

California School News Weekly Update  
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# California schoolnews

weekly update



December 10, 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

## News

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## CSBA letter to Gov. Brown provides budget, and fiscal recommendations

*Letter outlines priorities for budget advocacy*

In its Dec. 8 [letter](#) to Gov. Jerry Brown, CSBA outlines the association's budget and fiscal priorities for the 2015-16 fiscal year. The Governor's budget will be released in early January, and as he finalizes his proposal, CSBA urges consideration of recommendations on a range of funding and fiscal policy matters that "will go a long way towards ensuring that California's public school students are ready to succeed as they leave the K-12 system." Heading the list is the call to repeal the statutory provision capping school district reserves and ending balances. The letter references the [CSBA report](#), which demonstrates the negative impact of the cap. "As discussed in the CSBA report, the statutory cap on reserves and ending balances will result in districts having to spend these monies when there is even a small contribution at the state level to the Proposition 98 Rainy Day Fund," the letter states. Consequences for districts would include worsened credit ratings, higher interest charges and increased external borrowing. "That is why CSBA urges repeal of the statutory cap as soon as possible in the new legislative session." The letter also calls for: continued commitment and action to pay down the wall of debt owed to schools and for investment in LCFF so that districts reach their funding targets by 2019-20; and to examine and consider the funding needed to better prepare California students for career, college and adult civic life. Read the [letter](#), which is also posted under [2014 Legislative News](#) on CSBA's website.

## 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 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

[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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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.

#### **CSBA urges reserve cap repeal**

***School board members attending AEC asked to sign letter to state officials***

At AEC 2014 — kicking off this Sunday — school board members should be sure to check their welcome packets for a letter to the Governor, Senate pro Tem and Assembly Speaker, urging repeal of the statutory cap on district reserves and ending balances. The statute, added at the last minute to budget trailer bill language, is now operational with the passage of Proposition 2, the state Rainy Day Fund. This means that districts will be required to spend down their ending balances to a maximum of two or three times their reserves for economic uncertainties when the state makes a contribution into the Proposition 98 Rainy Day Fund. As CSBA President [Josephine Lucey](#) wrote in a Dec. 6 op-ed published in the Contra Costa Times, the reserve cap “hampers school districts’ ability to practice responsible financial management by severely limiting how much they can keep in their own reserves.” The statute restricts districts’ ability to plan for needed projects, such as building maintenance, textbook purchases, bus purchases, and heating or air conditioning replacement. It puts them in jeopardy of being able to weather economic downturns and economic uncertainty. With this in mind, and given school board members responsibility to “budget prudently,” CSBA encourages board members to sign the letter to repeal the reserve cap. The letter will be made available online for members not attending AEC on Dec. 17. [View the CSBA press conference](#) on repealing the reserve cap.

#### **CCBE creates community handout**

***Document helps communities understand the work of county boards of education***

CCBE created a one-page [handout](#) to help communities understand the role of county boards of education. In an easy-to-read format, the document explains how school board members are elected, govern at board meetings and how they serve the community. It also describes how board members use their time as elected officials. Board members and staff can make use of this excellent resource by making copies and passing them out at the first-of-the-year board meeting or during countywide 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, [visit CCBE's website](#). [View the one-page handout](#) for school boards here.

### **Reforms need time and leadership**

#### ***New CSBA blog post cites role of superintendent in raising student achievement***

A recent [Education Week article](#) reports that the average tenure of superintendents across the country has dropped slightly to an average of 3.2 years for large urban districts. Is this a trend that education stakeholders should be concerned about? In a [new CSBA blog post](#), Policy & Programs Officer Christopher Maricle suggests that the research may say yes. There is a correlation between superintendent tenure and student achievement, according to some of the research. Evidence has shown that leadership turnover has an impact on school and district performance. Other research has demonstrated that in those districts that have successfully raised student achievement, the school boards have established productive relationships with the superintendent and other key district leaders. Maricle acknowledges that these relationships may be challenging to develop due to the Brown Act, which limits conversations to public board meetings, but they are nevertheless essential. "The ability of the board and the superintendent to maintain a productive partnership is just as important as any goal or strategy the board might embrace for reform," he says. For more about the research and what governance leaders can do, read the blog post, ["Reforms need time and leadership, and the board has the power to sustain both."](#)

### **White House increases educational support for Native Americans**

#### ***Native American students viewed as most vulnerable***

The Obama administration will be rolling out new plans to support education for Native Americans. The White House, in a new report, says Native American youth are the most "vulnerable population," and federal education policies have had a "devastating and continuing effect on Native peoples." In order to rectify the harm former federal policies have done, the White House plans to: elevate the role of tribes in education; allow Native American leaders to design schools and programs that embrace tribal values and traditions; create pipelines to recruit high-quality teachers; boost access to resources to combat the effects of systemic poverty; increase suicide prevention efforts; and improve services to better address the behavioral health needs of Native American youth. For more information, [read the full article](#).

## **Events, Training and Opportunities**

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### **Free AEC General Session live streaming *Tune in Sunday, Monday and Tuesday***

CSBA members who can't make it to this year's Annual Education Conference and Trade Show are invited to view the General Session live stream each day from the comfort of your home or office. Spread the word to any colleagues who may be interested. Please note that viewers must be CSBA members and must log in to [My CSBA](#). Make sure you know your My CSBA username and password; this is the

same username and password you used if you registered online for AEC. If you can't remember it, you can easily [reset your password here](#). We recommend you change your password immediately to something you can remember. If you need additional assistance with password retrieval, please contact us at (800) 266-3382. General sessions will feature Freeman Hrabowski, Amanda Ripley, and Salman Khan among others. For more information on presenters and general session live streaming dates and times, [visit our website](#).

## Member Services

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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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