

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews

weekly update



May 6, 2015

Upcoming Events

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

[May 15 - San Diego](#)

Delegate Assembly

[May 16 - 17 - Sacramento](#)

Legal Update Webcast: Board and Superintendent Relations

[May 20 - online](#)

Budget Perspectives Workshop: May 2015-16 Revision

[May - Northern California](#)

[May - Central California](#)

[May - Southern California](#)

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REALIZE THE POWER
OF PARTNERSHIP.

DOE issues final rule on compliance with IDEA's maintenance of effort

New rule takes effect July 1, 2015

The U.S. Department of Education on Tuesday, April 28, issued amendments to the regulations that govern the Assistance to States for the Education of Children with Disabilities program and the Preschool Grants for Children with Disabilities program. Both programs operate under the Individuals with Disabilities Act. The new rule requires LEAs to maintain their fiscal effort (also known as maintenance of effort) in order to meet the MOE compliance standard. In general, the rule states that school districts must be consistent each school year with regard to their MOE for special education. The rule also notes limited instances that would allow an LEA to reduce its spending while remaining compliant. A [summary](#) in Education Week includes a table from the DOE's rule, illustrating what it might look like in practice. The table "makes clear that school districts generally can only maintain or increase their spending on special education, not cut it." The [new rule](#) takes effect July 1, 2015.

State's cohort graduation rate at record high ***ELs experience largest percentage increase***

California's cohort graduation rate climbed for the fifth consecutive year in 2014 to a record high of 80.8 percent, according to numbers [released by the CDE](#) last week. The number of students who began high school in 2010-11 and graduated with their class in 2014 rose 0.4 percentage points from last year. Graduation rates for other student groups also increased, with English learners experiencing the largest jump of 2.2 percentage points over prior year. The EL graduation rate is now at 65.3 percent. The Hispanic graduation rose to 76.4 — up 0.7 percentage points. However, the graduation rate for African-American students remains unchanged at 68.1 percent. [View charts](#), which list graduation and dropout rates by graduating class, student subgroup and program.



New English/Spanish materials on Smarter Balanced Assessments available

SBA scores for students to go to school districts

Three new videos about Smarter Balanced Assessments are now available in the California Department of Education [CAASPP Communications Toolkit](#) in both Spanish and English. The videos center on SBA and college and career preparation. In addition, CDE is developing a guide and video for parents/guardians and teachers explaining how to read the student score reports. The guide and video will be available in June. The SBA take on an additional role this year, with the suspension of the Academic Performance Index for the 2014-15 school year. Although the API is suspended, students will still receive individual score reports, based on SBA, and local education agencies will still receive aggregate results (mean scale score and percentage of students by achievement level). Visit the [CDE CAASPP System Web page](#) for more information. Questions about the CAASPP system assessments should be directed by phone to 800-955-2954, or by [email](#).

CORE districts evaluate student achievement via multiple measures

10 school district collaborate to increase student success

With a mission statement that reads, “unwavering belief in equity and access for ALL students,” CORE districts also believe that all of their students can achieve at high levels. CORE districts are a collaboration of 10 districts that work together to create and implement innovative strategies to increase student achievement. CORE school districts include: Clovis, Garden Grove, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, Sacramento, Santa Ana and Sanger. These 10 districts believe that assessing student achievement isn’t the only way to gauge student success. Other factors, like chronic absenteeism, how students, teachers and parents view their schools, and suspension and expulsion rates are also considered. Rick Miller, the executive director of CORE, recently presented CORE’s findings to the LCFF Collaborative Working group created by CSBA and California Forward. To read more about CORE, visit their [website](#) and read [CA FWD’s article](#) about these reform-minded California schools.

CSBA fact sheet addresses drinking water access in schools

Covers legal requirements, infrastructure, board actions

Despite the number of hours students spend on school grounds, research shows that only one in four California schools is meeting the legal requirements for drinking water access as defined by state and federal policies. A new CSBA fact sheet, [Drinking Water Access in Schools](#), summarizes the health benefits of safe, adequate water consumption for students, as well as the effects that improper hydration can have on student achievement. A chart on suggested water consumption, broken down by student age range, is provided along with suggestions for promoting water consumption among students, faculty and parents. A revised wellness policy at Earlimart School District, which allows students to bring water into class, is highlighted as a best practice. The fact sheet closes with questions for school boards and recommended actions to help school districts plan for and conduct drinking water efforts in their schools.

Events, Training and Opportunities

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Please complete the iCount member survey by May 18 *Survey marks phase two of CSBA's iCount campaign*

Please ensure you participate in CSBA's iCount member survey, which launched last week. All board members and superintendents should have received an email Mon., April 27, containing links to the online survey. There are two versions of the iCount survey — one is designed for [board members](#) and another for [superintendents](#). The survey marks the second phase of CSBA's comprehensive iCount data-gathering campaign, and it represents a key element of CSBA's long-term planning efforts. By completing the survey, you have an opportunity to exercise your voice in the association by offering valuable feedback about CSBA services and critical statewide education issues. More than 2,000 board members completed the iCount census, and it is crucial that this participation level be matched when the survey concludes on Monday, May 18. Follow the links above to complete the survey today!

Budget Perspectives Workshop covers May Revision *No-cost workshops offered in May throughout California*

Many financial experts expect Gov. Brown's May Revision to propose additional funding for schools. The Budget Perspectives Workshop, prepared and co-presented by Capitol Advisors Group, CSBA, ACSA and the Small School Districts' Association will cover this proposal and more related to the 2015-16 Revision. Funding areas to be discussed include: continued implementation of the LCFF; the Common Core State Standards; special education; school facilities; adult education; career technical education; school district budget reserve restrictions; and STRS. Multiple sessions of the Budget Perspectives Workshop are being offered throughout May, and there is no cost to attend. Register online to attend a workshop in [Northern California](#), [Central California](#) or [Southern California](#).

Registration open for 2015 Student Board Member Symposiums

Program helps students understand board member role, responsibilities

Registration is open for three Student Board Member Symposiums happening this fall. Conducted by the California Association of Student Councils, the symposiums bring together students serving on school boards across California. However, anyone who wants to learn how to get more involved in the community or a school district is welcome to attend. The one-day intensive program focuses on equipping students with the necessary skills to effectively serve their communities. Led by staff with experience as student board members, the symposium presents best practices and helps students better understand their role and responsibilities. Topics covered include: California law relating to students; surveying student opinion; making effective presentations; providing systematic student feedback to teachers; and addressing challenges faced by student board members. The symposiums will be held Sept. 17 in San Jose, Sept. 23 in Costa Mesa and Oct. 7 at CSBA's headquarters in West Sacramento. [Registration information](#) is available on the CASC website.

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CSBA's Practi-Cal takes the hassle out of school-based Medi-Cal program services

CSBA's Practi-Cal provides local education agencies with LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option claims processing, consulting services for the Medi-Cal Administrative Activities Program and the newly developed Statewide Random Moment Time Survey program that started Jan. 1, 2015. Medi-Cal program reimbursements are crucial for recovering restricted and unrestricted school based federal funds for your students. Find out how Practi-Cal can save you time and money while assisting you in providing program compliance for a complicated reimbursement process. [Visit us online](#) today or call 800-266-3382, ext. 2603.

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

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