

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews

weekly update



January 15, 2014

Upcoming Events

2014 Forecast Webcast | Jan. 22,
2014 - Online

**2014 Brown Act & Board
Presidents Workshop Combo** |
Jan. 24-25, 2014 - Sacramento

**2014 Institute for New and First
Term Board Members** | Jan. 24,
2014 - Sacramento

2014 The Brown Act | Jan. 24,
2014 - Sacramento

2014 Board Presidents Workshop
| Jan. 25, 2014 - Sacramento

2014 The Brown Act | Jan. 31,
2014 - Garden Grove

**2014 Brown Act & Board
President's Workshop Combo** |
Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 2014 - Garden Grove

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Overflow crowd expected at SBE's LCFF hearing Thursday

LEAs to testify on outreach efforts required under LCAPs

Local governance team members will gather in Sacramento Thursday to deliver a unified "Governance First" message to members of the State Board of Education as the panel considers [regulations](#) implementing California's Local Control Funding Formula for K-12 schools. CSBA and the Association for California School Administrators will host a staging area outside the meeting to assist local educational agency representatives attending what promises to be a marathon public hearing. The entire meeting will be [webcast live](#); the LCFF discussion is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. CSBA Executive Director & CEO Vernon M. Billy [says](#) it's imperative that governance teams demonstrate how they are engaging parents and other stakeholders in order to craft the Local Control and Accountability Plans required under LCFF. CSBA has asked that governance teams [notify the association](#) if they plan to testify. Visit our [LCFF Web page](#) to find our [online toolkit](#) and access other resources.

State law regarding transgender students in limbo

CSBA advises LEAs to rely on its interim guidance on access to sex-segregated facilities, programs

The referendum effort against Assembly Bill 1266—which requires that a student "be permitted to participate in sex-segregated school programs and activities, including athletic teams and competitions, and use facilities consistent with his or her gender identity, irrespective of the gender listed on the pupil's records"—is continuing, with the Secretary of State's Office checking the validity of the petition signatures through Feb. 25. As a result, there is uncertainty regarding whether AB 1266 is currently in effect. Given this uncertainty, CSBA's Education Legal Alliance continues to recommend that districts follow [CSBA's Interim Guidance Regarding Transgender Students, Privacy, and Facilities](#). As explained in the Interim Guidance, CSBA recommends that districts handle requests regarding the use of facilities and involvement in student program and activities on a case-



by-case basis in a manner consistent with existing anti-discrimination law so that the unique needs of every student can be met.

Federal spending bill would restore many education appropriations

Automatic cuts under sequestration would end

Federal education funding would approach pre-sequestration levels in a two-year federal appropriations bill that's expected to pass both houses of Congress this week. "This means no additional cuts for federal program funds in the current fiscal year—and in many cases program grantees will see some extra dollars in their next funding allocation. Education spending wouldn't quite catch up to pre-sequester levels ... but it would come close," according to CSBA Legislative Advocate Erika Hoffman. As proposed in a [Senate amendment to House Resolution 3547](#), Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act would be funded at \$14.4 billion through fiscal year 2014, which ends Sept. 30. That's an increase of \$624 million over sequestration, but still \$103 million less than pre-sequester levels in FY 2013. Read other highlights and details [here](#).

Governor's budget boosts Prop. 98 funding by \$6 billion

Proposal sustains investment in LCFF

Gov. Jerry Brown's [2014-15 budget proposal](#) would provide more than \$6 billion in Proposition 98 spending above 2013-14 levels—"a huge step in the right direction," says CSBA President Josephine "Jo" Lucey in [this brief video update](#). In all, per-pupil funding under Proposition 98 comes to \$9,194 in the proposal, or \$12,833 when all funds, including federal money, are considered. The proposed investment in education comes at a time when California is ranked 15th from the bottom in the nation in per-pupil spending, according to Education Week's Quality Counts report, based on 2011 data. "Let's hope that with better funding ahead and Local Control Funding Formula implementation our state ranking in school finance, equity and achievement will rise. The outlook is certainly more promising than it has been in years," says Legislative Advocate Andrea Ball in [this CSBA blog post](#).

Burr, Straus, Sandoval confirmed to State Board

After what Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg called the most intensive Rules Committee hearing during his tenure, the full Senate on Monday voted 34-0 to confirm Gov. Jerry Brown's nomination of Sue Burr, Ilene Straus and Nicolasa Sandoval to the California State Board of Education. Spirited questioning in committee a few days earlier lasted about three hours, ending in a vote of 5-0 in favor of the nominees. "The three nominees have been impressive in their desire and commitment to work with all stakeholders, as well as recognize the complexity in the scopes, sizes, and diversity of California's many school districts," CSBA Senior Director of Policy and Programs Teri Burns told the committee. See [more on the CSBA blog](#), including a link to Executive Director & CEO Vernon M. Billy's endorsement of the nominees. All State Board members' official biographies are posted [here](#).

Events, Training and Opportunities

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Tune in for insights on hot legal issues

Register for the Feb. 12 webcast covering a fresh perspective on LCFF

CSBA is excited to bring you the second webcast in its [Education Insights: Legal Update](#) series at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, when a panel of attorneys from some of the state's top law firms will offer a legal perspective on the hottest issues affecting school districts and county offices of education. This webcast will focus on the Local Control Funding Formula, with key insights on the new State Board regulations and preparing your Local Control and Accountability Plans. Experts from the law firms of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo; Fagen, Friedman & Fulfroost; and Lozano Smith will discuss what governance teams need to know about these subjects in an hourlong interactive format that includes the opportunity for questions from viewers. This event is complimentary for CSBA members; however, registration is required. [Register now](#).

Come to Oakland March 6-7 for the latest on school-based health services

Former CSBA President Wynns is a keynote speaker

The California School-Based Health Alliance, formerly known as the California School Health Centers Association, invites school governance teams to join other public school advocates in Oakland March 6-7 to learn how new federal health reforms can help schools bring vital services to students they serve. The alliance's 2014 conference, [Advancing School Health in a Time of Reform](#), features a packed schedule of workshops, networking opportunities, resources and exhibits. San Francisco School Board member and former CSBA President Jill Wynns and public health physician Rishi Manchanda are conference keynote speakers. Early bird registration rates are \$135 for Alliance members and \$180 for non-members; after Jan. 31, rates rise to \$175 for members and \$225 for non-members. Those who [register](#) for the daylong March 7 conference can also participate in pre-conference workshops March 6, from 2-5 p.m. for an additional \$50. [Click here](#) to reserve housing at a discounted \$139 conference rate.

Apply now for Prop. 39 planning funds to support energy-efficient projects

Jan. 31 is application deadline for second-round funding

Local educational agencies have only until Jan. 31 to apply for their share of some \$65 million available for planning energy-efficient capital projects under Proposition 39, the 2012 ballot measure that will generate a total of \$2.5 billion over five years for K-12 schools, community colleges and other public agencies. The California Department of Education, which allocates LEA grants in collaboration with the California Energy Commission, awarded about \$106 million

for energy needs assessment and project planning last November; it will finalize the second-round planning grant awards this spring. The [Energy Commission website](#) has links to a Proposition 39 handbook and a hotline to handle questions about the application process. [Applications](#) and additional materials are available on CDE's [Proposition 39 Web page](#); this Fall 2013 [California Schools magazine story](#) has more background.

Feds join call for alternatives to suspension, expulsion

Guidance to help school governance teams develop practices that promote a safe and positive environment—with alternatives to unfair suspensions and expulsions—was released by the federal departments of Education and Justice last week. "Effective teaching and learning cannot take place unless students feel safe at school," U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said. "These resources are a step in the right direction." The [package of resources](#) is the result of collaboration between the two federal departments to address the "school-to-prison pipeline" and disciplinary policies and practices that can push students out of school and into the justice system. CSBA has helped local educational agencies develop alternatives to suspension and expulsion with [policy guidance](#) and a [California Schools magazine article](#). [Register here](#) for a free webinar from 10:30 a.m. to noon Jan. 22 about dealing with traumatized students; it's part of a continuing series on reforming school discipline offered by Public Counsel, a not-for-profit public interest law firm based in Los Angeles.

NSBA's FRN is now the Advocacy Institute

Feb. 2-4 event in D.C. focuses on national education issues

Registration is open for the National School Boards Association's [Advocacy Institute](#) in Washington, D.C., Feb. 2-4. The successor to NSBA's annual Federal Relations Network Conference offers local school board members and education advocates an opportunity to focus on national legislative, legal and public advocacy in support of public education, local school board governance, and equity and excellence in education. Two days of workshops will precede a full day of meetings with officials on Capitol Hill. Visit CSBA's [Advocacy Institute Web page](#) to review the conference agenda and learn how you can register to be part of the California delegation.

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energy costs and demonstrate environmental leadership in your schools. SunPower can save you money on energy and guard against rising utility rates. Thanks to federal and state incentives, the return on a SunPower solar project has never been greater. Find out how the new financing and government programs can drive immediate and significant savings to your general operating fund. Visit our [Solar Schools Program Web page](#) or call 510-540-0550 today to learn more.

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