic, and that has continued," said Jeremy Anderson, CSBA education policy analyst and report co-author. "Some districts had to immediately spend on virus mitigation equipment while others had to shift to heavy expenditures on educational technology to facilitate distance learning — no one could foresee the wide range in needs that districts would go through over the past few years. Although it does not come without its challenges, the federal funding was designed with this in mind and is intended to provide flexibility for school districts and county offices to make decisions quickly and address rapidly changing local situations."

View the webinar | Read the report | Read the webinar summary

Last chance to register for Leadership Institute

Join colleagues from around the state in downtown Los Angeles, July 22–23, for “Leadership in a time of chaos, change and opportunity.” Build your leadership skills, network with fellow board members and hear from inspiring keynote speakers at the 2022 Leadership Institute! Sharpen your leadership skills in sessions focused on effective board meeting management, board member mental health, financing an equitable education, and having a communications plan in place before a crisis hits.

Learn more in this new Leadership Institute preview video »

Hear from keynote speakers Dr. Victor Rios, associate dean of social sciences at UC Santa Barbara, and Dr. Natalie Stavas, a hero who saved lives at the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing. Both speakers work with underserved youth populations to improve student outcomes. Also included is a special presentation from the California Office of Emergency Services about being prepared for the next disaster to affect your LEA. Learn more and register »

Legislative update: CSBA-sponsored bills on the move

The Legislature’s summer recess presents an opportunity to check in with the bills CSBA sponsored as top priorities this year. The majority have met with success so far, either in the
legislative or budget process:

- **Assembly Bill 2933** (O’Donnell, D-Long Beach): CSBA sponsored this bill to address four decades of underfunding in home-to-school transportation. After months of dedicated advocacy, **AB 2933 was incorporated into a historic budget investment** that will require the state to reimburse LEAs for 60 percent of their costs — **doubling the current average**.

- **AB 2584** (Berman, D-Menlo Park) and **Senate Bill 1061** (Laird, D-Santa Cruz): This pair of bills **reform school board special elections and recalls to protect election integrity and improve the information provided to voters**. Both bills will proceed to Appropriations Committee hearings when the Legislature reconvenes in August.

- **AB 2295** (Bloom, D-Santa Monica): **AB 2295 would tackle both the educator and housing shortages by removing bureaucratic hurdles and increasing incentives for school districts to develop education workforce housing on vacant school property**. The bill was approved by the Senate Housing Committee on June 21 and is now awaiting consideration in the Appropriations Committee.

- One final bill, **AB 2034** (O-Donnell), would have **expanded access to school-based health and mental health services** by encouraging more schools to participate in the Local Education Agency Medi-Cal Billing Option Program. Unfortunately, it was caught in the crossfire during a contentious set of education hearings in late June and **will not be moving forward this year**.

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Register for CSBA’s Equity Network Training

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on student learning — especially for the most vulnerable students. **How can governance team members begin to address the effects on educational equity as we move forward from this pandemic?** CSBA’s **Equity Network training** is focused on student equity and inclusion and provides a platform for superintendents and two trustees to collaborate and build capacity to govern through the lens of equity. Through **four online sessions**, governance teams will explore what equitable leadership looks like. 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 and register »**

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School Boards in Action: 5 Questions with Murrieta Valley USD trustee Linda Lunn
In CSBA’s continuing effort to highlight the hard work and effective practices of boards during these challenging times, the association’s 5 Questions blog series shares the experiences of board members around the state. Murrieta Valley Unified School District trustee Linda Lunn highlights the district’s summer learning programs, where transportation is being provided for free to ensure as many students as possible can take advantage. Read the interview »

Eligible candidates determined for CSBA office

Pursuant to Bylaws, Article V, Section 2, and Standing Rule 222 (C)(9), the Declaration of Candidacy Packets submitted on July 8, 2022, were deemed complete and the following candidates are eligible for candidacy. Office of President-elect: Albert Gonzalez, Santa Clara USD. Office of Vice President: Bettye Lusk, Monterey Peninsula USD, and Renee Nash, Eureka Union SD.

U.S. Department of Education grant applications available

Applications for two federal grants have recently been made available:

- The Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) grant program provides academic support and strengthens connections among schools, parents and families, and their surrounding communities. The Education Department released the Notice of Final Priorities, definitions and requirements for the FSCS competitive grant program as well as the Notice Inviting Applications. The program will award $68 million to support community schools across the country for planning and capacity-building, development, implementation, operation, and coordination of effective services for children and families, particularly in urban and rural areas with high
rates of poverty. Learn more »

- Promise Neighborhoods grant program funding aims to address the many impacts that concentrated poverty has on a child's education. The Education Department on June 29 announced $18 million in implementation grants to expand partnerships to better meet the comprehensive needs of underserved communities. The program aims to significantly improve the academic and developmental outcomes of children living in the most distressed communities of the U.S., including ensuring school readiness, high school graduation and access to a community-based continuum of high-quality services. Learn more »

Have you started your 2022 GASB report?

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) establishes accounting reporting standards. GASB 68 reports are required for pensions that are provided to the employees of state and local governmental employers through pension plans that are administered through trusts. GASB 75 reports are required for other postemployment benefits that are provided to the employees of state and local governmental employers. CSBA offers actuarial services through our partner DFA, LLC. DFA, LLC provides GASB compliant reports to state and local governmental employers with no limit to the number of participants. 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 CSBA blog.

Virtual events

MIG Alumni Association Summer Book Club Series
July 28-Aug. 25 | Register

Executive Assistants Certification Program
Aug. 5-Nov. 4 | Register

Sponsors

aatrr
Atkinson, Andelson Loya, Ruud & Romo
A Professional Law Corporation

ENGIE

Lozano
MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction  
Aug. 23-24 | Register

The Brown Act  
Aug. 26 | Register

Governance with an Equity Lens  
Aug. 27-Oct. 22 | Register

In-person events

2022 Leadership Institute  
July 22-23 | Los Angeles | Register

MIG 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction  
Aug. 19 | Rancho Cucamonga | Register

MIG 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review  
Aug. 20 | Rancho Cucamonga | Register

California County Boards of Education (CCBE) Annual Conference  
Sept. 9-11 | Monterey | Register

Executive Assistants Certification Program  
Sept. 12-Nov. 7 | Santa Clara and Santa Cruz | Register

View complete calendar