

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

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School leaders share the inside scoop on COVID-19 relief aid in latest report



CSBA has released the findings of a **wide-ranging survey of superintendents and financial staff from local educational agencies throughout the state, showcasing their priorities, challenges and recommendations for spending state and federal COVID relief funding.** *Beyond the Spreadsheets: Insights from California education leaders utilizing COVID-19 relief funding* highlights the

extraordinary efforts of school districts and county offices of education to address the variety of priorities they face in dealing with the impacts of the pandemic. The survey respondents represent LEAs that serve over 1.3 million of California's K-12 students and represent a wide geographic range of elementary, high school and unified districts as well as county offices of education.

“COVID-19 relief funding has been essential to LEA leaders as they provide students and school communities with the programs and services needed to overcome the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, try to regain academic ground and make new advancements,” said CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy. “This report builds on [CSBA’s prior report on federal relief funding](#) and offers a first-hand glimpse at what decisions LEA leaders have faced and continue to grapple with as they navigate the important work of educating students.” [Read the new report »](#)

Legislative update: Bills signed on ethics training, employment and emergency teaching permits



With less than two weeks left in the signing period, Gov. Gavin Newsom has issued decisions on several key bills for schools:

- **Assembly Bill 2158** (Fong, R-Bakersfield) will ensure each member of the governing board of a school district, county board of education and charter school receives ethics training and require receipt of ethics training before Jan. 1, 2026, and

at least once every two years thereafter. *CSBA position: Support. This law will create parity by adding governing board members who help lead local educational agencies to the ethics training requirements that apply to other local government boards and codify the good government practices to which many school district and county boards of education members already adhere.*

- **AB 2188** (Quirk, D-Hayward) will prohibit employers from discriminating in hiring, termination or terms and conditions of employment based on a person's off-the-job use of cannabis or a drug screening test finding the presence of nonpsychoactive cannabis metabolites in their system, beginning Jan. 1, 2024. *CSBA position: Tracking*
- **Senate Bill 1397** (Borgeas, R-Fresno) will require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to waive the basic skills proficiency requirement for the issuance of an emergency 30-day substitute teaching permit until July 1, 2024. *CSBA position: Support if Amended. CSBA successfully advocated for amendments making the bill's provisions time-limited to allow them to be re-evaluated in the future.*

With many education bills still waiting on his desk, the Governor has until Sept. 30 to sign or veto all remaining legislation.

State Board of Education takes deep dive into

assessments and the Dashboard



Accountability and assessments were key topics of the State Board of Education's **Sept. 14–15 meeting**, which included thorough **discussion on continued use of the adjusted form blueprints for the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics**, and the **California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) and English**

Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) Student Score Reports for 2022–23.

The board also approved of the **continuation of modified reporting methods for accountability as well as non-modified methods on the California School Dashboard** in response to recent action taken by the U.S. Department of Education related to California's Dashboard Alternative School Status. Other **minor changes to the California School Dashboard were approved, and the board welcomed two new members**: Alison Yoshimoto-Towery, executive director of the UC/CSU California Collaborative for Neurodiversity and Learning and former Los Angeles Unified School District chief academic officer, and Naomi Porter, a Palos Verdes Peninsula USD high school senior. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Federal update: Meals, safety and assessments



The **U.S. Department of Agriculture announced** on Sept. 14 that it will provide nearly **\$2 billion** in additional funding to **food banks and school meal programs for purchasing American-grown foods**. This investment **includes nearly \$500 million for schools across the country to purchase food for their lunch and breakfast programs.**

Meanwhile, about 50 Congressional representatives, including 18 from California, wrote a **letter on Sept. 15 to Congressional leaders urging the inclusion of funding for school meals as part of the next continuing resolution.**

Additional federal updates:

- **U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona sent a letter to chief state school officers on Sept. 15 regarding the passage of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act**, which aims to reduce the risk of gun violence in schools and communities. The legislation includes **\$1 billion in formula funding under Title IV, Part A of ESEA to state educational agencies to provide students with safer and healthier learning environments.** The letter encouraged states to **prioritize funds for local educational agency applicants seeking to implement comprehensive, evidence-based strategies that meet each student's social-**

emotional, physical and mental well-being needs; create positive, inclusive and supportive school environments; and increase access to place-based interventions and services, among other factors.

- Cardona also wrote a dear colleague [letter](#) on Sept. 13 regarding the importance and purpose of assessments. The letter **offers considerations around possible interpretation, use and communication of school year 2021–22 assessment data.**

September edition of *California Schools News* available now



The September edition of *California School News* **recognizes the impressive work of trustees throughout the state who aided CSBA staff in ensuring the state budget reflects the needs of local educational agencies and the students they serve.** The issue also features details from two **recent audits from the Government Accountability Office**, an interview with **Attendance Works CEO Hedy Chang about best practices for addressing chronic absenteeism, CSBA’s free Forum for Board Presidents to collaborate, share best practices and engage on important, timely topics** and more. [Read the full issue »](#)

Hispanic Heritage Month: 40-year-old program continues raising college-going rates



California is home to the largest Latino population in the United States, with **55 percent** of the student population identifying as Latino/Hispanic. (The terms are often used interchangeably in education, as Hispanic is the official state and federal category for this population.) **National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 and provides a time to emphasize and appreciate the history, heritage and contributions of the ancestors of American citizens who came from Mexico, Spain, the Caribbean, and South and Central America.**

The first in a series of posts on the [CSBA blog](#) highlighting important programs improving outcomes for Latino youth details **the Puente Project — a nationally recognized program that has boosted the college-going rate of tens of thousands of educationally underrepresented students** throughout the state. Now implemented in seven middle schools, 36 high schools and 65 community colleges, **the program comprises three parts to address specific challenges faced by Latino youth:** rigorous language arts instruction, sustained academic counseling, and community

leadership development and mentoring. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Masters in Governance program transitions to virtual format



In August, CSBA began to offer in-person options for the Masters in Governance® training program for the first time since March 2020. While both the **in-person and virtual formats offer the same high-quality content and outstanding faculty facilitators**, the MIG virtual training events are proving more popular than any in-person option being offered. Therefore, **all fall 2022 MIG**

training events are now virtual and open for registration. CSBA is noting this trend and will offer more virtual options in the future. [Register now »](#)

Health and safety supplies delivered directly to districts

Air Purification & Safety Supplies

It remains essential that schools are stocked with the appropriate supplies to keep students and staff safe and healthy, including **ventilation and air purification equipment, masks, sanitizing products and more.** CSBA has partnered with **Maclean Health, a one-stop solution for supply procurement** of healthcare supplies, technology supplies, office supplies and critical school safety supplies.

[Learn more »](#)

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

Virtual events

MIG Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/ Policy & Judicial Review
Sept. 30-Oct. 1 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining
Oct. 3-4 | [Register](#)

Sponsors



MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration

Oct. 6-7 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 3: School Finance Part 1 and Part 2

Oct. 11-12 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 3: School Finance Part 1 and Part 2

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

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining

Oct. 26-27 | [Register](#)

In-person events

The Brown Act

Oct. 20 | Rancho Cucamonga | [Register](#)

CSBA Annual Education Conference and Trade Show

Dec. 1-3 | San Diego | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)



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