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Legislative update: Education committees consider kindergarten changes

As budget negotiations continue between the Legislature and Gov. Newsom, the Assembly and Senate Education Committees are working their way through this year’s bills. Among those under
consideration are two measures that would change the way kindergarten works in California. **Senate Bill 70** (Rubio, D-Baldwin Park) would make kindergarten mandatory by requiring students to complete one year of kindergarten before entering first grade, beginning in 2024–25. **CSBA took a Disapprove position based on implementation concerns** and the lack of a guaranteed increase in Proposition 98. The Assembly Education Committee approved SB 70 on June 15 and it now heads to the Appropriations Committee.

**Assembly Bill 1973** (McCarty, D-Sacramento) would require districts to provide at least one full-day kindergarten class at schools with an enrolled unduplicated pupil percentage of 50 percent or more or lose their Class Size Reduction supplemental funding (CSR). **CSBA has taken an Oppose position** because many schools offer half-day kindergarten because they lack adequate facility capacity or teachers to meet demand for a full-day program.

Without additional funding, many districts will be forced to choose between offering full-day kindergarten or foregoing CSR funding and increasing class sizes. **Providing separate funding from the CSR program is a better approach to increasing access to full-day kindergarten.** AB 1973 is currently scheduled to be heard by the Senate Education Committee on June 29.

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Register for CSBA's Leadership Institute

Build your leadership skills, network with fellow board members and hear from inspiring keynote speakers at the 2022 Leadership Institute! “Leadership in a time of chaos, change and opportunity” provides a unique opportunity to strengthen your governance knowledge and implementation skills during this chaotic time in K-12 education. Learn how to sharpen your meeting management skills and use effective governance and legal practices to manage contentious board meetings, prioritize board member mental health for the benefit of the local educational agency, finance an equitable education during turbulent times, and have a communications plan in place before a crisis hits. **Learn more and register »**

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June issue of *California School News* available online

The June edition of CSBA's newsletter features a **recap of the Governor's May Budget Revision**, CSBA advocacy around Assembly Bill 2933 (O'Donnell, D-Long Beach) to fully fund home-to-school transportation, and an **inside look at creating the CSBA Climate Change Task Force**.
Report. The issue also covers CSBA’s support of key bills aiming to address the specific needs of rural and frontier schools, results of recent education polling and an article for Pride Month, recognizing the particular needs of transgender youth. Read the June issue »

Register for the MIG Alumni Summer Book Club

Graduates of CSBA’s Masters in Governance program can continue to connect and collaborate with colleagues from across the state as they further their professional development through the MIG Alumni Association’s Summer Book Club. This summer’s book selection, *The M-Factor: How the Millennial Generation Is Rocking the Workplace*, explores what happens when five generations show up every day at work with different ideas, communication styles and expectations. Loaded with stories, anecdotes, and examples, “The M-Factor” identifies the generations in today’s workplace, what makes them tick, and how every generation can truly shine and make a difference at work. The book club’s three sessions will be led by co-author Lynne Lancaster over Zoom from 4–5:15 p.m. on July 28, Aug. 11 and Aug. 25. Register today »

CTC and CCEE meeting recaps

At the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing meeting June 15–17, staff recommended the commission adopt, with any necessary modifications, the PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist authorization statement, credential requirements, teacher performance expectations (TPEs) and program standards. Commissioners opted to instead “endorse” the work happening on the new credential, noting there was still too much to be discussed and decided upon to adopt the materials.

The commission also received updates on the implementation of Senate Bill 488, the legislation directing the replacement of the current Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) with a new literacy performance assessment by 2025, and progress on determining what degrees demonstrate subject matter competency, among other business. Read the meeting recap on the CSBA blog »

The California Collaborative for Educational Excellence at its meeting on June 16 gave updates on its new structure consisting of three centers: Transformative Systems
The Transformative Systems center aims to partner with educators, communities and organizations to help schools meet students’ evolving needs through capacity building; IIIC is working on microlearning modules and a Universal Design Learning Journey Guide; and TLLC is revamping the agency’s approach to direct technical assistance and convening professional learning networks. Read the meeting recap.

Apply for the Youth Community Access Grant Program

The California Natural Resources Agency is accepting proposals for the Youth Community Access Grant Program, which supports youth access to natural or cultural resources with a focus on low-income and disadvantaged communities. This includes, but is not limited to, community education and recreational amenities to support youth substance use prevention and early intervention. Funded by Proposition 64, the Youth Community Access Grant Program is a competitive program and will award to communities disproportionately affected by past federal and state drug policies, also known as the War on Drugs — this grant program aims to be a resource to address and repair the multi-generational community impacts of those past policies. Proposals are due by July 29, 2022, at 5 p.m. Check the website for the technical assistance workshops schedule. Learn more.

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 CSBA blog.

Virtual events

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

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

In-person events

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

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

View complete calendar