

California School News Weekly Update  
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# California schoolnews

weekly update



December 17, 2014

## Upcoming Events

### Board Presidents Workshop

Jan. 24 - Sacramento  
 Mar. 14 - San Diego

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

Jan. 23-24 - Sacramento  
 Jan. 30-31 - Anaheim  
 Feb. 6-7 - Burlingame  
 Mar. 6-7 - Fresno  
 Mar. 13-14 - San Diego  
 April 17-18 - Redding

### The Brown Act

Jan. 23 - Sacramento  
 Jan. 30 - Anaheim  
 Feb. 6 - Burlingame  
 Mar. 6 - Fresno  
 Mar. 13 - San Diego

### 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

## News

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### CSBA's annual conference and trade show concludes *Highlights included speakers Hrabowski, Ripley and Khan, Golden Bell Awards, and State of the State*

CSBA's Annual Education Conference and Trade Show 2014 wrapped-up Dec. 16 in San Francisco. Held at the Moscone Center, AEC had thousands of governance leaders attending from districts large and small throughout California. Attendees participated in professional development workshops, listened to General Session speakers Freeman Hrabowski, Amanda Ripley and Sal Khan, earned Golden Bell awards, and strolled the CSBA pavilion and trade show floor. Meanwhile, the Delegate Assembly elected new officers and formally honored incoming CSBA President-elect Jesús Holguín and outgoing President Josephine Lucey. At the conference, hundreds of workshops centered on opportunity and achievement; student learning; funding, finance and facilities; leadership through governance; and partnerships and collaboration. Sunday afternoon, first General Session speaker Dr. Freeman Hrabowski discussed science and math education, particularly for African-American students. Amanda Ripley followed as Monday's General Session speaker and talked about the American educational system compared to high-performing educational systems around the world. Tuesday, Khan Academy Founder and Executive Director Sal Khan took part in a discussion with CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy about innovative strategies for improving the way that all children learn. Also Tuesday, Billy lead AEC's annual State of the State panel discussion that included Dennis Meyers, CSBA's assistant executive director of Governmental Relations, exploring the most pressing issues facing education in California in 2015, including LCFF and related funding matters, Common Core and teacher tenure. To learn more or watch the General Session speakers, visit the [AEC website](#). Complete coverage of AEC 2014 will be in CSBA's upcoming January newsletter.

### iCount @CSBA

#### *Next steps for CSBA's member census and survey*

CSBA would like to thank all association members who completed the iCount census during this week's Annual Education Conference and

Feb. 7 - Burlingame  
March 14 - San Diego

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

Feb. 7 - Burlingame  
March 14 - San Diego

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Trade Show (AEC) in San Francisco. Whether you visited the iCount Hub in the North Lower Lobby of the Moscone Center, completed the form during the first General Session, or filled it out with the help of our iCount conference staff, we are very appreciative of everyone who took the time to respond to this important census. CSBA staff has already begun processing the completed forms — however, iCount is far from finished. In early January, CSBA staff will be sending out an electronic version of the census via email, and we are asking for all members who did not have the opportunity to complete the form during AEC to take a moment to fill it out and submit it online. The census takes less than five minutes to complete. Following the electronic distribution of the census, Phase One of iCount will conclude. Phase Two of iCount is a member survey of opinions and viewpoints of current education issues and policies; the survey will be distributed to CSBA members in early 2015. A summary of the full results of iCount will be available to membership at the 2015 AEC in San Diego. iCount offers members an opportunity to express opinions about critical issues currently facing education, provides CSBA with stronger data and serves as a reference point for the association's long-term planning efforts. We greatly appreciate the participation of our membership in this important effort. Read more about the [iCount member census and survey](#) in CSBA's November newsletter.

### **CSBA urges reserve cap repeal** ***School members asked to sign letter to state officials***

School board members at the Annual Education Conference and Trade Show (AEC) were asked to sign a letter to the Governor, Senate pro Tem and Assembly Speaker, urging repeal of the statutory cap on district reserves and ending balances. If you weren't able to sign a letter at AEC, you download a letter [online](#). Please sign and return the letter to the CSBA [Governmental Relations](#) department. The statute, added at the last minute to budget trailer bill language, is now operational with the passage of Proposition 2, the state Rainy Day Fund. This means that districts will be required to spend down their ending balances to a maximum of two or three times their reserves for economic uncertainties when the state makes a contribution into the Proposition 98 Rainy Day Fund. As CSBA Past President Josephine Lucey wrote in a Dec. 6 op-ed published in the Contra Costa Times, the reserve cap "hampers school districts' ability to practice responsible financial management by severely limiting how much they can keep in their own reserves." The statute restricts districts' ability to plan for needed projects, such as building maintenance, textbook purchases, bus purchases, and heating or air conditioning replacement. It puts them in jeopardy of being able to weather economic downturns and economic uncertainty. With this in mind, and given school board members' responsibility to "budget prudently," CSBA encourages board members to sign the letter to repeal the reserve cap.

### **Sens. Block, Correa receive Outstanding Legislator Award**

#### ***CSBA honors senators at AEC 2014***

State Senator Marty Block (D-San Diego) and former State Senator Lou Correa (D-Santa Ana) were selected by CSBA to receive its [2014 Outstanding Legislator Award](#) in recognition of their work to promote the interests of public schools. Sen. Block represents the 39th State Senate District, which includes Coronado, Del Mar, La Jolla, San Diego and Solana Beach. Former Sen. Correa represented the 34th State Senate District, which includes Anaheim, Buena Park, Fountain

Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Long Beach, Santa Ana, Stanton and Westminster. CSBA Past President Josephine Lucey presented Block and Correa with the award at a Legislative Network Luncheon at the 2014 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show. Director-at-Large Asian/Pacific Islander Audrey Yamagata-Noji accepted the award on behalf of Correa. "Senators Block and Correa are very deserving of this honor. They are active within the school community in their Senate Districts and our members know them well. They exemplify what is good about our State Legislature and how elected leaders at the state level can and should interact with school board members, school employees, parents and students back home," said Lucey. [Read the press release](#), which includes statements from Block and Correa.

## **New laws taking effect in 2015**

### ***Publication from Governmental Relations outlines new laws affecting K-12 education***

CSBA's Governmental Relations department has posted a free publication called "[What's New for 2015](#)." The document is a comprehensive listing of new laws that take effect in 2015 concerning K-12 public schools. The bills are listed in four categories: Curriculum/Instruction, Employees, Finance and Students. Each bill reference includes a summary of the bill, sections of the Education Code and other codes covered by the bill, CSBA's position, whether the bill will result in changes to CSBA's sample governing board policies and the bill's effective date. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the new laws coming into effect, please feel free to [contact CSBA's Governmental Relations](#) department.

## **All IN Campaign urges schools to host affordable health care enrollment events, trainings**

### ***Campaign aims to get more families covered with a health plan***

The ALL IN for Health Statewide Day of Action, a project of the Children's Partnership, is scheduled for Jan. 24, 2015. On this day, schools across the state will host enrollment events to provide families and individuals with information about their health coverage options as well as offer onsite enrollment assistance. Also launching on Jan. 24 is the 22-day All IN message campaign during which education leaders will get the message out statewide to families that Feb. 15 is the deadline to enroll in health coverage through Covered California. School leaders and staff are uniquely positioned to help ensure that more children and their families get — and keep — health coverage. Education leaders are encouraged to join the campaign by hosting an enrollment or training; calling or emailing families; distributing newsletters; sending [fliers](#) home with students, both in English and Spanish; or sharing news on social media. To learn more, including how schools, early learning centers or afterschool sites can help, [email The Children's Partnership](#). The All IN for Health Statewide Day of Action is a project with support from CSBA and other organizations. [Read more](#) about the All IN campaign and its latest effort, [Health Care for Early Learners](#), which aims to equip early learning facilities with the tools needed to inform and connect uninsured families with health care coverage.

**Events,  
Training and  
Opportunities**

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## Sharpen legal and advocacy skills at NSBA Advocacy Institute 2015

**Registration for CSBA members now open**

Register for the National School Boards Association's Advocacy Institute 2015 in Washington, D.C. The institute runs from Feb. 1-3, 2015, at the new downtown Marriott Marquis and features keynote speakers such as well-known political consultant James Carville; author, television and radio host, and lauded political commentator, Mary Matalin; and Gwen Ifill, moderator and managing editor of "Washington Week" and co-anchor and managing editor for "The PBS Newshour with Gwen Ifill and Judy Woodruff." Attendees can expect to learn how to develop a winning strategy in Washington, tell their district's story, and expand their advocacy network. Other sessions will cover how districts can navigate the administration's efforts to drive local school board decisions, best strategies to establish better relationships with members of congress and ways to work with the media during crisis management. CSBA members must first register online through CSBA to attend the NSBA Advocacy Institute 2015. To register or for more information, contact CSBA's [Governmental Relations](#) department.

## Member Services

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## GASB 45 for districts with fewer than 100 plan members

Does your school district or county office have fewer than 100 plan members — including both employees and retirees? If so, becoming compliant with GASB 45 just got easier through the streamlined approach known as the Alternative Measurement Method (AMM). CSBA is pleased to offer a unique online method of obtaining an AMM that allows districts and county offices to become compliant at a fraction of the cost of getting a full actuarial valuation. The AMM is available to qualifying employers. Find out if the AMM is right for you by [visiting us online](#) or contacting [May Saechao](#) at 800-266-3382, ext. 3328.

***CSBA provides unparalleled advocacy, information and support services for school districts, county offices of education and ROCs/Ps.***

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