

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews

weekly update



June 10, 2015

Upcoming Events

Agenda Online Training
June 18

[Webinar for Meeting Managers](#)
[Webinar for Staff](#)
[Submitters/Reviewers](#)
[Webinar for Board Members](#)

2015 Back to School Webcast
Sept. 10

CCBE Fall Conference
Sept. 11-13

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Conference housing for AEC 2015 now open! *Art historian, sociologist headline General Sessions*

Registration for CSBA's Annual Education Conference and Trade Show opens Monday, June 22, but you can [register now for housing](#). The AEC Planning Committee is excited to announce this year's General Session speakers. The First General Session speaker, Sarah Lewis, is an art historian and a Du Bois Fellow at Harvard University who has served on President Obama's Arts Policy Committee. In her book, "The Rise: Creativity, the Gift of Failure, and the Search for Mastery," she explores the inestimable value of often ignored ideas. Dr. Pedro Noguera, the second General Session speaker, is the Peter L. Agnew Professor of Education at New York University and is a sociologist whose scholarship and research focus on the ways in which schools are influenced by social and economic conditions, as well as by demographic trends in local, regional and global contexts. Dr. Noguera is the author of several books, including "Excellence Through Equity: Five Principles of Courageous Leadership to Guide Achievement for Every Student." AEC 2015 will be held Dec. 3-5 in San Diego. Check your mailbox in late July for information about AEC sessions. More information is available on the [AEC website](#)!

CSBA iCount member survey due by June 15 *This is the final week to provide valuable feedback*

The deadline to complete CSBA's iCount member survey has been extended to Monday, June 15. The extension has been offered to ensure that all CSBA members have the opportunity to complete the survey, and to ensure that the results accurately reflect the voice of governing board members and superintendents throughout California. All CSBA members received an email June 3 containing a link to one of two corresponding surveys — one for governing board members and one for superintendents. Another email reminder will be sent Thursday, June 11. 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. Your survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete. If you are unable to access the survey via email, please contact [Christopher Maricle](#) at CSBA for assistance, 916-669-3306.

SB 277 passes Assembly Health Committee ***Vaccination bill moves to Assembly floor vote***

After a lengthy and highly contentious hearing on Tuesday, June 9, the Assembly Health Committee voted to pass [SB 277](#) (Pan/Allen), the vaccination bill that would eliminate the personal belief exemptions for mandatory vaccinations for California students. Constituents from around the state (including physicians, parents and representatives of various community and health organizations) attended the hearing and voiced both steadfast support and heated opposition to the measure prior to the committee's vote, where it passed 12-6, mostly along partisan lines. The committee did make amendments to the bill language, including clarification that the exemption for students enrolled in independent study applies only to non-classroom instruction, and clarifying the status of students already enrolled with a personal belief exemption (allowing those students to remain enrolled until they hit the next grade span). An additional amendment, clarifying that physicians may consider family medical history in determining a medical exemption, will also be added. Having already cleared the Senate, the bill now moves to a vote on the Assembly floor (where it is predicted to pass along party lines) before it hits the Governor's desk.

CDE creates online map of summer food program sites ***Families can go to any site and children can receive free meals***

Summer break doesn't mean students have to miss out on meals. Free meals are still available for hungry children and can be found at the California Department of Education's 2015 [Summer Meal Service Sites interactive map](#), or by calling 800-952-5609, option 3. According to CDE, just 20 percent of students who receive subsidized meals during the school year also use the summer meal program. The [Summer Food Service Program Information](#) map aims to boost those numbers by helping students locate food program sites. These sites open 15 days after the school year ends, or when year-round schools are on break. Families can go to any meal site and their children will receive free meals, with no income verification required. Many of these sites are scheduled to offer fun activities for children.

CSBA brief examines importance of civic learning ***Brief provides guidelines and questions for board members***

"One of the foremost responsibilities of schools is to train students to be future citizens – engaged and accountable members of society," according to *Why Civic Learning Is Critical*, a recently published CSBA Governance Brief. The brief explains that students who are "exposed to relevant and rigorous civic learning opportunities are better prepared than their peers to be participatory citizens." That is, they are more likely to vote, be engaged with their communities and able to shape their own futures. However, data from the [NAEP Civics Assessment](#) point to a civics learning achievement gap, and a lack of rigor and relevancy of civic education that "extends beyond race and ethnicity." The brief considers the long-term impact of this disparity in learning opportunities, as well as some of positive developments. For

example, the Common Core State Standards, which emphasize critical thinking, cross-curricular learning and project-based learning, may increase civic learning opportunities for all students. The brief provides guidelines for board members to consider when supporting civic education policy, outlines six proven practices for teaching civics, and closes with three key questions for board members and a list of other resources. [Read the brief.](#)

New video provides SBA overview

Three main components of SBA outlined

Confused about Smarter Balanced Assessments? Looking for ways to explain SBA to district constituents? The California Department of Education has released a short video that introduces the SBA assessments and describes the three main components of the system: summative assessments, interim assessments and the digital library. Watch the [new video](#) on the [CDE Smarter Balanced Assessment System Web page](#).

Events, Training and Opportunities

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Register now for the 2015 Unity Conference

California Latino School Boards Association's conference focuses on equity

[California Latino School Boards Association](#) is hosting the annual 2015 Unity conference at the Hilton San Diego/Del Mar, Oct. 1-4. This year's conference will focus on Education Equity & Academic Achievement: The Opportunity Gap Undressed. CLSBA invites trustees, administrators and community stakeholders to attend. Early bird registration is \$375. After June 30, registration is \$450. For more information on Unity Conference, 2015 call for proposals guidelines, and to register [visit CLSBA's website](#).

Five workshops on pesticide use scheduled

Ventura County leads state in pesticide proximity to schools

This week, state pesticide regulators said they will seek to [strengthen restrictions on pesticide use near schools](#). Starting May 28 in Sacramento, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation will hold five workshops. The workshops will center on public input on new standards for school pesticide notification procedures, and ways to reduce the risk of exposure. There will be four other meetings in key farming communities, including Ventura County, which has more schools with high concentrations of nearby pesticide use than any other county in the state. For dates and times of the workshop, visit the [California Department of Pesticide Regulation](#).

Member Services

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Feeling drained?

Recover significant money from utility and telecom overbillings

Overbillings continue to drain school district budgets unnecessarily. Thousands of dollars in refunds and future savings may be available to your school district or county office of education from Northwest Capital Recovery Group's expert analysis of telecom and utility billings. NWCRG has a 98 percent success rate and works on a strict contingency basis — if they don't get results, there's no fee. Overbillings are the result of inappropriate rates, tariffs, fees, taxes and erroneous service elements. In virtually all cases, the only bills districts are familiar with are their own and they don't see the anomalies that NWCRG has seen over the last twenty years. Visit [CSBA's website](#) or contact [Alest Walker](#) at 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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