

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews



weekly update



May 28, 2014

Upcoming Events

Agenda Online Demonstration

May 28 - Online
 June 5 - Online
 June 12 - Online
 June 13 - Online
 June 18 - Online
 June 20 - Online

Back to School Webcast

Sept. 18 - Online

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

Sept. 13 - Eureka
 Sept. 19 - San Jose
 Sept. 26 - San Diego

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Torres transportation bill clears Senate Appropriations Committee

Senate budget allocates \$29 million 2014-15; Assembly yet to concur

On May 23, the Senate Appropriations Committee [approved SB 1137](#) and the Senate Budget Committee [approved \\$29 million](#) in the 2014-15 budget year to increase state funding for school transportation costs. The budget allocation will likely be a budget conference item because the Assembly did not include school transportation funding as part of its Proposition 98 package. Under SB 1137, by Sen. Norma Torres, D-Pomona, the bill would gradually [increase reimbursement rates](#) for districts receiving less than 50 percent of state-approved costs. The bill would also provide a cost-of-living adjustment for transportation funding for all school districts that receive home to school transportation funding. The current statewide district reimbursement rate for home-to-school transportation is 38 percent, with some receiving 10 percent and others more than 80 percent of approved costs. It is estimated that approximately \$800 million annually must be taken from school district general fund revenues to fund home-to-school transportation budget deficits. CSBA, along with the California School Employees Association and a growing coalition of school transportation advocates [support the bill](#).

Modified plan to fund CalSTRS considered by Legislature

The Legislature modified Gov. Jerry Brown's proposal to fully fund the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) and it will now be considered as part of state budget negotiations. The modified plan will reduce the rate of contribution increases for employers for the first three years—2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17—but will maintain the 7-year timeframe to get the employers' rate to 19 percent and the 30-year timeline to achieve full funding for the pension system. The modified plan also requires CalSTRS to report back to the Legislature at regular intervals as to how well this funding plan is meeting its objectives. CSBA believes this reporting requirement is key to ensuring an opportunity to review the impact of the plan. Both

Assembly and Senate budget proposals also include increases in funding district LCFF, intended in part to address the costs of the CalSTRS rate increase. CSBA continues to advocate for an augmentation to equitably address the unanticipated CalSTRS costs. See attached [CSBA's letter](#) and a [joint letter](#) from a number of education groups.

Action needed: Help save School Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities program
LEAs owed more than \$360 million

CSBA is asking for your help in outreach to local legislators to create awareness of and to resolve serious problems involving the School Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (SMAA) program. The SMAA program helps to ensure that children are enrolled in the Medi-Cal program and able to access health services through their schools. Currently, 982 California school districts and county offices of education participate in the program, which draws millions in federal funding; 50 percent of SMAA program costs are reimbursed by the federal Medicaid program operated under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Due to its audit of the program, CMS has deferred school district and COE claims for reimbursement—in some cases going back to 2009—that total more than \$360 million. In addition, the state Department of Health Care Services is proposing new rules that are restrictive, burdensome and impractical. This has resulted in a growing number of districts dropping out of the program, laying off staff and putting the health and education of children as well as jobs at risk. More information on this issue is included in [this sample letter](#). CSBA is asking that you please email or mail a letter to [your local legislator](#) using the sample letter. If you have any questions about this issue, please contact Vina Guzman, CSBA's Director of District & Financial Services, at vguzman@csba.org.

NSBA calls for stronger local control in charter school oversight
Letter echoes CSBA's position that charters be accountable for student outcomes

To provide greater consistency and accountability among charter schools, the National School Boards Association's Executive Director, Thomas J. Gentzel, recently wrote a [letter to USA Today](#) asking for federal agencies to recognize local school boards as the sole authorizers of charter schools. "In 2013, Stanford University's Center for Research on Education Outcomes revealed that only 25% and 29% of charters outperformed traditional public schools in reading and math assessments, respectively," Gentzel wrote. "These low percentages were actually an improvement over the 2009 data. CREDO attributed many of the improvements to the actions that authorizers — key among these local school boards — are taking to close down ineffective charter schools. Strong local governance matters. It cannot and should not be excluded from education reform initiatives." [Read the letter here.](#)

Confused by Common Core? New website from Khan Academy can help
Sample problems explained for each grade, K-12 math level

A new math resource by Khan Academy can help your teachers and students prepare for the Common Core State Standards. Khan Academy provides personalized learning tools that let students practice what they need help on most, at their own pace and at no cost. The not-for-profit organization has introduced new Common Core math problem sets that include thousands of interactive math problems fully aligned to CCSS standards. [See the full site here.](#) CSBA's [Governing to the Core series](#) can also help governance teams set direction and professional development priorities for teaching the standards.

Events, Training and Opportunities

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School meals and eligibility webinar: May 29, June 2 *Reserve your seat today for one or both sessions*

Attend this webinar to hear from school districts that have successfully collected income data without relying on school meal program applications. "Community Eligibility and LCFF: How to Get the Income Data You Need While Feeding More Hungry Children" explains how local educational agencies can use the Community Eligibility Provision to eliminate school meal applications and serve breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students in high-poverty schools so they can be fueled and ready to learn. The California Department of Education will present a brief review of how CEP works and Oakland Unified School District and other schools will share detailed explanations of how they collect individual student income data, and the increases in school meal participation and improved attendance that has resulted. Organized by the California Food Policy Advocates, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and the Food Research and Action Center, the complimentary webinar is offered on two dates: **Thursday, May 29** at 9 a.m., and **Monday, June 2** at 1:00 p.m.

Parents and community leaders needed to set Common Core test standards

Application deadline extended through May 28

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is recruiting parents and community/business leaders to participate on a panel to set achievement levels for its assessments. The standard-setting process is critical to ensuring that the score results from the Common Core-aligned assessments are based on rigorous yet fair expectations for students. The California Department of Education is recruiting qualified parents and community members for the In-Person Panel for Setting Achievement Levels. Nominees should meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Business leaders with experience in hiring and managing personnel;
- Parents, especially those involved with education groups such as PTA; or
- Community leaders, including elected officials, school board members, legislators, and recognized civic leaders.

Interested parties should submit their name and role—parent, community or business leader—to [Dixie Abbott](#) at CDE by end of

business today, May 21. The [attached fact sheet](#) will answer many of the questions that invited nominees may have regarding the process.

CSBA offers \$11,000 to select Golden Bell Award winners

Enter your program by June 30

Now there's even more incentive to submit a 2014 Golden Bell Awards entry—seven monetary awards will be given to select district or county office Golden Bell Award winners, courtesy of program sponsors and the CSBA Business Affiliates program. Five \$1,000 awards sponsored by the CSBA Business Affiliates will be granted to top winners in each of these five submission categories: Closing the Achievement Gap; Common Core; Community Schools through Partnerships and Collaboration; Professional Development and Teacher Recruitment/Retention; and School Climate. The winner of the Wellness category will receive a \$1,000 award sponsored by Kaiser Permanente and the winner of the Sustainable, Renewable, Energy, and Resource Efficient Programs category will receive a \$5,000 award sponsored by Fagen Friedman & Fulfrost, LLP. Help us celebrate excellence in education and school board governance by [visiting our website](#) to submit your entry by June 30.

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URGENT DEADLINE: We are currently filing the Tdap Booster claim (Pertussis) on behalf of our clients; we can file yours too! [Visit our website](#) or contact Vina Guzman at 800-266-3382, ext. 3327.

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

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