

California School News Weekly Update  
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# California schoolnews

weekly update



April 30, 2014

## Upcoming Events

**Board Member Action Day**  
[May 9 - Statewide](#)

**2014 CCSA Spring Workshop**  
[May 9 - Emeryville](#)

**2014 Delegate Assembly May Meeting**  
[May 17 - Sacramento](#)

**2014 Back-to-School Webcast**  
[Sept. 18 - Online](#)

**MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction**  
[Sept. 19 - San Jose](#)

**MIG Course 3: School Finance**  
[Sept. 19 - San Jose](#)

## News

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### Call to Action: Make sure schools are part of the Legislature's budget discussions

**Register now for Board Member Action Day on May 9**

The next couple of weeks in the Legislature will be critical for school boards, as decisions are now being made about the state budget and how much will be invested in LCFF, transportation and Common Core. A "rainy day" reserve for Proposition 98 and refinements to the teacher dismissal process are also under discussion. Now is the time to make legislators aware of how students in your districts and counties may be affected. So if you have not yet registered for Board Member Action Day on May 9, [please do so now](#). Meetings will be held in your state legislator's local office. Once you are registered, CSBA's Governmental Relations team will schedule the meetings and coordinate with other school board members in your area. We will also brief you with a pre-event webinar from 10-11 a.m. Thursday, May 1. Our effectiveness as advocates for children requires a team effort, and you are a critical part of that team. [Register now on the CSBA website](#).

### Assembly Bill 215 poised to reach the governor CSBA will support teacher dismissal bill, with amendments

Several bills introduced over the last few years have aimed at reforming the teacher dismissal process, and CSBA remains committed to seeing that the strongest bill reaches Gov. Jerry Brown for his signature. "Our goal is not to win political victories but to achieve meaningful policy change that protects children," said CSBA President Josephine "Jo" Lucey in her [April 28 op-ed in EdSource](#). Supported by the governor, Assembly Bill 215—introduced this year by Assembly Member Joan Buchanan, D-Alamo—is a great improvement over last year's defeated AB 375; CSBA will support the bill if it is amended to remove cumbersome evidence discovery rules, allow for extended depositions for good cause, and ensure that all sides have sufficient time to present their case, among other changes. Stay informed on the CSBA website under [Advocacy – CSBA Positions](#).

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## **Governor's rainy day proposal gets first hearing**

### ***Assembly Speaker wants ACA 1 passed before budget***

The governor's proposal for a strengthened rainy day fund, including creation of a separate Proposition 98 reserve, was presented to the Assembly committee in a special legislative session convened for the purpose. Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez and Gov. Jerry Brown reviewed the goals of [Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1-X2](#) in a packed hearing late Monday. Committee members on both sides of the aisle made positive comments about the proposal in this initial overview of the legislation. On the same day as the hearing, the Legislative Analyst's Office issued [this new report](#) on two budget reserve proposals: the governor's ACA1-X2 and ACA 4. [Read more here](#) about the hearing and the LAO report.

## **California graduation rate tops 80 percent**

### ***National goals hinge on state improvement***

More California high school students than ever are graduating on time, the latest state figures show. Better than eight in 10 students who were freshmen in 2009-10 earned a regular diploma in 2013, the California Department of Education [announced this week](#). "For the first time in our state's history, more than 80 percent of our students are graduating," State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson said. It's the fourth straight year of improved graduation rates since the state started calculating the information through its student data tracking system. Achievement gaps persist, however: just 67.9 percent of African-American students graduated with their class in 2013, and 75.4 percent of Hispanic students. A national goal of 90 percent on-time graduation hinges on California's progress, particularly for young men of color; [read more here](#) about a recent national report and California dropout figures.

## **Guide for school boards aims to boost student success through community partnerships**

### ***Oakland, Los Angeles schools cited as models***

A new guide from the National School Boards Association, along with a number of national education groups, details how school board members can work with other community partners to provide seamless services and engage community members to improve their schools. "As advocates for equity and excellence in public education, school boards play an instrumental role in addressing the pushout crisis through effective board leadership and governance," says ["Partnerships, Not Pushouts: A Guide for School Board Members on Community Partnerships for Student Success."](#) The 29-page guide encourages school boards to develop "educational models that strive to educate the whole child and involve the entire community," a goal well-aligned with California's Local Control and Accountability Plan mandate. The report examines the discipline and resource inequities that drive many students out of school, and how community schools and what the report calls "personal opportunity plans" can help students beat the odds. The Oakland Unified School District and John C. Fremont High School in South Los Angeles are called out as models.

## Events, Training and Opportunities

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### Even the busiest professionals can become Masters in Governance

***Register now for fall MIG courses in San Diego or San Jose***

Have you thought about taking your governance knowledge to the next level but not sure if you have the time? CSBA's Masters in Governance program was retooled, revamped and restructured to make it even easier to complete the five courses in as little as 12 months. This program flexibility means your board and superintendent can get the knowledge and skills needed to effectively govern your district or county office. Fall courses are being offered in San Diego and San Jose. [Register today](#) and become the governance team member you aspire to be.

### Celebrate 35 years of Golden Bell Awards

***Submit an entry, get noticed and join us in December***

For 35 years, CSBA's Golden Bell Awards have shone a light on the school districts and county offices that support outstanding programs. Celebrate with us by submitting an entry: All we need from you is an application, three photos and a narrative describing how this program is exemplary, innovative and supports student achievement. If your program is selected, you'll be invited to join us for a special celebration at CSBA's [Annual Education Conference and Trade Show](#) this December. Don't let your district or county's hard work go unnoticed! [Visit the Golden Bell website](#) for deadlines, entry form and more.

## Member Services

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### New governance briefs to inform and assist

The latest issue in the Defining Governance series, "[Governance Practices](#)," summarizes three practices of governance that correlate with board effectiveness. And "[New Assessment for English Learner Students: From the CELDT to the ELPAC](#)" offers questions for boards to consider as they set policy for helping students reach English-language proficiency. Both briefs are posted on the [Governance Briefs page](#) on the CSBA website.

### CSBA's Practi-Cal takes the hassle out of Medi-Cal and Medicaid billing

CSBA's Practi-Cal provides local educational agencies (LEAs) with superior fee-for-service Medi-Cal billing claims processing and MAA consulting services. Our broad range of expertise allows us to identify areas of revenue often overlooked by others while minimizing your efforts. LEA and MAA reimbursement are crucial for covering the costs of providing care and special education services to your students. Find out how Practi-Cal can save you time and money, provide training for

staff and providers, and provide program compliance support to simplify the complicated reimbursement claim process. [Visit us online](#) today or call 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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