

California School News Weekly Update

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California schoolnews



weekly update



February 5, 2014

Upcoming Events

[The Brown Act](#) | Feb 7 - Fresno

[Institute for New and First Term Board Members](#) | Feb 7 - Fresno

[Institute for New and First Term Board Members](#) | Feb 28 - Burbank

[The Brown Act](#) | Feb 28 - Burbank

[The Brown Act](#) | Mar 7 - Burlingame

[Education Insights: Legal Update](#) | March 7 - Online

[Brown Act & Board President's Workshop Combo](#) | Mar 7 - Burlingame

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REALIZE THE POWER
OF PARTNERSHIP.

New suspension/expulsion stats confirm use of discipline alternatives

The news that suspensions are down in California schools is welcome to educators, students and their families—and a focus on alternative disciplinary strategies is getting the credit. A reduction in the number of actions for willful defiance (called “student defiance” in the report) and a shift to [programs like restorative justice](#) that promote respect and personal responsibility have helped reduce expulsions by 12.3 percent and suspensions by 14.1 percent from 2011-12 to 2012-13, state Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson [announced last week](#). The trend held true among all major ethnic subgroups, although results by gender were not provided. Still, “the rates remain troubling” Torlakson said, prompting advocacy groups to organize a [Fix School Discipline with LCFF webinar](#) from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, Feb. 19, which will feature tools to help parents and community members contribute to local strategies for improving school climate as part of their LCFF responsibilities. [Read more here](#).

CSBA analysis details promise, challenges of blending learning programs

New governance brief lists key considerations for governance teams

Blending learning programs that combine online and on-site instruction can raise student achievement, allow schools to expand course offerings and save money—but only if they are carefully planned and implemented, according to this [new governance brief](#) from CSBA’s Policy and Programs Department. When considering whether to adopt a blended learning approach, governance teams should carefully weigh what they hope to achieve and which model would best meet student needs, as well as potential costs and how to ensure that staff is properly trained to handle this combination of virtual and classroom instruction. Local educational agencies also need to be familiar with existing law and their own policies regarding teacher credentialing, length of the instructional year and independent study. Michael Agostini, Ed.D., director of operations for the Charter Schools Development Center in Sacramento, researched the topic and wrote the brief as part of a partnership between CSBA and Drexel University.

Forecast Webcast available online for easy viewing

[CSBA's 2014 Forecast Webcast](#), offering a look at state budget issues and economic and governmental developments likely to impact public education, is available to view online anytime. The nearly two-hour briefing covers a lot of territory—from the reasons why prominent California economist Christopher Thornberg, Ph.D., says “2014 looks like it will be one of the best years in quite some time” to a panel discussion moderated by CSBA Executive Director & CEO Vernon M. Billy, featuring Corona Norco Unified School District Superintendent Michael Lin; CSBA Senior Director for Policy and Programs Teri Burns; CSBA Assistant Executive Director for Governmental Relations Dennis Meyers; and School Services of California CEO Ron Bennett. A summary of topic times allows viewers to easily advance to the subjects they want to hear, or hear again.

Analysis of 2014-15 state budget proposal

Gov. Jerry Brown's 2014-15 state budget proposal is definitely an improvement over the years of cuts and deferrals that marked the Great Recession, but if it's adopted California would still remain well behind nearly every other state in per-pupil funding, according to an [analysis of the governor's budget](#) by CSBA's Governmental Relations Department in [the February issue of California School News](#), now available online. See all the details, including Brown's plans for a Proposition 98 reserve account, chances for a state school facilities bond and further investment in Common Core implementation, and more. The detailed analysis pairs well with a brief [PowerPoint overview](#) of Brown's budget proposal that was presented to the CSBA Board of Directors Jan. 22 and is now posted on our [Legislative News Web page](#). What's next? Legislative hearings in each of the budget subcommittees will lead up to a final vote by the full Legislature, expected by June 15.

Natomas USD hosts All In health fair to get students covered

More than 30 families register for benefits under the Affordable Care Act

The Natomas Unified School District in Sacramento County is among the growing list of local educational agencies that are supporting students by helping their families register for health insurance under the federal Affordable Care Act, known in this state as Covered California. More than 30 families registered for health insurance at a daylong health fair hosted by the district as part of the All In campaign organized by the nonprofit Children's Partnership. “All the research shows that healthy children learn better,” said Natomas USD board member Teri Burns, who's also a senior director in CSBA's Policy and Programs Department. “Our district believes it's so important that every child have the health insurance that allows them to be vaccinated, to set broken bones, and to address serious illnesses.” Read more on the [All In website](#), which includes a [toolkit](#) geared to schools. You can also access an [archived webinar](#) about school-based outreach to uninsured families and learn more about implications of Covered California for school boards and districts in this [CSBA Governance Brief](#).

**Events,
Training and
Opportunities**

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Career Pathways grants competition opens

Letters of intent due Feb. 14; CDE plans workshops in Fresno, Sacramento and Downey

Applications are now being accepted for one-time competitive grants from California's \$250 million [California Career Pathways Trust](#), with as much as \$15 million available for larger regional programs, according to this Jan. 21 [announcement](#) from state Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg. The California Department of Education is hosting free workshops in Sacramento Friday and Downey next Wednesday to help local educational agencies prepare [grant applications](#) that are due March 28. Steinberg championed the fund "to create innovative programs and partnerships linking rigorous academic standards to career pathways in high-need and high-growth sectors of the economy." School districts, county offices of education, charter schools and community college districts can apply; letters of intent are requested by Feb. 14. The CDE is hosting two workshops geared to potential applicants: 1-3 p.m. Feb. 7 at the California Department of Health and Human Services Auditorium in Sacramento, and 9-11 a.m. Feb. 12 at the Los Angeles County Office of Education headquarters in Downey.

CCSESA, PACE offer Common Core leadership training

Santa Clara, San Diego, Fresno, San Bernardino, Los Angeles COEs are hosts

[Registration is now open](#) for all five remaining Regional Leadership Sessions on Common Core State Standards Implementation. Presented by the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association and Policy Analysis for California Education, and hosted by county offices of education around the state, the free trainings are offered at various times and last three hours. Two sessions—in San Jose Feb. 12 and in Rancho Cucamonga March 17—will be offered both in person and over the Internet; sessions in San Diego March 3, Fresno March 6, and Downey March 25 are offered in person only. PACE's Web page on the leadership trainings also includes a number of related resources and reports—as does [CSBA's Common Core Web page](#).

CAAASA Professional Development Summit coming to Sacramento March 12-14

'Strategies to address education, equity, and excellence'

The California Association of African-American Superintendents and Administrators' [2014 California Professional Development Summit](#) is coming to the Sacramento Sheraton Grand Hotel March 12-14. Co-sponsored by CSBA and other organizations, the three-day event includes plenary sessions on "Education Is the Solution to Achieving Civil Rights," focusing on the crucial school integration cases of *Brown v. Board of Education* and *Mendez v. Westminster*; "California's Department of Education and State School Board Response to Education, Equity and Excellence for African American, Latino and Other Underserved Students," concerning the Local Control Funding Formula; "Bridging the Digital Divide—Leave No Child Offline"; and "Parental Engagement." Other offerings include a Legislative Town Hall meeting hosted by Assembly Member Shirley Weber, Ed.D., that will tie arts education to college readiness, student discipline and retention, and education equity/excellence. Conference registration is

\$475; special conference hotel rates are available. [Register here](#).

What's your policy on e-cigarettes?

Webinar Feb. 11 at 1:30 p.m.

Learn how electronic cigarettes impact your district's policies at a Feb. 11 webinar hosted by the California Department of Education, CSBA and the California Youth Advocacy Network. The free webinar runs from 1:30-3:30 p.m.; [register at CDE events](#). Tailored to school board members, administrators and school staff, the webinar will offer information on vapor products and e-cigarettes; review local, state and national policies addressing these products; and provide recommendations for amending existing school board policies to include language on e-cigarettes. Senior Director of Policy Services Bode Owoyele represents CSBA on the panel, along with CYAN Project Director Kimberlee Homer Vagadori, and John Lagomarsino, CDE School Health Education Consultant.

Rescheduled Education Insights webcast will focus on LCFF

Legal Update webcast now planned for March 7

First the unavoidable bad news: The second installment of [CSBA's Education Insights: Legal Update](#) webcast series has been postponed due to a late-developing schedule conflict. Now the good news: That means even more members can register for the presentation from 10-11 a.m. Friday, March 7, when a panel of legal experts in the education field will take an in-depth look at what school boards should be doing now to prepare their Local Control and Accountability Plans under the state's new Local Control Funding Formula for K-12 schools. The hourlong interactive discussion will include the opportunity for viewer questions. Those who registered for the original Feb. 12 Legal Update will automatically be registered for the new date; others can [register now](#).

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