

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews

weekly update



December 3, 2014

Upcoming Events

**CSBA Annual Education
Conference and Trade Show**
 Dec. 14-16 - San Francisco

Board Presidents Workshop
 Dec. 13 - San Francisco
 Jan. 24 - Sacramento
 Mar. 14 - San Diego

**Institute for New and First-Term
Board Members**
 Jan. 23-24 - Sacramento
 Jan. 30-31 - Anaheim
 Feb. 6-7 - Burlingame
 Mar. 6-7 - Fresno
 Mar. 13-14 - San Diego
 April 17-18 - Redding

The Brown Act
 Jan. 23 - Sacramento
 Jan. 30 - Anaheim
 Feb. 6 - Burlingame
 Mar. 6 - Fresno
 Mar. 13 - San Diego

**MIG Course 1: Foundations of
Effective Governance/Setting
Direction**
 Feb. 6 - Burlingame
 Feb. 21 - Rancho Cucamonga
 Mar. 13 - San Diego

**MIG Course 2: Student
Learning/Policy**
 Feb. 7 - Burlingame
 March 14 - San Diego
 March 21 - San Bernardino

MIG Course 3: School Finance
 Feb. 6 - Burlingame

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REALIZE THE POWER
OF PARTNERSHIP.

Local reserves critical for district solvency *Report finds reserve cap fiscally irresponsible*

The reserve cap that takes effect because of the passage of Proposition 2 in November's elections is fiscally irresponsible, CSBA said in a new report. At a Dec. 1 press conference in downtown Sacramento, CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy said CSBA's Report on School District Reserves shows the reserve cap will harm the financial stability of schools. Authors of the report reviewed information and data from the California Department of Education for the 2012-13 fiscal year. They found that all of California school districts' "assigned and unassigned ending balances" included 28 separate funds totaling nearly \$17 billion. The money is used for building fund reserves, bond interest redemption funds, self-insurance retiree benefits, and other specific purposes. Under SB 858, Section 27, which became operational when Proposition 2 passed, any amount placed in the Proposition 98 reserve forces school districts to spend down their reserves to meet the state-imposed cap. In turn, this cap on reserve balances — from 3 percent to 10 percent (depending on district size) of the state's contribution — could lower district bond ratings, limit borrowing ability and negatively impact deferred maintenance, retiree and employee benefits and school programs among other things. "The cap on school district reserves is an affront not only to local control, but to sensibility," CSBA President Josephine Lucey said at the press conference which was held in front of an empty bank vault. "It's fiscally irresponsible, inconsistent with the principle of subsidiarity and must be repealed to protect our schools' financial security and the students we serve." After the press conference, copies of the report were delivered to the Governor, legislators, and the Department of Finance and others. Read more about [CSBA's Report](#) on School District Reserves.

iCount @CSBA to be officially launched at AEC *Census data to be used as reference point for CSBA services and long-term planning*

At the 2014 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show, CSBA will launch iCount @CSBA, a state-of-the-art member census and survey project. iCount is an important effort that will provide members with an

March 13 - San Diego

April 18 - Rancho Cucamonga

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining

Feb. 7 - Burlingame

March 14 - San Diego

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

Feb. 7 - Burlingame

March 14 - San Diego

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opportunity to express their opinions about critical issues currently facing education. The data gathered from iCount will also allow CSBA to gain a better understanding of its members, and will serve as a reference point for the Association's long-term planning efforts. iCount has two key phases: Phase One is the member census, which will launch at AEC, and asks members for demographic information such as years of service, professional background and circles of influence. Phase Two is a member survey on opinions and viewpoints of current education issues and policies. The Phase Two survey will be distributed in early 2015. CSBA is asking for all of its members to participate in the census at AEC. Copies of the census form will be available during the first General Session on Sunday, Dec. 14, 2014, and CSBA will maintain an iCount Hub in the North Lower Lobby of the Moscone Center, as well as two tables in the CSBA Pavilion on the trade show floor. iCount staff will be on hand on Sunday and Monday to collect completed census forms and hand out incentives – which include coffee gift cards, participation ribbons and hourly raffle drawings for several prizes. iCount will allow all CSBA members to have a stronger voice in the organization, and it will allow the Association to tailor its efforts to meet member needs. Ultimately, iCount will help strengthen and guide how CSBA drives change in public education. [Read more about the iCount member census](#) and survey in CSBA's November newsletter.

Improving student outcomes with teacher collaboration

New CSBA governance brief examines PLCs

Well-implemented professional learning communities can improve teacher practice and raise student achievement, concludes a new CSBA governance brief. [Improving Student Achievement Through Teacher Collaboration](#) looks at how PLCs conduct their work in order to support student learning, how successful PLCs are established, and which PLC best practices are, according to the research, likely to result in gains in student learning. Five best practices are described in detail: participating in data-driven discussions; developing a safe environment that allows honest communication, fosters mutual respect and supports open dialogue; allocating sufficient time for frequent meetings, conversations and follow-up; engaging all PLC teachers in efforts to improve curriculum and instruction; and maintaining a focused leadership that is committed to aligning PLCs with other district and school site initiatives. Ensuring that school personnel are using these best practices requires that districts “prioritize teacher collaboration and allocate the necessary resources for success.” The brief concludes by presenting five questions for school boards. [Read the brief](#) on CSBA's website.

CSBA creates community handout

Document helps communities understand the work of school boards

CSBA created a one-page [handout](#) to help communities understand what school boards do and how they serve the communities they are a part of. In an easy-to-read format, the document explains how school boards are elected, govern at board meetings and how they serve the community. It also describes how school board members use their time as elected officials. An excellent resource, school board members and staff can make copies to pass out at the first of the year board meeting or during districtwide or school events. This document assists communities in understanding what it means to be serving in this important capacity. For additional information about guidance, training

and resources and information on a host of other issues, such as Common Core math, professional governance standards, board self-evaluation tools and more, [visit CSBA's website](#).

Events, Training and Opportunities

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Call for nominations for Delegate Assembly ***Submit nominations by Jan. 7, 2015***

Local boards in CSBA's 21 regions will participate in the 2015 Delegate Assembly elections between Feb. 1 and March 16. Elected individuals serve two-year terms, from April 1, 2015, through March 31, 2017. Any CSBA member board is eligible to nominate board members within its geographical region or subregion and may nominate as many individuals as it chooses. A nomination form and a candidate biographical sketch form must be submitted to the CSBA Leadership Services department. Nominees may also submit an optional one-page, one-sided resume, but it cannot be substituted for the biographical sketch form. All materials must be postmarked no later than Jan. 7, 2015. Visit CSBA's website for [forms and more information](#), including a list of delegates whose terms are expiring in 2015 and a memo from CSBA President Josephine Lucey.

Application deadline extended for the Child Nutrition Advisory Council

Council supports SBE on youth health and nutrition

The State Board of Education is inviting applications for membership to the Child Nutrition Advisory Council. The deadline for submission of applications has been extended to Monday, Dec. 15, 2014, by 5 p.m. The CNAC supports the SBE by providing proactive leadership in health and nutrition for California's youth, including recommending plans and guidelines for school and child care meal service and nutrition education programs. Members serve a term of three years (with the exception of the student member, who serves a term of one year). To learn more, visit the [CNAC website](#) or contact [Carolyn Pfister](#) at 916-319-0399.

Member Services

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Schools Targeted for Energy Program ***A comprehensive energy efficiency program***

CSBA is proud to offer STEP, a comprehensive energy efficiency program that helps districts and county offices of education carry out measures that save money and resources. Through the help of our partners, the STEP team will assist you with a range of services including energy analysis, project development, engineering, project management and securing funding. In addition to the significant financial benefits associated with energy efficiency projects, participants can expect more comfortable learning environments that enhance education, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and establish community support for environmental and social responsibility. For

more information, [visit us online](#) or call us today at 800-266-3382, ext. 3304.

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

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