

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews

weekly update



April 29, 2015

Upcoming Events

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

[May 15 - San Diego](#)

CRCS Reporting in a Successful LEA Billing Option Program

[May 6 - 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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REALIZE THE POWER
OF PARTNERSHIP.

Central Valley school leaders urge repeal of reserve cap

Cap limits school districts' ability to save, erodes local control

Several school districts and the League of Women Voters California advocated for repealing the reserve cap at two Central Valley press conferences on April 27 and April 28. [In Bakersfield on April 27](#), local school district leaders and board members said the reserve cap limited districts' ability to save and undermined local control. At the press conference, Buttonwillow USD Superintendent Stuart Packard said, "minimal changes in financial circumstances for small districts can be devastating." The Bakersfield City School District, Kern High School District, and the Panama-Buena Vista Union School District took part as well. [In Fresno, on April 29](#), Caruthers, Coalinga-Huron, Fresno, Fowler and Kings Canyon Unified School Districts, along with Pacific Union Elementary School District, also called for repealing the reserve cap contained in Senate Bill 858. To learn more, visit CSBA's [Repeal Reserve Cap Web page](#).

New numbers available for homeless students

Population increases slightly from past counts

Nearly 300,000 students, or roughly 5 percent, of California's public school students, were homeless at some point during the 2013-14 school year, according to a [new advisory](#) from Kidsdata.org. Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties had the highest number of homeless public school students in K-12, with 67,000 and 36,000, respectively. [Kidsdata.org also found](#) that California had roughly 20 percent of the United States' nearly 1 million homeless public school students in 2013. The designation "homeless" includes temporary or unstable housing arrangements such as motels, homeless shelters or staying with friends or relatives. Students without a stable home experience disruptions in learning and development among other health and safety concerns.

California earns sixth place on AP exam success

More students earning college credit

California ranked sixth in the percentage of students taking and performing well on Advanced Placement tests. The state also performed better than the national average with just under 30 percent of California's 2014 graduates earning a score of three or higher on an end-of-course AP exam, said the College Board in its newly released report, "AP Cohort Data: Graduating Class of 2014." The state has experienced an 11.3 percentage point growth in AP performance over the past decade. Nationally, 21.6 percent of high school graduates in the Class of 2014 scored at least a three on the five-level AP exam. For more numbers, [read the CDE press release](#). For a more in-depth look at Advanced Placement in California, see also the new California Schools magazine article, [Turning Negatives Into Positives](#).

Harsh discipline harms students and school climates *Toolkit presents positive, effective alternatives*

The updated How We Can Fix Discipline Toolkit, one for [educators](#) and one for [communities](#), is available now. The toolkit, by Fix School Discipline, is intended to be a resource for educators and communities to help them eliminate harsh school discipline practices and implement supportive policies that improve school climate and safety. The toolkit includes articles about why school discipline must be reformed in California, school and student benefits of using effective alternatives, successful best practices in other California school districts and more. Fix School Discipline is a project of the largest pro bono law firm in the nation, Public Counsel. For more information, [visit the Fix School Discipline website](#) or [email Public Counsel](#).

Events, Training and Opportunities

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Webinar provides overview of Foster Youth Education Toolkit

Register online today for April 30 webinar

School district leaders are invited to a 30-minute webinar providing an overview of the new [Foster Youth Education Toolkit](#). The Toolkit walks school district personnel through steps to meet the basic education needs of foster youth and the goals of the LCFF. During the webinar, representatives from the CDE, CSBA and Alliance for Children's Rights will demonstrate the toolkit's promise to improve graduation rates and overall school success for this vulnerable student population. [Register to attend](#) the webinar, which takes place Thursday, April 30, at 10 a.m.

Register for CSBA's Practi-Cal webinar

Webinar covers CRCS reporting, LBO and more

Would your district like to dive deeper into cost reimbursement and comparison schedule reporting to maintain a financially healthy, school-based Medicaid program? CSBA's Practi-Cal is offering a unique online webinar on Wednesday, May 6, from noon to 1 p.m. to assist in answering questions about CRCS or the Local Education Agency Billing Option program. Topics will include: federal funding, tips for capturing eligible costs, standardized account code structure coding, CRCS, LBO program participation and more. Visit CSBA's website to [register for the event](#). You may also submit your CRCS

report for review and analysis at no cost for training purposes. [Email your report](#) to Alest Walker in Excel format.

Symposium on education and the future at UC Davis Conference to center on sustainability issues

A 2015 Education Symposium kicks off at UC Davis on April 30. The event will explore issues critical to the future of California's K-12 and higher education institutions, with a particular focus on energy and sustainability challenges. Top policy makers, futurists, educators and financial experts are expected to attend. A second event will be held at UC Riverside on May 7. [View the agenda](#) and learn more about how to register.

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Student injuries — is your district properly covered?

A well designed student accident program can mitigate your liability exposure, facilitate Ed Code compliance, improve access to activities for your students and provide vital help to families in need. It also fosters good community relations. CSBA's partner Myers-Stevens & Toohey has designed and fully administered both blanket and voluntary purchase student accident programs for nearly 50 years. Cost effective options range from modest "Call 911" style plans to catastrophic injury coverages with combined limits exceeding \$6,000,000. Contact them at 800-827-4695 for a custom quote.

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

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