

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews



weekly update



August 20, 2014

Upcoming Events

Agenda Online Demonstration

[Aug. 22 - Online](#)
[Aug. 26 - Online](#)
[Aug. 28 - Online](#)
[Aug. 29 - Online](#)

CCBE Fall Conference

[Sept. 12-14 - Monterey](#)

Back to School Webcast

[Sept. 18 - Online](#)

CCSA Fall Workshop

[Sept. 19 - San Diego](#)

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

[Sept. 19 - San Jose](#)
[Sept. 26 - San Diego](#)

MIG Course 2: Student Learning/Policy

[Sept. 20 - San Jose](#)
[Sept. 27 - San Diego](#)

MIG Course 3: School Finance

[Sept. 19 - San Jose](#)
[Sept. 27 - San Diego](#)

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining

[Sept. 20 - San Jose](#)
[Sept. 26 - San Diego](#)

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

[Sept. 19 - San Jose](#)
[Sept. 26 - San Diego](#)

News

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Bill to restore school district reserve authority announced at Capitol press conference

Co-sponsors CSBA, ACSA, CASBO speak in support of Assembly Bill 146

CSBA joined a statewide coalition at a press conference at the Capitol on Monday, Aug. 18, in support of Assembly Bill 146, introduced by Assembly Republican Leader-Elect Kristin Olsen (R-Modesto) and Sen. Jean Fuller (R-Bakersfield). If enacted, AB 146 would restore the ability of school districts to maintain their local reserve accounts by repealing statutory language added to the state budget education trailer bill at the last minute, which requires school districts to spend down their reserves to imprudent levels. "Budget reserves are vital to the financial well-being of school districts and it is completely unacceptable that they were capped in this year's budget at the last minute," Olsen stated in a [press release](#). CSBA President Josephine Lucey spoke about the important role that local reserves play in helping school districts weather unexpected cost increases and volatile state reserves. "The idea of a safety net for schools at the state level is a façade," Lucey said, observing that a state deposit of just one dollar would trigger all districts to spend down their reserves to as low as 6 percent, leaving them without sufficient financial protection. AB 146 needs to pass through the Legislature and reach Gov. Jerry Brown's desk before the end of the current legislative session. CSBA, ACSA and CASBO ask that board members and superintendents [call or send letters to their legislators](#) now to urge them to support the bill. Watch CSBA's [This Just In](#) with video of the press conference, and visit the [AB 146: Repeal Reserve Cap Web page](#) on CSBA's website for helpful tools, including a fact sheet, joint co-sponsor letter and a downloadable full-color flier that succinctly illustrates why the reserve cap is not good for districts, schools or students. [Read the full story](#).

Assembly Member Joan Buchanan releases statement on AB 2235

School facilities bond will not be on November ballot

Despite unanimous votes in the Legislature and dedicated work on the part of supporters, Assembly Bill 2235 (Buchanan, D-Alamo)—the

**CSBA Annual Education
Conference and Trade Show**
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school construction bond measure that was headed to the November ballot—is apparently dead for this year. Assembly Member Joan Buchanan released the following statement yesterday: “We’ve come to the end of the road. The Governor made it clear to the Speaker on Friday that he does not want a school bond on the same ballot as the water bond and rainy day fund. We have no commitment to support a future bond. In our meetings with the Department of Finance, they stressed that the Governor questions what role, if any, the state should play in funding facilities. We know that the responsibility for educating our children is not written in local city or county ordinances; it is written in our state Constitution. Our Constitution places such a high value on education that it prioritizes funding for education second, after debt service. This is why major education court cases (e.g., *Serrano v. Priest*) and *Williams*, were cases that named the state as the defendant. The ultimate decision on the state’s responsibility for school facilities may be decided in the courts, not the Legislature. As we move forward, I want to thank each of you for your support of AB 2235 and for all you do for our children and our schools. It has been a pleasure working with you. You make a difference!”

Seismic Mitigation Program funds still available *Recently adopted state budget preserves target funding for most vulnerable school buildings*

When the dust settled on this year’s budget negotiations, the final document did not include the Brown administration’s proposed “sweep” of remaining Seismic Mitigation Program funds. A strong consensus emerged in the Legislature that it was critical to preserve remaining seismic mitigation funds, in order to give districts more time to apply for the program. With more than \$140 million remaining unallocated in the seismic program, the focus now is on getting districts with eligible buildings to bring their projects forward for funding. The program, administered by the State Allocation Board, provides funding for the rehabilitation or replacement of school buildings that pose significant hazards for students and staff in the event of a major earthquake. School districts in seismically active areas of the state are urged to begin the process of identifying eligible buildings, or to bring them forward for funding if they have been identified. Prior to receiving funding districts must establish eligibility through the Division of State Architect’s process. [DSA Procedure 08-03](#) assists districts in understanding the steps. [Information about the program](#) and the process for completing applications may be found on the website of the Office of Public School Construction, which manages the funding program.

ED issues fact sheet on educational services for immigrant children *Resources and FAQ address enrollment, access and use of federal funds*

In response to the growing number of immigrant minors—many of them unaccompanied—arriving in the U.S. from Central America, the U.S. Department of Education has released a [fact sheet](#) intended to help school governance leaders and other members of the education community understand the state and local responsibilities associated with immigrant children. The document includes information and resources to assist with enrolling and educating immigrant children—including newly arrived immigrants. The FAQ answers questions about districts’ use of federal education funds, as well as the shelter, education and vaccination services that unaccompanied immigrant children receive while in the temporary custody of the

Department of Health and Human Services. Under federal law, states and local educational agencies are obligated to provide all children—regardless of immigration status—with equal access to public education at the elementary and secondary level, which includes unaccompanied children who may be involved in immigration proceedings. The U.S. Departments of Education and Justice published in May a [joint guidance letter](#) on compliance with the federal law.

Events, Training and Opportunities

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Peer reviewers sought for scoring of charter school applications

Applications due by Sept. 2 for October review session

The Charter Schools Division (CSD) of the California Department of Education is seeking school board members and others to score Public Charter Schools Grant Program (PCSGP) applications for charter schools at a three-day peer review session Oct. 7-9, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the [CDE](#) in Sacramento. The state recruits governing board members, charter school developers, operators and authorizers to participate in the peer review of PCSGP applications; this peer review is required under federal law. Each charter application is reviewed independently by two peer reviewers who will score the narrative responses using a 4-point rubric. Selected peer reviewers must attend a three-hour training webinar on Oct. 2, which will provide an overview of the peer review process and cover the scoring criteria, the approval process and other topics. Board members who wish to participate should complete a [peer review application](#) and a [conflict of interest form](#) and return both by [email to the CDE](#) no later than Sept. 2. Please view the CDE's [peer review request letter](#) for more information about the application scoring process and time commitments. You'll also find a CSD contact that you may call or email with any questions.

Common Core messaging webinar on Aug. 27

Learn how to build support for CCSS

Are your communications ready for the new school year? Make your back-to-school messaging about the Common Core State Standards as powerful as possible. Using research conducted by FrameWorks Institute, this 45-minute webinar, titled Back-to-School Communications and the California Common Core State Standards and sponsored by the Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation (CDEF), will highlight and explore strategic ways to reframe your communications in order to avoid unproductive conversations and build support for CCSS. The webinar's content is tailored for school board members, superintendents and administrators, and will model practical examples that you can put to use in your own communications. [Register today](#) for the webinar, happening on Wednesday, Aug. 27 at 11:00 a.m.

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

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