

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews

weekly update



August 19, 2015

Upcoming Events

2015 CCBE Annual Conference
 Sept. 11 - Monterey

2015 CCSA Fall Workshop
 Sept. 11 - Emeryville

2015 Back-to-School Webcast
 Sept. 15 - Online

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance / Setting Direction
 Sept. 11 - Hayward
 Sept. 19 - Visalia
 Sept. 25 - Anaheim

MIG Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement / Policy & Judicial Review
 Sept. 26 - Anaheim
 Oct. 10 - Visalia
 Oct. 16 - Hayward

MIG Course 3: School Finance
 Sept. 25 - Anaheim
 Nov. 7 - Visalia
 Nov. 13 - Sacramento

MIG Course 4: Collective Bargaining / Human Resources
 Sept. 26 - Anaheim
 Nov. 14 - Sacramento

MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy / Governance Integration
 Sept. 26 - Anaheim
 Nov. 14 - Sacramento

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CSBA introduces SB 799 to fix reserve cap *New CSBA-sponsored legislation and radio campaign call for reform*



At a press conference on the West Steps of the state Capitol on Tuesday, Aug. 18, **CSBA introduced Senate Bill 799**, a bill that would fix the cap on school district reserves. CSBA leaders were joined by the bill's author, Sen. Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo), several

of the bill's 13 bipartisan co-authors, representatives from the League of Women Voters and California State PTA, and several school board members who attended in support of fixing the reserve cap. SB 799 proposes a number of key reforms to the original SB 858 budget trailer bill that established the reserve cap; these amendments include significantly increasing the size of the cap, and clarification that it will apply only to general fund and reserve fund unassigned balances and not to funds reserved for specific purchases. Additionally, small districts and basic aid districts would be exempted from the reserve cap. A new radio ad also began airing in statewide markets on Tuesday morning. To listen to the radio ad and for more details on SB 799 and the reserve cap, go to www.fixthecap.com. Video of the **Aug. 18 press conference** is online and available for the education community to share with social networks.

ELA files amicus brief in public records act case before Calif. Supreme Court
Argues that the Legislature, not the courts, must adapt the Public



Records Acts to modern technology

In July, CSBA's Education Legal Alliance filed an amicus brief in City of San Jose v. Superior Court with the California Supreme Court. This case concerns whether the California Public Records Act requires local governments to disclose communications that are not directly accessible to the local agency because they are sent or received via private electronic devices and are not stored on private servers. The appellate court ruled, in part, that the CPRA did not require disclosure of such communications because the burden of retrieving such communications would be intrusive and extremely difficult to complete. The case is now before the California Supreme Court and the ELA is requesting that it uphold the appellate court's decision. The ELA's brief expounds on the practical impacts of expanding the CPRA to encompass communications like emails and texts sent or received by public officials via private electronic devices. Consider, for instance, the logistical challenge that Los Angeles Unified School District would face in collecting and searching thousands of private cell phones for texts, or the financial impact that a single-site school district might face from having to spend staff and/or attorney time going through years of private cell phone records. Thus, the ELA argues that the Legislature, rather than the courts, is best equipped to adapt the CPRA to modern technology. The case is fully briefed and the parties are awaiting oral argument, to be scheduled. [Visit the ELA's page on CSBA's website for updates on this case and more.](#)

DOE grants will help low-income students take AP tests

California receives more than \$10K

The U.S. Department of Education last week announced that it has awarded \$28.4 million in Advanced Placement grants to 38 states, Washington D.C. and the Virgin Islands as part of its efforts to boost college and career readiness for historically underserved students. The grants are intended to help defray the costs of taking AP tests for low-income students. California received a total award of \$10,588,226. By subsidizing the test fees for low-income students, the program is intended to encourage those students to take AP tests and obtain college credit for high school courses, reducing the time and cost required to complete a postsecondary degree. Levels of per-state funding were determined by state estimates of the numbers of tests that low-income students would take. From 2014 to 2015, preliminary results show that the number of tests covered by the program increased from 768,772 to 831,913, an improvement of more than 7 percent. The California Department of Education will release information soon about how the funding will be distributed in California. [Read the DOE's press release.](#) For more information about the grant program and awards, visit the [DOE's AP Test Fee Program Web page.](#)

CSBA fact sheet addresses school boards' role under SB 277

New vaccination law effective 2016-17 school year

In June 2015, Gov. Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 277 into law. SB 277 provides that parents and guardians can no longer refuse to vaccinate their children based on personal belief exemptions if their children attend public or private school. Sen. Richard Pan (D-Sacramento), who is also a pediatrician, and Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica), a former president of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, coauthored this bill and CSBA supported this

measure. SB 277 will go into effect the 2016-17 school year. Parents/guardians can still file for a vaccine exemption for their children based on their personal beliefs until Jan. 1, 2016. To learn more about current law, medical exemption, role of the board and more, [read the CSBA SB 277 fact sheet](#).

Events, Training and Opportunities

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Student Board Member Symposiums begin in September

Register by Friday, Aug. 28, to save

The California Association of Student Councils will hold its Student Board Member Symposiums in Northern and Southern California this fall. The symposiums bring together students who serve on school boards across the state of California. This one-day intensive program equips students with the skills they need to effectively serve their communities. Led by staff with experience as student board members, the workshop shares best practices and helps students better understand their leadership role and responsibilities. Although the symposiums are focused on instructing current student board members, all are invited to register, including adult board members, administrators and superintendents. Student board members are usually sponsored to attend these workshops by the school board they sit on. Symposium dates are: Sept. 17, Santa Clara County Office of Education, San Jose; Sept. 23, Orange County Office of Education, Costa Mesa; and Oct. 7, CSBA Headquarters, West Sacramento. Registration is \$95 if fees are paid on or before Aug. 28. [To register, contact Jennifer Yi](#), the State Council vice president, or [visit CASC's website](#).

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Simplify hazardous material compliance *CSBA's HazMat management program offers resources*

Is your school district or county office of education in compliance with its Safety Data Sheet requirements, or SDS? If you answered no or you're not sure, contact CSBA's District and Financial Services Department today and inquire about the HazMat Communication Program. The CSBA program eliminates the need to maintain paper copies of SDS on site by providing access via 3E Online and 24-hour hotline to 3E's extensive database of over 4.5 million SDS. This is a low-cost, paperless way to comply with federal and state health and safety regulations. [Visit the CSBA website](#) for more information or call 800-266-3382, ext. 2603.

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for school districts, county offices of education and ROCs/Ps.***

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