

California School News Weekly Update  
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# California schoolnews

weekly update



March 4, 2015

## Upcoming Events

### Education Insights: Legal Update Webcast

*Superintendent Contracts and  
Search Process*

[March 11 - Online](#)

### Board Presidents Workshop

[March 14 - San Diego](#)

### Institute for New and First-Term Board Members

[March 13-14 - San Diego](#)

[April 17-18 - Redding](#)

### The Brown Act

[March 13 - San Diego](#)

### MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

[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](#)

### MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining

[March 14 - San Diego](#)

[May 2 - Riverside](#)

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

[March 14 - San Diego](#)

[May 15 - San Diego](#)

## News

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REALIZE THE POWER  
OF PARTNERSHIP.

### LCFF Collaborative Working Group discusses student outcomes and equity

*Year one of implementation poses challenges and best practices*

The LCFF Collaborative Working Group met for the second time Feb. 26 at CSBA to discuss challenges and promising practices during the first year of California's Local Control Funding Formula implementation. The Collaborative, created by CSBA and California Forward, is composed of superintendents and board members from 17 local education agencies throughout the state. The Collaborative heard presentations from Superintendent Wendy Gudalewicz and School Board Member Josephine Lucey of Cupertino Union School District and Superintendent Donald Gill and Board Member Barbara Cowan from Antioch Unified School District. All shared successful LCFF and LCAP strategies their districts employed that included effective community outreach and parent support, and the use of disaggregated data as a driver in the governance and decision-making process. The Collaborative then divided into four breakout sessions to discuss building success stories into promising practices and possible replication in other districts. Funding adequacy was also a major concern for the Collaborative, with speakers, such as Keith Bray, CSBA general counsel, San Diego Superintendent Cindy Marten and San Diego USD School Board President Marne Foster, Steve Ward, government relations director for Clovis Unified School District, and Jim Mayer, president and CEO of CA Fwd, all sharing the same sentiment: the need for adequate funding. Of equal importance to the Collaborative was student outcomes and equity. A roundtable discussion focused on best practices observed in district LCAPs regarding student outcomes and equity, and also made mention of areas of improvement. Facilitated by Teri Burns, CSBA senior director of policy & programs, panelists in this discussion included Brian Rivas, director of policy and government relations for Education Trust-West, Taryn Ishida, executive director of Californians for Justice and Roberta Furger, director of writing and research at PICO California. To learn more visit [CA Fwd](#). For more information, be sure to look for the [CSBA newsletter](#) in March.

**Educators network for effective school discipline**  
*CSBA joins EdSource-led effort*

## Board Self-Evaluation and Superintendent Evaluation

[April 28 - Sacramento](#)

[May 4 - San Jose](#)

## CSBA Training for Executive Assistants

[April 28 - Sacramento](#)

[May 4 - San Jose](#)

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To give educators in California a better say in school discipline debates and policymaking, and to enable educators to share best practices as they work to reduce suspensions and expulsions, EdSource has convened the [Educators Network for Effective School Discipline](#). Carl Cohn, director of the Urban Leadership Program at Claremont Graduate University, will chair the Network, which will be guided by an 18-member advisory committee composed of superintendents, principals, teachers and representatives of statewide organizations. CSBA Policy & Programs Officer Peter Wright currently serves on the advisory committee. "Our goal is to generate ideas and encourage participation from those most responsible for implementing a district's or school's discipline policies," Cohn said. In addition to providing a broader voice in the media and an online discussion platform, the Network will highlight key resources and encourage in-person and online peer-to-peer consultation and training on school discipline issues. The Network seeks participation from educators dedicated to creating positive school climates that contribute to lower suspension and expulsion rates. To learn more about the Network, or to sign up to participate, [visit EdSource](#).

## CSBA Government Relations department targeting school finance laws

***State bill introduction deadline sees hundreds of bills relating to K-12 education***

Last Friday was the bill introduction deadline in the California State Legislature. In all, state legislators introduced 2,408 bills in a two-month span with 1608 of those introduced just last week. CSBA is currently tracking 339 of these bills, as they pertain to various aspects of K-12 education, governance and budget issues. CSBA's Governmental Relations department is focusing on school finance laws this year, including repealing the reserve cap. Four bills were introduced dealing with the reserve cap: AB 531 (O'Donnell, D-Long Beach) in what is known as a "spot bill," proposing no change to the reserve cap, but reserving a space for later discussions. Three other reserve cap bills include two that propose a repeal of the cap: AB 1048 (Baker, R-Dublin), and SB 774 (Fuller, R-Bakersfield). A fourth bill is a bipartisan bill that states legislative intent to modify the reserve cap: AB 1318 (Gray, D-Merced; Olsen, R-Modesto). For more information on other bills, please [click here](#).

## CSBA and ACSA support district Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement

***Send a letter to congressional reps to ensure timely payment of claims***

On Feb. 25, 2015, CSBA and the Association of California School Administrators sent a letter to the California Congressional Delegation requesting support to resolve the delayed reimbursement from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for our schools participating in the School-Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities Program. Fifty percent of SMAA program costs are reimbursed by the federal Medicaid program. Deferred claims for California's school districts total nearly \$850 million and are at risk. CSBA and ACSA are asking that the California Congressional Delegation intercede with CMS to ensure that the needs of local school districts, and COEs are met. CMS needs to act immediately to approve a proposal submitted on Feb. 20, 2015 by California's Department of Health Care Services to reach a final settlement on unpaid claims for participating local education agencies under deferral. Further delaying reimbursements jeopardizes future

Medi-Cal outreach in schools and other SMAA activities. More than 20 percent of the districts who have participated in this program have already dropped out due to lack of funding. CSBA members are encouraged to send a letter from their district or COE to their Congressional Representatives and Sens. Boxer and Feinstein. [Use the sample letter](#) and [letter attachment](#). For more information about the SMAA deferred claims owed to districts, please call Maria Thomas, sr. director of business development at 916-669-3304.

### **Celebrate National School Breakfast Week** ***Promote School Breakfast Programs for healthy, successful students***

Authorized by Congress in 1975, the School Breakfast Program has enabled students of all age groups to receive a healthy daily breakfast. A nutritious breakfast is essential for students' academic success and to prevent obesity. In the last three years alone, the USDA School Breakfast program has served approximately 13 million students. Read the complete [blog post by Jesus Mendoza Jr.](#), regional administrator of USDA Food and Nutrition Service, with links to additional resources. CSBA has also jointly published a [governance brief](#) with California Food Policy Advocates on the importance of school breakfast. Need more inspirational? View this [CSBA video](#) and watch board members, superintendent, principal, teachers and students talk about the success of their breakfast in the classroom program at Wilkerson Elementary School in El Monte City School District.

## **Events, Training and Opportunities**



### **March webcast to cover superintendent contracts and search**

***Register to watch from home or district or county office***

It's midway through the school year and you found out your superintendent will not be leading the district in the coming school year. What's next? Grab your lunch and join our panel of legal experts as they walk you through the entire process of filling a superintendent vacancy and contract negotiations. The webcast, moderated by CSBA General Counsel Keith Bray, will cover:

- What happens during the search process?
- What should be the objective of the contract with the new superintendent?
- What terms of the new contract should board members focus on?
- What happens during and after negotiations are complete?

All school board members are encouraged to join this webcast, scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, from noon to 1 p.m. Panelists include Roy A. Combs, Partner, Fagen Friedman & Fulfroost LLP; Marie Nakamura, Shareholder, Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard; and Dr. Steve Joel, McPherson & Jacobson LLC. [Register on CSBA's website.](#)

### **IRS accepting applications for renewable energy bonds to fund solar projects**

### **Register for CSBA webinar to take advantage of bond program to start saving money**

Learn how your district can take advantage of new, clean, renewable bonds to fund solar projects. The IRS is accepting applications now for self-funding solar projects, so register for the CSBA webinar to hear about school district case studies on the following districts: Mt. Diablo Unified School District, Antioch Unified School District and San Ramon Unified School Districts. Presenters include Neal Skiver, senior vice president, George K. Baum & Company; and Bruce Dickinson, director, public & education, SunPower Corporation. The webinar, "Use Low-Interest Bond Programs to Fund Solar Projects," will air Thursday, March 19, 2015, from noon to 1 p.m. [Registration](#) closes Tuesday, March 17 at 5 p.m.

### **Guest panelists provide insights on giving, receiving gifts**

#### **Webcast discussion features Form 700**

A trio of panelists and Keith Bray, CSBA's general counsel, discussed guidelines and requirements for school boards receiving gifts Feb. 25. A part of CSBA's Education Insights Legal Update webcast series, the session centered on reporting gifts on [Form 700](#). Topics of discussion included Fair Political Practices Commission rules, requirements for public agencies, best practices, and political consequences of unreported gifts. "These laws have some very sharp teeth," Bray said of Form 700. "When in doubt report." Mark Bresee of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo, Janet Mueller of Dannis Woliver Kelley, and Tom Gauthier of Lozano Smith took part in the discussion. View the archived [webinar on Form 700](#).

## **Member Services**

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### **Recover significant money from utility and telecom overbillings**

Overbillings continue to drain school district budgets unnecessarily. Thousands of dollars in refunds and future savings may be available to your school district or county office of education from [Northwest Capital Recovery Group's](#) expert analysis of telecom and utility billings. NWCRG has a 98 percent success rate and works on a strict contingency basis — if they don't get results, there's no fee. Overbillings are the result of inappropriate rates, tariffs, fees, taxes and erroneous service elements. In virtually all cases, the only bills districts are familiar with are their own and they don't see the anomalies that NWCRG has seen over the last twenty years. [Visit our website](#) or contact [Maria Thomas](#) at 800-266-3382, ext. 3304.

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

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