

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews

weekly update



May 13, 2015

Upcoming Events

California Council of School Attorneys Spring Workshop
[May 15 - San Diego](#)

Delegate Assembly
[May 16 - 17 - Sacramento](#)

Legal Update Webcast: Board and Superintendent Relations
[May 20 - online](#)

Budget Perspectives Workshop:
May 2015-16 Revision
[May - Northern California](#)
[May - Central California](#)
[May - Southern California](#)

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Districts at risk from lawsuits regarding PE instructional minute requirement

CSBA Legal Alert recommends districts develop means to demonstrate compliance

In the last four years, an unincorporated association has been using the legal system to challenge whether all California elementary school students are receiving the required number of physical education instructional minutes. By relying on the PE minute requirement found in the Education Code, Cal200 has sued approximately 40 school districts as well as the state, and recently appears to be threatening litigation against more than 100 additional districts by filing UCP complaints. In order to avoid litigation and the costs associated with litigation, including the payment of attorney's fees to settle a lawsuit, districts need to be aware of the risk and are advised to develop a means to demonstrate their compliance with the PE minute requirement. For further background, explanation of legal risk, and options for demonstrating compliance that districts may want to consider, [read the CSBA Legal Alert](#).

Complete CSBA's iCount member survey by June 15 *Exercise your voice in the association*

The deadline to complete CSBA's iCount member survey has been extended to Monday, June 15. CSBA has offered the extension to ensure that all CSBA members have the opportunity to complete the survey, and that the results accurately reflect the voice of governing board members and superintendents throughout California. All CSBA members received an email on April 27 containing a link to one of two corresponding surveys — one for governing board members and one for superintendents. The survey marks the second phase of CSBA's comprehensive iCount data-gathering campaign, and it represents a key element of CSBA's long-term planning efforts. By completing the survey, you have an opportunity to exercise your voice in the association by offering valuable feedback about CSBA services and critical statewide education issues. More than 2,000 board members completed the iCount census, and it is crucial that this participation level be matched when the survey concludes on June 15. If you are

unable to access the survey via email, [please contact David DeLuz](#) at CSBA for assistance, 916-669-3306.

Education stakeholders outline lasting effects of budget cuts on Calif. schools

State's priority under Proposition 98: Restore funding to pre-recession levels

CSBA joined other members of the Education Coalition at a [May 11 press briefing](#) that called for lawmakers to adequately fund schools as required under Proposition 98. During the Great Recession, California schools and students lost \$59 billion to fund educators, school programs and services. California schools also dropped to 49th nationally in per-pupil funding, had counselor to student ratios of 1 to 1,500 (or greater) and placed last in number of librarians per school. With California now emerging from the recession and in better financial health, the state's first priority under Proposition 98 is to bring funding levels for schools and community colleges to pre-recession levels.

DOE issues guidance on designation of Title IX coordinator

Guidance includes resource guide, letter to school districts

New guidance from the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights emphasizes the responsibility of school districts, colleges and universities to designate a Title IX coordinator. The [guidance package](#) also contains an overview of the law's requirements in key areas, including athletics, single-sex education, sex-based harassment and discipline. Since Title IX regulations were issued in 1975, school districts, colleges, and universities receiving federal financial assistance from the DOE have been required to designate at least one employee to coordinate the recipient's compliance with Title IX. "A critical responsibility for schools under Title IX is to designate a well-qualified, well-trained Title IX coordinator and to give that coordinator the authority and support necessary to do the job," said Catherine E. Lhamon, assistant secretary for civil rights. "We hope that these documents will help schools understand their obligations under Title IX." The guidance package includes a [Dear Colleague Letter](#) to school districts, colleges and universities; [a letter to Title IX coordinators](#), which provides information about their role; and a [Title IX resource guide](#), which includes an overview of Title IX's requirements with regard to recruitment, admissions and counseling; financial assistance; athletics; sex-based harassment; treatment of pregnant and parenting students; and discipline.

Free data tools help schools, districts track chronic absence

Tools now available through Attendance Works

Attendance Works now offers [free data tools](#) designed specifically for California schools and districts to track chronic absence. The self-calculating Excel spreadsheets include California's unique transitional kindergarten as a grade and reflect the state's definition of truancy. The CalDATT and CalSATT include modules for assessing chronic absence in elementary, middle and high school grades, as well as a tool for combining reports for all grade levels. Districts can also see the relationships among chronic absence, suspension and truancy. Attendance Works is a national and state initiative that promotes awareness of the important role that school attendance plays in

achieving academic success starting with school entry. Visit Attendance Works online to learn more or to [register to use the data tools](#).

GASB changing rules on pension liabilities

View education resources to help answer member questions

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board will be changing the rules on how pension liabilities are reported. Some of these changes will be implemented as early as June 30, 2015. While these new rules have been through hearings and discussion, once implemented, they could negatively affect the public view on school district finances. To help districts understand the impact of these pension requirements, the Pension Communication Resources Group created educational resources to explain pension standards. The documents include information on 1) distinguishing between pension accounting and pension funding 2) financial statement impact and 3) auditing issues. [View the resources](#) or [visit GASB online](#).

Events, Training and Opportunities



CSBA webcast to cover board–superintendent relations

Register for May 20 Education Insights Legal Update webcast

Effective leadership results from a strong, collaborative relationship between the school board and superintendent. This webcast covers the distinct roles and responsibilities of the board and superintendent, as well as how the board and superintendent interact to fulfill mutual interests such as effective policymaking, developing and following mission statements, conducting respectful interactions with staff and preparing for meetings. Moderated by CSBA General Counsel Keith Bray, this discussion features legal experts from three CSBA premier Business Affiliate firms. Grab your lunch and join this webcast, which airs Wednesday, May 20, at noon. [Register](#) on CSBA's website.

Budget Perspectives Workshop covers May Revision

No-cost workshops offered in May throughout California

Many financial experts expect Gov. Jerry Brown's May Revision to propose additional funding for schools. The Budget Perspectives Workshop, prepared and co-presented by Capitol Advisors Group, CSBA, ACSA and the Small School Districts' Association will cover this proposal and more related to the 2015-16 Revision. Funding areas to be discussed include: continued implementation of the LCFF; the Common Core State Standards; special education; school facilities; adult education; career technical education; school district budget reserve restrictions; and STRS. Multiple sessions of the Budget Perspectives Workshop are being offered throughout May, and there is no cost to attend. Register online to attend a workshop in [Northern California](#), [Central California](#) or [Southern California](#).

Member Services



Executive Search Service

CSBA partners with McPherson & Jacobson

Are you looking for a new superintendent? CSBA offers an **Executive Search Service** in partnership with **McPherson & Jacobson LLC**, a company that has placed more than 500 superintendents and other officials in public and nonprofit organizations across the country since 1991. "Hiring the right executive to serve as superintendent is critical for any school district," said CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy. "Our partnership with McPherson & Jacobson provides districts with a new and effective resource for that purpose." The service provides CSBA members with help from California-based consultants who are experienced in the state's educational landscape and understand the needs of local districts. McPherson & Jacobson consultants will work with local boards and key stakeholder groups to implement a comprehensive hiring process that results in selection of the most qualified candidate. [Visit our website](#) for more information about CSBA's Executive Search Service, or call 800-266-3382 ext. 2603.

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

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