

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews

weekly update



October 1, 2014

Upcoming Events

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

Feb. 6 - Burlingame
 Feb. 21 - Rancho Cucamonga
 Mar. 13 - San Diego

MIG Course 2: Student Learning/Policy

Feb. 7 - Burlingame
 March 14 - San Diego
 March 21 - San Bernardino

MIG Course 3: School Finance

Feb. 6 - Burlingame
 March 13 - San Diego
 April 18 - Rancho Cucamonga

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining

Feb. 7 - Burlingame
 March 14 - San Diego

MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Gov. Integration

Feb. 7 - Burlingame
 March 14 - San Diego

Education Insights: Legal Update Webcast

Episode 1: Oct. 15 - Online
 Episode 2: Oct. 22 - Online

CSBA Annual Education Conference and Trade Show

Dec. 14-16 - San Francisco

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Gov. Brown signs education legislation *Finances and local control top the list*

With the ongoing drought crisis center-stage, the water bond (Proposition 1) took precedent over a school construction bond. The much-needed school construction bond failed to make the November ballot. But 2014 proved to be another good budget year for schools, although sticker shock remains over the increases being imposed on employers for retiree costs. Gov. Brown continues to support LCFF and local control, with school board members (not the state) making decisions at the community level. However, pushing for and signing the reserve cap into law sent a conflicting message about school finances and local control. [Read more](#) on the recent bills on which Governor Brown acted.

CSBA Nominating Committee puts forward candidates *Elections for president-elect, and vice president to be held at AEC*

CSBA's 2014 Nominating Committee has put forward Chris Ungar as a candidate for 2015 president-elect along with Sherri Reusche and Emma Turner as [candidates](#) for vice president. Ungar, currently CSBA's vice president, sits on the San Luis Coastal Unified School District board, Reusche sits on the Calaveras Unified School District board, and Turner sits on the La Mesa Spring Valley School District board. Elections will be at the Delegate Assembly meeting in San Francisco on Dec. 14. The candidates' official statements are [available here](#) and will also be in the October California School News. As provided for in CSBA's Standing Rules, additional nominations for president-elect and for vice president may be submitted to the president and the Nominating Committee Chair. Please note that individuals interested in being nominated from the floor of the Delegate Assembly must submit their intention to run for president-elect or vice president by Nov. 1.

CDE updating history-social science framework *Public comment period open through Nov. 25*



The California Department of Education is gathering public comment on a new framework for teaching history and social science. The draft framework, [History–Social Science Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve](#), will provide guidance for teachers, administrators, and parents on implementing a content-based curriculum. According to the CDE, the draft “covers more recent historical events, reflects changes in the law since the last framework was adopted in 2001, and helps educators teach the critical analytical skills students need for 21st century careers.” The draft framework and a “field survey” are now posted [here](#). Comments on the draft can be sent to the [CDE](#). The comment period will remain open until Nov. 25.

September Attendance Awareness Month wraps up *Early awareness of truants is key*

With September recognized as Attendance Awareness Month, State Superintendent of Schools Tom Torlakson and CSBA Director-at-large, Hispanic, Kathryn Ramirez address the importance of not missing school in two new [CSBA blog posts](#). [Torlakson](#) writes: “A child who misses just one day of school a week is a whole grade behind his or her peers by the time they reach middle school. And do you know what the most predictive indicator is that a student will not graduate from high school? Chronic absence in sixth grade.” And [Ramirez](#), a board member of the Salinas Union High School District, comments, “We must acknowledge that far more needs to be done if we are going to close race-based achievement gaps that are all too persistent in California. The solution begins with attendance.

Events, Training and Opportunities



Education Insights: Legal Update Webcast *Register now for two upcoming lunchtime webcasts*

CSBA is offering two Legal Update Webcasts this month, and registration is now open. The first, which will cover collective bargaining and the Local Control Funding Formula, will be held Wednesday, Oct. 15 at noon. Scheduled Business Affiliate panelists include Jon Pearl of Dannis Woliver Kelley, Namita Brown of Fagen Friedman & Fulfroost and Karen Rezendes of Lozano Smith. The second webcast will focus on the Brown Act and open meeting laws, and will air on Oct. 22 at noon. Expected panelists include Kevin Dale of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud and Romo and Michelle Cannon of Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann and Girard. Both sessions are scheduled for viewing during the lunch hour for your convenience, so tune in from your home or office for a one-hour discussion on today's hottest issues in education law. Learn more and [register now](#).

Webcast on Promise Zones for economic development *Communities invited to apply for federal program to boost middle classes*

It's not too late to [register](#) for today's noon webcast on the Obama administration's [Promise Zones](#) competition for urban areas. Promise Zones are part of President Obama's plan to create a new pathway to the middle class through partnerships with local communities and businesses. The goal is to create jobs, increase economic security,

improve educational opportunities, and reduce violent crime. Urban, rural, and tribal communities nationwide are invited to put forward a plan to partner with community leaders. In exchange, these designees will receive priority access to federal investments that further their strategic plans, federal staff on the ground to help them implement their goals, and five full-time AmeriCorps VISTA members. The first five Promise Zones are in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Antonio, southeastern Kentucky, and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. The Department of Housing and Urban Development intends to designate six new urban communities, while the Department of Agriculture intends to designate at least one rural community and at least one tribal community. Applications are due by Nov. 21. Urban, rural, and tribal application guides and frequently asked questions are [posted here](#).

New resources for CCSS ***CSBA partners with Khan Academy***

CSBA is teaming up with Khan Academy to inform teachers and schools about Khan Academy's [new online resources](#) to provide comprehensive coverage of the new Common Core Standards for math. As the CCSS are introduced into classrooms, it is important for teachers and students to have trustworthy and comprehensive resources to help with this new way of learning. This world-class online resource for schools and families:

- Costs nothing — no contracts, ads, or subscription fees
- Includes curriculum materials for math, computer programming, art history, economics, science and other subjects
- Offers comprehensive coverage of the new Common Core math standards with content organized by both grade level and subject
- Provides step-by-step solutions and instructional videos to support student learning
- Empowers teachers with real-time data for tracking students' progress throughout the year

It's easy to get started. Visit the [Khan Academy website](#) to sign up. For more information about Common Core State Standards, please visit the [CSBA website](#).

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GASB 45 Solutions Program ***Prefunding an OPEB liability: Why now?***

As budgets improve, districts should consider prefunding Other Post-Employment Benefits, commonly known as OPEB, into the GASB 45 Solutions Program:

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4. Contributions can be made at any time without future obligation
5. Funds can be accessed at any time to pay current retiree OPEB costs
6. May improve your credit rating

The GASB 45 Solutions Program, overseen by PARS and CSBA, provides a simple, one-stop answer to your funding needs. [Contact PARS](#) at 800-540-6369 ext. 127 today.

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