

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews

weekly update



February 18, 2015

Upcoming Events

**Education Insights: Legal Update
Webcast - Form 700**
[Feb. 25 - Online](#)

Legislative Action Day
[March 10 - Sacramento](#)

Board Presidents Workshop
[March 14 - San Diego](#)

**Institute for New and First-Term
Board Members**
[March 6-7 - Fresno](#)
[March 13-14 - San Diego](#)
[April 17-18 - Redding](#)

The Brown Act
[March 6 - Fresno](#)
[March 13 - San Diego](#)

**County Board Governance
Workshop**
[March 7 - West Sacramento](#)

**MIG Course 1: Foundations of
Effective Governance/Setting
Direction**
[Feb. 21 - Rancho Cucamonga](#)
[March 13 - San Diego](#)

**MIG Course 2: Student
Learning/Policy**
[March 14 - San Diego](#)
[March 21 - San Bernardino](#)

MIG Course 3: School Finance
[March 13 - San Diego](#)
[April 18 - Rancho Cucamonga](#)

News

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REALIZE THE POWER
OF PARTNERSHIP.

Register now for CSBA's Legislative Action Day on Tue., March 10

**Vernon M. Billy invites you to make your voice heard in
Sacramento**

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, March 10 and meet us in Sacramento along with hundreds of board members from across the state as we make our voices heard. Our state assembly members and senators need to hear from you about the harmful impact of the budget reserve cap on your district and why it must be repealed. The need for adequate funding must also be communicated, along with pushing for a school facilities bond and increased funding to support CCSS implementation. There is much work to be done and we cannot do it without you. "This is an opportunity to demonstrate the important work that school board members do on a regular basis," CSBA CEO & Executive Director **Vernon M. Billy said in a new video**, personally inviting governance leaders to participate in the event. "Given the Legislature's schedule, Tuesday is one of the best days for you to be in Sacramento lobbying your legislators and the leadership about the issues that are important to CSBA and important to you locally," he added. A pre-event webinar on Feb. 27 will provide an outline of the key issues along with helpful tips on conducting successful meetings. Issue-briefing materials will also be made available. **Register today for Legislative Action Day!** For more information about the event, including FAQ, **visit the Legislative Action Day Web page.**

LAO releases report on funding school facilities *Recommends transitioning to a new school facility financing program*

Yesterday, the Legislative Analyst's Office released a report on funding school facilities and recommended replacing the current facilities funding program with a new grant program. **The 2015-16 Budget: Rethinking How the State Funds School Facilities** report recommends the Legislature (1) establish an annual per-student facility grant; (2) base the grant on the replacement value of existing school buildings and an estimate of their average useful life; (3) adjust the grant to reflect local resources, with larger grants for districts with lower property wealth; (4) adjust the grant during the transition to

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining
[March 14 - San Diego](#)

MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Gov. Integration
[March 14 - San Diego](#)

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account for existing state debt service incurred on the district's behalf; (5) provide one-time funds to address the existing backlog of facility projects; and (6) require school districts that receive grant funds to adopt five-year facility accountability plans. The Legislature will also have to decide whether to fund the facility program within Proposition 98 minimum guarantee. For more information, [read the report](#).

LCFF changing how schools invest in school discipline, counselors

New study shows state's largest districts implementing discipline reform

Most California major school districts have vowed to reduce suspensions and hire more counselors because of the LCFF. According to the new study conducted by the national nonprofit organization, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids California, the adoption of the new funding formula in 2013 has forced the state's 50 largest school districts (representing 41 percent of California students) to reprioritize how their budgets are spent. This has resulted in reforming school discipline procedures and investing in a better school climate. In the new study, positive findings include: "92% of districts have goals to decrease suspensions; 100% of districts have actions that address school climate; and 70% of districts include actions related to the implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Restorative Practices (also known as Restorative Justice) and/or Social Emotional Learning." To learn more, [read the January 2015 report](#) or the [related article](#) in the Los Angeles Times.

Attorney General Kamala D. Harris unveils Bureau of Children's Justice

Bureau's core priorities include foster care, inequities in education and childhood trauma

Attorney General Kamala D. Harris on Thursday, Feb. 12, announced the creation of the [Bureau of Children's Justice](#) within the California Department of Justice. The Bureau will be staffed by attorneys and experts in the area of education, civil rights, child welfare, identity theft and human trafficking. As part of this, the agency will work with local, state and national education stakeholders to prevent bad outcomes for vulnerable children and identify and improve policies that impact children. As part of this effort, the Bureau will enforce criminal and civil laws to hold accountable individuals who prey on children. "The Bureau of Children's Justice will continue our smart on crime approach by addressing the root causes of crime, including our broken foster care system, and making certain that California's children receive full protection under the law and equal opportunities to succeed," Harris stated in the [press release](#). In a [letter](#) sent to officials in California's 58 counties, Harris outlined their legal responsibilities with regard to foster youth and asked that they evaluate their related enforcement and oversight policies and practices. According to the press release, in the coming months the Bureau will focus on identifying accountability and enforcement gaps in the foster system.

Introducing Edify Learning, CSBA's newest Premier Business Affiliate

Technology firm helps school districts implement and manage a comprehensive assessment program

[Edify Learning](#), a Silicon Valley based technology firm, has expanded its support for public education in California by becoming a CSBA

Premier Business Affiliate and investing \$25,000 in the [Business Affiliate program](#). Edify Learning leverages innovative technologies that allow school districts to implement and manage a comprehensive multi-tier assessment program that empowers students, teachers and administrators. The firm's cloud-based platform, [EdifyAssess](#), effectively manages all stages of a school district's assessment program. With EdifyAssess, districts can quickly and accurately construct and deploy Common Core aligned assessments that students can access through any browser-based device, but the platform also supports districts that are managing paper-and-pencil-based assessments. EdifyAssess readily integrates with a school district's existing student information or learning management system. In addition, the interactive user interface minimizes training requirements and relieves teachers and staff of the burdens typically experienced when developing, deploying and analyzing formative assessments. Edify Learning has been supporting formative assessment for school districts since 2004 and is managed by experienced researchers, educators and technologists. To learn more about EdifyAssess, including how it can help your district, [visit Edify Learning's website](#).

Events, Training and Opportunities



Tune in to CSBA's Form 700 Webcast on Feb. 25 ***Know how to report gifts on your Form 700***

The clock is ticking toward the annual Form 700 filing deadline of April 1! Learn what gifts and other sources of income must be reported on the Form 700 pursuant to the Political Reform Act. Failure to publicly declare gifts to the Fair Political Practices Commission has prompted media scrutiny statewide, and can result in FPPC fines. Board members need to know how avoid unwittingly violating the FPPC's gift-reporting rules. This one-hour webcast will explain how to identify and report a gift and will cover the consequences of not reporting a gift. Panelists include moderator and CSBA General Counsel Keith Bray and legal experts from the law firms of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo; Dannis Woliver Kelley; and Lozano Smith. The webcast airs on Wednesday, Feb. 25, from noon to 1 p.m. [Register on CSBA's website](#) to watch from your desk, home or district or county office.

Register today for NSBA's 75th Annual Conference ***Join fellow education leaders in Nashville, March 21-23***

More than 7,000 school board members, school administrators and superintendents are expected to attend the National School Board Association's [75th Annual Conference and Exposition](#) in Nashville, Tenn., March 21-23. At the event, attendees will gain valuable information in five key areas: leadership; advocacy; technology and learning; urban school issues; and school law. Through workshops, speakers, site visits, exhibitor booths and more than 200 programming sessions, education leaders will gain fresh ideas, strategies, best practices and cutting-edge content to help support student achievement in their schools. This year's general session speakers are Arianna Huffington, David Pogue and Montel Williams. Local school board members have a responsibility to provide the best education possible for their students. One of the best ways to achieve this is through continual professional development, education and

learning. NSBA's 75th Annual Conference is the one national event that provides these opportunities in one conference for school board members. [Learn more](#) about the event or [register to attend](#) today.

Register to attend bilingual education conference in March

Highlights include workshops, school site visits and speakers

The California Association for Bilingual Education, which promotes bilingual education and quality educational experiences, is holding its 2015 conference March 4-7 in San Diego. The conference is for educators and parents of bilingual learners. Conference events include workshops, school site visits, keynote and general session speakers and an administrative leadership symposium. Educators will have opportunities to learn about best practices at bilingual schools. There will also be exhibits and a career fair. The theme of this year's conference is The CABE Legacy: Making 21st Century Multilingual Dreams Come True, which commemorates the organization's 40th anniversary. For the conference program and more information, [visit the conference website](#), or you may [register now](#) to attend.

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. 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. Find out if this method 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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