

California School News Weekly Update

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California schoolnews



weekly update



April 1, 2015

Upcoming Events

Institute for New and First-Term Board Members

April 17-18 - Redding

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

May 15 - San Diego

Board Self-Evaluation and Superintendent Evaluation

April 28 - Sacramento

May 4 - San Jose

CSBA Training for Executive Assistants

April 21 - Rancho Cucamonga

April 28 - Sacramento

May 4 - San Jose

CRCS Reporting in a Successful LEA Billing Option Program

April 21 - online

Delegate Assembly

May 16-17 - Sacramento

Budget Perspectives Workshop: May 2015-16 Revision

May - Northern California

May - Central California

May - Southern California

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OF PARTNERSHIP.

San Diego school board members ask legislators to repeal SB 858

Calif. school districts could lose up to \$14 billion in savings



A group of San Diego-area school board members and the League of Women Voters advocated for the repeal of the reserve cap contained under Senate Bill 858 at a [press conference](#) on March 31. Passed by the Legislature late last year, SB 858

undermines local control and fiscal responsibility. At the press conference, local school board members and League participants urged legislators and Gov. Jerry Brown to repeal the bill. They noted SB 858 prevents school districts from maintaining adequate savings for a rainy day, a finding confirmed by the state's non-partisan Legislative Analyst's Office. Repealing the reserve cap is also one of CSBA's top legislative priorities in 2015. "Reserves are what help school districts weather economic downturns and the volatility of state revenues, and help us save for specific projects, like textbooks, technology upgrades, modernizing classrooms and maintenance projects," said Encinitas Union School District Board Member Carol Skiljan. CSBA has found it prevents school districts from maintaining the budget reserves necessary to prepare for the next economic downturn, maintain fiscal solvency and protect the students of California. As Jesús Holguín, CSBA President and Moreno Valley USD board member noted in a recent [opinion piece](#), SB 858 maintains that if the state deposits as little as \$1 into the statewide rainy day fund for schools — which could happen sooner than previously expected based on an improving economy — local school districts statewide could be forced to eliminate between \$5 and \$14 billion in savings. "Today's press conference is a reflection of the



groundswell of support from across the state by school board members, superintendents, parents and the community for repeal of the reserve cap,” said Vernon M. Billy, CSBA CEO & Executive Director. [Learn more](#) about repealing the reserve cap.

NSBA, CSBA file amicus brief in *K.G. v. Irvine USD* Associations urge Court to use fairness principles in awarding attorneys’ fees

The National School Boards Association on March 25, 2015 joined CSBA’s Education Legal Alliance in filing a **“friend of the court” (amicus) brief** in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in support of Irvine USD in the case of *K.G. v. Irvine Unified School District*. At issue in this case is whether an attorney representing a student with disabilities may recover legal fees under the Individuals with Disabilities Act from a school district when the fees were incurred during litigation in which the legal positions of the student and district were not opposed. “A school district’s responsibility to pay attorneys’ fees under the IDEA should be determined in keeping with existing fairness principles and common sense,” said NSBA Executive Director Thomas J. Gentzel. “School districts should not have to fear paying unwarranted attorneys’ fee awards when making educational decisions about placements and services for children with disabilities,” CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy said. For more information about the case, [read the press release](#).

CSBA Governance Brief addresses infectious diseases

Covers immunization requirements, exemptions and board’s role

Millions of school days are lost each year in the U.S. due to illness, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statistics. But, despite the health challenges that schools face, “districts can play an instrumental role in keeping communities healthy,” states the new CSBA Governance Brief: **Measles (and other infectious diseases)**. Developing a prevention plan, teaching about good health practices, providing access to health care, effectively tracking immunization records and partnering with local health agencies are all methods districts can employ to reduce the risk of infectious diseases being spread in schools. The Governance Brief covers state immunization requirements, immunization exemptions, school attendance exclusions, conditional enrollment and the role of the school board. “The health and safety of students are always a board’s first priority,” said CSBA Assistant Executive Director Naomi Eason. The brief also provides case study on a measles outbreak. [Read the Governance Brief](#).

2015 CSBA Delegate Assembly election results available

Register to attend May Delegate Assembly

Results from CSBA’s recently concluded Delegate Assembly election are now available. As CSBA’s primary policymaking body, the Delegate Assembly is the key link in the association’s governance structure. It is made up of approximately 270 local school board members who are elected or appointed in 21 geographic regions throughout the state. The Delegate Assembly meets twice each year.

For newly elected, re-elected and appointed Delegates, the next meeting will be held May 16-17 in Sacramento. There is no fee to register, but **registration is required**. For more information about the Delegate Assembly, please **visit CSBA's website**.

Leaders wanted for CSBA positions

Nominations now accepted for vice-president and president-elect

The CSBA Nominating Committee invites you to encourage potential candidates to run for office or **submit a nomination form** for CSBA's Vice President and President-elect positions. The Nominating Committee is looking for potential candidates that have strong leadership skills, including the ability to listen, collaborate, communicate clearly, motivate and inspire. **See additional criteria** used by the Committee to evaluate potential candidates for nomination. Nomination forms for CSBA officers must be received by CSBA no later than Monday, June 1. The names of candidates who will be interviewed will be posted on **CSBA's website**.

Events, Training and Opportunities



DOE invites applications for i3 grants for fiscal year 2015

Notice of intent to submit pre-application due by April 20

The U.S. Department of Education is inviting applications for Investing in Innovation Fund (i3) Development grants for fiscal year 2015. As with prior I3 grant competitions, this one will provide funding to support LEAs and nonprofit organizations in partnership with either (1) one or more LEAs or (2) a consortium of schools. The program is designed to generate and validate solutions to persistent educational challenges and to support the expansion of effective solutions to serve substantially larger numbers of students. In order to receive an i3 grant, applicants must submit a pre-application, which will be reviewed and scored by peer reviewers. Applicants who submit a highly-rated pre-application will be invited to submit a full application for a grant (deadline TBA). Applicants must provide notice of intent to submit a pre-application by Monday, April 20, and must submit the pre-application by Wednesday, April 29. Both pre- and full applications must be submitted electronically. **View the DOE notice** for more information, including a list of funding priorities. **Visit the application website** to download an application package and submit your application.

Register for the Next Generation Science Standards State Rollout Symposium

Learn about NGSS design, philosophy and more

Registration is happening now for the Next Generation Science Standards State Rollout Symposium. Presented by K-12 Alliance/WestEd, California Science Project, CTA, Curriculum and Instruction Steering Committee and CDE, this two-day symposium will be held April 17-18 at University of California, San Diego. If you can't make the April date, there will be another symposium, June 1-2, at the

Ventura County Office of Education. Sessions will provide a deeper understanding of the design and implementation of the NGSS. Registration is \$200 per participant. To register, or for information on the symposium agenda, [visit the event page](#).

Engage and connect: 2015 Linked Learning Alliance Policy Convening

Register now to learn about the Linked Learning approach to college and career readiness

Register now for the Linked Learning Alliance Policy Convening taking place April 30, in Sacramento. Listen to speakers, engage in working sessions with policymakers and work with leaders in the Linked Learning Field. The Linked Learning approach to college and career readiness is supported widely by teachers, administrators, business leaders, the CSU and California Community College systems and others. To learn more about the Linked Learning approach, [read CSBA's new blog post](#), written by Linked Learning Alliance Deputy Director Hilary McLean. In the post, you can find additional CSBA resources for making an impact at your district using this widely used approach.

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