

# California schoolnews

Weekly Update

***The Weekly Update will be on hiatus next week and will resume Jan. 4.***

December 21, 2022

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## California School Dashboard release marks a new starting point for improvement



The 2022 California School Dashboard was released on Dec. 15 following a two-year pause prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw widespread school closures, federal assessment waivers and declines in student academic achievement and overall well-being. **Chronic absenteeism proved to be a particularly troubling indicator, with 30 percent of students marked as chronically absent in 2021–22 — more than double the rate of 14.3 percent in the 2020–21 school year.** Students are

considered chronically absent if they miss at least 10 percent of the instructional days in an academic year. As expected from national and state assessment results, **statewide English language arts and Mathematics indicators were at the “Low” level.**

“School districts and county offices of education are deeply engaged in facilitating learning recovery, supporting student well-being, and addressing longstanding issues that predate COVID-19. **The Dashboard offers an important tool to use in this work and for engaging the public on collaborative solutions that meet student needs and strengthen public schools,**” said CSBA President Susan Markarian. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

## New law amends Brown Act requirements regarding public inspections of records



Under the Brown Act, **if records relating to an agenda item for a regular meeting are distributed to all or to a majority of board members fewer than 72 hours before the meeting, the local educational agency must make those records available for inspection by the public, in person at the same time** they are distributed to the board. The LEA must also make them available on its website. (This does not

include closed session items or other confidential items.)

**Assembly Bill 2647 provides an option for an LEA to post the records on its website to meet this requirement,** rather than for in-person inspection, but **only if it meets all of the following four requirements:**

- Makes an initial staff report regarding the agenda item, containing an executive summary of the item and any staff recommendation available for in-person inspection, at least 72 hours in advance
- Posts the records on its website in a manner that makes it clear that they are related to an agenda item
- Lists the web address of the website where the records will be posted on meeting agendas
- Makes records available for in-person inspection on the business day immediately following distribution for board members at a designated location, but only if the business hours begin at least 24 hours before the meeting in question

This will require planning on the part of the LEA to ensure all of the requirements are followed so that, if records must be distributed to the board fewer than 72 hours prior to the meeting, all of the requirements have been met. [Read more »](#)

## Federal Omnibus Spending Bill headed for passage

On Dec. 20, Congress released the language for



the **Fiscal Year 2023 Omnibus Spending Bill**. The **\$1.7 billion spending bill will fund federal government agencies through Sept. 30, 2023**. It boosts defense funding by \$76 billion for a total of \$858 billion. **Domestic spending, which includes education, totals \$773 billion**. It also includes an additional \$45 billion for Ukraine and \$40 billion for disaster aid for communities impacted by recent storms and wildfires.

The Labor, Health and Human Services, **Education and Related Agencies portion of the bill includes \$209.9 billion in base funding, equating to a \$3.2 billion increase for the Department of Education**. Most of the increase was allocated to ESEA Title I, which received an \$850 million bump to \$18.4 billion (a 5 percent increase), and IDEA Part B State Grants, which received a \$904 million boost to \$15.154 billion (about a 6 percent increase). IDEA Part C received a \$43 million increase to \$540 million.

**The bill also contains:**

- \$890 million, an increase of \$59 million or 7 percent, for English Language Acquisition State Grants
- \$150 million, an increase of \$75 million or 100 percent, to support additional Full Service Community Schools
- \$215 million, an increase of \$20 million or 10 percent, for Rural Education programs
- \$115 million, an increase of \$20 million, or 21 percent, for Special Education Personnel Preparation
- \$1.33 billion, an increase of \$40 million, for the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers program
- \$129 million, an increase of \$15 million or 13 percent, for Education for Homeless Children and Youth
- \$20 million, an increase of \$5 million more than last year and a 60 percent increase since 2021, for additional Statewide Family Engagement Centers

The Senate is expected to vote on passage of the measure by Dec. 22 with the House vote to follow in order to meet the **Dec. 23 deadline for passage**. [Democratic summary](#) | [Republican summary](#)

## Dr. Susan Heredia reflects on her time as CSBA President

In her **final column as CSBA President** in the November issue of *California School News*, **Dr. Susan Heredia reflects** on her unusual path to the position, the pandemic that pushed education and the world to its limits, the hard work ahead, and the enduring resilience of school board members and the students they serve.



“To meet the goal of providing all students with a high-quality education, schools must address not only the immediate trauma stemming from the pandemic and school closures, but also the longstanding disparities that have prevented many students and schools from reaching their full potential,” wrote Heredia. **“We must ensure that schools can adapt to new circumstances and invest resources in data-based, research-**

**supported methods that optimize student success. The most exciting part about this moment is the opportunity it presents to rethink public education,** with a focus on community schools, support for the whole child and additional resources, particularly for our high-need students.” [Read more »](#)

## Strengthen your governance skills with 2023 CSBA trainings



CSBA is ready to meet your training needs in the new year! Specialized professional development opportunities meet the needs of a range of board members. Newly elected trustees will benefit from the **Institute for New and First-Term Board Members**, a two-day seminar outlining four major areas of board responsibility and authority, held virtually on **Jan. 24-25** or **Feb. 14-15**, or in person in **Rancho Cucamonga, Feb. 3-4**. New trustees

can also attend the **Orientation for New Trustees**, which provides essential information and resources necessary to successfully manage the first months of being in office, in **Sacramento on Feb. 21**, **Redding on March 8**, or **virtually on March 1**.

A new round of **virtual Masters in Governance® courses begins on Feb. 6-8** with **Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance | Setting Direction module**. MIG equips local education agency trustees with the knowledge and skills to build and support an effective governance structure. **Virtual Brown Act trainings** are available on **Jan. 19** and **Feb. 10**. If your board is ready to dig deeper into equity, a new cohort of **Governance with an Equity Lens** begins on Feb. 4 and meets monthly through May. Finally, the Board Presidents Workshop is available **virtually on Feb. 28** or in person in **Rancho Cucamonga on March 18**. See all CSBA trainings at the bottom of each week’s update email and on the [CSBA website](#).

## Public comment open for FCC’s role in cybersecurity trainings



The Federal Communications Commission **has received several petitions and requests** from E-Rate stakeholders through the annual E-Rate



eligible services list (ESL) proceedings, **asking that the FCC permit the use of E-Rate program funds to support advanced or next-generation firewalls and services, as well as other network security services.** The FCC has opened

public comment on petitions to modernize the E-rate program to include limited, but greatly needed, support for K-12 cybersecurity. Comments must be received by Feb. 13, 2023. [Learn more »](#)

## Safer air for your LEA



The quality of air in school buildings can affect everything from student achievement to absenteeism to teacher retention. **LifeWings Peak Performance provides the Safer Air Initiative to provide guidance and expertise on creating sage and healthy air in local educational agencies.** Through assessment, financial support and strategic planning, LifeWings can help LEAs tap into the billions of dollars in

**federal and state aid** to ensure your students and staff can breathe freely. [Learn more »](#)

Stay up to date with the latest news and resources on the [CSBA blog](#).

## Virtual events

**Student Board Member Spring Training Session**

Jan. 18 | [Register](#)

**The Brown Act**

Jan. 19 | [Register](#)

Feb. 10 | [Register](#)

**Institute for New and First-Term Board Members**

Jan. 24-25 | [Register](#)

Feb. 14-15 | [Register](#)

**MIG COE COURSE 1 Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction**

Jan. 27-28 | [Register](#)

**Executive Assistants Certification Program - Kappa Cohort**

## Sponsors



Feb. 2-May 11 | [Register](#)

**2023 Governance with an Equity Lens**

Feb. 4-May 6 | [Register](#)

**Executive Assistants Certification**

**Program - Iota Cohort**

Feb. 10-April 21 | [Register](#)

**MIG COE Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review**

Feb. 24-25 | [Register](#)

**Board Presidents Workshop**

Feb. 28 | [Register](#)

**Orientation for New Trustees**

March 1 | [Register](#)

**MIG COE Course 3: Finance**

April 1 | [Register](#)

**MIG COE Course 4: Charter Schools**

April 15 | [Register](#)

**MIG COE Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration**

May 5-6 | [Register](#)

## In-person events

**Institute for New and First-Term Board Members**

Feb. 3-4 | Rancho Cucamonga | [Register](#)

**Orientation for New Trustees**

Feb. 21 | Sacramento | [Register](#)

March 8 | Redding | [Register](#)

**County Board Governance Workshop**

March 10-11 | Sacramento | [Register](#)

**Board Presidents Workshop**

March 18 | Rancho Cucamonga | [Register](#)

**2023 Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip**

April 24-26 | Washington, D.C. | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)



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