

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

February 2, 2022

Opt-in to receive texts about important education events and COVID-19 developments by texting CSBA4Kids to 52886.

In this Issue

- CSBA's Year in Review reflects on 2021 triumphs and challenges
- Registration for Legislative Action Week open
- CSBA-generated legislation on early intervention and special education services reaches Congress
- COVID-19 update: CSBA and other education leaders ask for extension for ARP construction spending
- Report examines solutions and needed supports to solve teacher shortages
- Black History Month spotlight: PROUD Academy helps to close opportunity and achievement gaps
- Latest edition of *California School News* available now
- Save with the GO Bond Refunding Pool

CSBA's Year in Review reflects on 2021 triumphs and challenges

The 2021 CSBA Year in Review is now available online. 2021 was marked by **incredible leadership from school and county boards that ensured students had access to educational opportunities during the pandemic.**



Recognizing the challenges facing school districts and county offices of education, **CSBA focused on meeting both the immediate needs of schools returning to in-person instruction as well as the policy framework and resources needed for the long-term success of California public schools.**

Whether at the Capitol, in the courts, or through virtual trainings, events and webinars, CSBA dedicated the past year to supporting trustees and advocating for the tools needed to serve students during this difficult time. Highlights include the new **CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services**, revised and enhanced training curriculum and delivery options to make the courses more accessible and more topical, and a special multimedia campaign called **School Boards in Action** to highlight the measures trustees have taken to support students and families under the most challenging circumstances ever experienced by public schools. [View the 2021 Year in Review »](#)

Registration for Legislative Action Week open



Legislative Action Day is expanding and moving online. Join CSBA for this **free three-day virtual event, March 15-17, connecting local governance leaders with members of the California Legislature and their staff in Sacramento to shine a light on the critical issues facing California's schools.** Attendees will meet with their local Senators and Assemblymembers and their staff to discuss the

most pressing issues facing your schools, programs and students. **CSBA staff will schedule virtual Zoom meetings with your legislators and provide training, talking points and advocacy tips — all you have to do is log on.** For more details on this event, please visit our [Legislative Action Week Page](#) or contact Teresa Machado at tmachado@csba.org.

CSBA-generated legislation on early intervention and special education services reaches Congress



On Feb. 1, a **federal bill aimed at restoring full funding for early intervention and educational services for the youngest children with disabilities was reintroduced to Congress.** The **Funding Early Childhood is the Right IDEA Act (H.R. 6532 and S. 3544)** was introduced by Representatives Mark DeSaulnier (D-California), Rodney Davis (R-Illinois), and Jared Huffman (D-California) as well as U.S. Senators Maggie

Maryland) and Christopher Murphy (D-Connecticut). **CSBA played a major role in shaping the initial concept for the proposed legislation through the ACSA-CSBA Federal Partnership.**

The number of children who require early intervention and pre-school special education services has increased in recent years, but federal investments have failed to keep up with need. “Programs funded through Part B, Section 619 and Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) — which assist states with early intervention services for children with disabilities ages 3-5 and 0-3, respectively — are woefully underfunded, despite high demand for the services these programs provide,” according to a release by DeSaulnier. **“The Funding Early Childhood is the Right IDEA Act would assist states in providing this critical support by bringing funding for these programs back to where it belongs.”** [Learn more »](#)

COVID-19 update: CSBA and other education leaders ask for extension for ARP construction spending



On Jan. 28, **CSBA and other education organizations and local educational agencies sent a letter to the state’s Congressional Delegation asking the federal government to consider extending the deadline LEAs have to use funding for school construction and capital projects under the American Rescue Plan through December 2026.** The current deadline is September 2024. Alongside a group of

nearly 20 statewide educational associations, county offices of education and school districts, **CSBA signed onto the letter explaining that if the timeline is not extended, “then critical school facility upgrades and major capital improvements may not be a possibility for many districts across California.”** This is due to reasons such as delayed expenditure approval; a limited number of contractors, architects and engineers and difficulties receiving estimates in a timely manner; current delays in materials and inflated costs associated with goods and services; and not all districts receiving full ARP funding yet.

Prior to this letter, **a group of education, health, environmental, labor and other industry organizations sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona and the U.S. Department of Education on Jan. 21 asking for the same consideration.**

In other COVID-19 developments:

- On Jan. 28, **a new tool supporting the effective use of \$122 billion in American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds and helping states share what they are using the money for was launched** by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Comprehensive Center. Intended to help local educational agencies offer safe in-person instruction, address learning recovery and meet the overall academic, social-emotional and mental health needs of students, all 50 states had their spending plans approved and their full awards as of December. **The new resource, called the ARP Partnership, Assistance, Transformation, and**

Heightened Support (ARP PATHS) tool, allows states to detail the potentially promising strategies they are utilizing that others may look to for inspiration. In each of the tool's six section, states provide information on implementation status, progress and share impact or promising practices. [Learn more »](#)

Report examines solutions and needed supports to solve teacher shortages



As the COVID-19 pandemic drags on, schools are struggling to fill teaching positions — and not only due to exposure to the virus. **A new report by the Learning Policy Institute, *Teacher Shortages During the Pandemic: How California Districts Are Responding*, shares the results of a survey of a sample of California superintendents and human resources administrators conducted in August and September 2021, which shows the**

severity of teacher shortages many districts are experiencing and mitigation strategies.

This ongoing problem in education has only been exacerbated by the pandemic with 10 out of the 12 districts surveyed saying they hired about the same or more teachers on substandard credentials this year compared to pre-pandemic years. Adding to the issue is an **increase in teacher retirements and resignations, as well as an attempt to fill more positions funded by COVID-relief dollars** that will aid in student learning recovery. In addition, the higher demand for teachers is not reflected in the number of teacher candidates currently preparing for a credential. The report shares **district strategies for tackling the shortage, as well as a list of recommended policy solutions at the state and federal levels that would help ease the burden for districts.** [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Black History Month spotlight: PROUD Academy helps to close opportunity and achievement gaps



In **Bakersfield City School District**, a program for African American students is empowering young people to challenge common notions and media portrayals of what it is to be a Black youth today. **The PROUD Academy, which stands for “Powerful, Resilient, Outstanding, Unique and Determined,” was created during the 2017–18 school year.** “In 2018, the Bakersfield City School District took direct

action to develop an Educational Equity Board Policy to identify and address all disparities in educational outcomes for the purpose of targeting areas for action, intervention and investment for disadvantaged students,” said BCSD Superintendent Mark Luque.

The PROUD Academy aims to empower students and provide an equity-based program that helps African American students thrive in school. The program is integrated into the school day and uses a culturally relevant curriculum that helps students relate to content and improve learning. Activities include exploration of science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM); guest speakers; conferences encouraging youth leadership; “Cultural Capital Field Trips,” such as a visit to Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park, a town originally founded, financed and governed by African Americans. Another important pillar of the program is mentoring. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Latest edition of *California School News* available now



The latest edition of CSBA’s *California School News* newsletter gives an overview of the Governor’s budget proposal, the impact of new laws, an update on high school computer science offerings and the status of 2022 Mathematics Framework Revision, as well as a report on when and how to plan for summer learning. CSBA President Dr. Susan Heredia addresses teacher shortages, and the 2021

Board Member of the Year, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District trustee Karin Freeman, is honored and 2022 CSBA officers are highlighted following their election at the Delegate Assembly. Also included is a recap of the general sessions and photo highlights from the 2021 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show. [Read the newsletter »](#)

Save with the GO Bond Refunding Pool



For more than 30 years, California school districts and community college districts have **saved time and money by issuing tax and revenue anticipation notes (TRANS) through the California School Cash Reserve Program Authority sponsored by CSBA and the California Association of School Business Officials**, the largest pooled TRAN financing in the nation. The GO Bond Refunding Pool follows

in this tradition by allowing districts **to unlock taxpayer savings by driving down costs** through an easy-to-use shared financing platform. [Learn more »](#)

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 Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance

Feb. 18-19 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

March 2-3 | [Register](#)

In-person events

2022 CCBE County Board Governance Workshop

March 11-12 | Sacramento | [Register](#)

2022 Leadership Institute

July 22-23 | Los Angeles | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)