

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews

weekly update



August 5, 2015

Upcoming Events

Student Accident Insurance: Best Practices to Protect Families in Your District

Aug. 12 - Online

2015 CCBE Annual Conference

Sept. 11 - Monterey

2015 Back-to-School Webcast

Sept. 15 - Online

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance / Setting Direction

Sept. 11 - Hayward

Sept. 19 - Visalia

Sept. 25 - Anaheim

MIG Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement / Policy & Judicial Review

Sept. 26 - Anaheim

Oct. 10 - Visalia

Oct. 16 - Hayward

MIG Course 3: School Finance

Sept. 25 - Anaheim

Nov. 7 - Visalia

Nov. 13 - Sacramento

MIG Course 4: Collective Bargaining / Human Resources

Sept. 26 - Anaheim

Nov. 14 - Sacramento

MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy / Governance Integration

Sept. 26 - Anaheim

Nov. 14 - Sacramento

News

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ELA asks Calif. Supreme Court to review *Davis v. Fresno USD*

Appellate decision creates confusion regarding lease-leaseback contracts and conflict of interest law

This week CSBA's Education Legal Alliance asked the California Supreme Court to accept a Petition for Review filed by the Fresno Unified School District in *Davis v. Fresno USD*. In a letter to the Court, the ELA requests review because "this matter is 'necessary to secure uniformity of decision' and 'to settle an important question of law.'" The appellate court struck down a lease-leaseback school construction contract and found that the conflict of interest provision in Government Code section 1090 applied to the corporate contractor. The decision has caused significant confusion and uncertainty regarding lease-leaseback contracts and the applicability of section 1090. The result is that many facility projects have been put on hold, cancelled, or scaled back — harming students, districts and COEs, and taxpayers. Similarly, given the serious criminal and civil consequences associated with violating section 1090, districts and county offices of education need clear guidance from the Supreme Court as to its scope. For more on this case, please read the latest Legal Insights column on page 11 of the summer 2015 issue of CSBA's [California Schools magazine](#), [available online](#).

Training on SBA scoring available for educators ***One-day workshops to be held throughout Calif. in August***

The Educational Testing Service will conduct a series of workshops on Smarter Balanced scoring. These workshops will train educators to score constructed responses for the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress Smarter Balanced Summative and Interim Assessments. During the one-day workshops, educators will work with prompts, rubrics, and sample papers, and have an opportunity to score responses and receive feedback. Educators may register for workshops by completing the [online registration form](#). ETS will cover local travel costs for attendees. Summer Scoring Workshops will take place on these dates at the following locations:

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- Fresno Hotel and Conference Center Education – Aug. 10 (English language arts/literacy); Aug. 11 (Mathematics)
- Los Angeles County Office of Education – Aug. 11 (Mathematics); Aug. 12 (ELA)
- Riverside County Office of Education – Aug. 17 (ELA and Mathematics)
- Humboldt County Office of Education – Aug. 17 (Mathematics); August 18 (ELA)
- San Diego (location to be determined) – Aug. 19 (ELA and Mathematics)
- Shasta County Office of Education – Aug. 19 (Mathematics); Aug. 20 (ELA)
- Ventura County Office of Education – Aug. 21 (ELA and Mathematics)

Questions about the workshops may be directed to the California Technical Assistance Center by [email](#) or phone at 800-955-2954.

CSBA now accepting Directors-at-large nominations ***Deadline to submit nominations: Friday, Oct. 2.***

Nominations for CSBA directors-at-large African American, American Indian, and County are being accepted through Friday, Oct. 2. Nomination forms and detailed information related to the nomination and election process are **available on CSBA's website**. Any district or county office of education whose board is a member of CSBA can submit nominations. (Please note: Directors-at-large, County seat nominations can only be submitted by a county offices of education whose board is a member of CSBA.) Elections will take place at CSBA's Delegate Assembly meeting in San Diego on Dec. 2-3. Directors-at-large serve two-year terms and take office immediately upon the close of CSBA's Annual Conference and Trade Show. Questions may be directed to CSBA's Leadership Services, 800-266-3382.

Small districts can now have smaller boards ***New law allows for flexibility***

A new law allows small school districts in California to reduce the size of their school boards. Districts with less than 300 average daily attendance the prior year can now have three board members instead of five. If ADA rises above 300, small districts may increase board size from three members to five. Authored by Assembly Member Marc Levine, AB 331 is particularly aimed at rural and small districts that often have difficulty finding five school board members. Previously, those districts had to fill all vacant seats, costing districts time and money. Currently, there are approximately 225 school districts statewide with 300 ADA or less. [Read the text of the bill](#) or [read more about the new law](#) .

CSBA's July newsletter now available ***Covers recent advocacy efforts, adequate funding and more***

Check your mailbox for the July issue of California School News, which is also available in digital format. Read about the second meeting of CSBA's Education Legal Alliance Adequacy Committee, which included presentations by the



21st Century Education Panel and California Forward on the topics of equity, financing, academic rigor and arts education. Also read about the first meeting of the School Board Caucus, which was assembled by CSBA with the goal of generating dialogue on issues of critical importance to school governance leaders and California students and their families. In addition, get updates on two teacher evaluation bills and other key education legislation, and find out what education reform leader Michael Fullan had to

say about “system change” and LCAPs at a recent meeting of the LCFF Collaborative Working Group. This issue also presents a snapshot of CSBA’s 2015-16 budget and covers highlights of the State Board of Education’s July 8-9 meeting. [Read the July issue.](#)

New SBE student member begins term this week
Palos Verdes Peninsula High School student also member of California State PTA board

The California State Board of Education recently welcomed Michael McFarland as the SBE’s 2015-16 student member. While Gov. Jerry Brown announced McFarland’s appointment in May, McFarland’s term will run Aug. 1, 2015 through July 31, 2016. McFarland hails from Rancho Palos Verdes and is a student at Palos Verdes Peninsula High School. Currently, he is the student board member of the California State PTA, a member of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District Board of Education and the California Association of Student Council’s Governmental Affairs director. The one-year term for former student member 2014-15, Kenton Shimosaki of Stockton, ended July 31. Visit the SBE website for [McFarland’s biography and photo.](#)

**Events,
 Training and
 Opportunities**



Webinar considers role of principal in reducing chronic absence
Register to attend Aug. 13 webinar

While everyone can help ensure students show up to class every day, principals are uniquely positioned to ensure their school adopts a comprehensive approach to improving attendance that fits with their overall approach to promoting academic achievement. Join the California Department of Education, the [Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#) and [Attendance Works](#) on Thursday, Aug. 13, for a one-hour webinar, Leading Attendance: How Elementary Principals in California Can Close the Achievement Gap by Reducing Chronic Absence. The presenters will highlight the work of principals who have made a difference in reducing chronic absence and raising student achievement. Special guests will include principals who are rallying their schools and communities to do the hard work of reducing chronic

absence. Participants will be able to access a new, free California principal's toolkit designed to place resources and strategies at their fingertips. Also, presenters will announce an opportunity for superintendents to nominate and recognize principals who are leading their schools and communities in reducing chronic absence. [Register today for the webinar](#), which is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m.

Aug. 12 webinar to discuss student accident insurance

Risks and challenges to school districts will be focus

With fall sports about to kick off, now is the time to think about how best to protect students from injuries on and off the field. Join CSBA next week for a one-hour webinar on the challenges facing schools and families when students are injured. These challenges include access to care — and how to pay for it — California Education Code compliance and liability mitigation. The webinar, Student Accident Insurance: Best Practices to Protect Families in Your District, takes place Wednesday, Aug. 12, from noon to 1 p.m. [Learn more or register.](#)

Register for CSBA's Back-to-School Webcast

Get the latest on pressing education issues

CSBA's annual Back-to-School Webcast is scheduled to stream live on Tuesday, Sept. 15, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. As the school year begins, you can look to CSBA's governmental relations experts for a comprehensive briefing on the latest and most important education issues facing your governance team in the 2015-16 school year. Topics include: the state budget (teacher support and professional development, preschool wraparound care and the identification of homeless students); the LCAP rubric; adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards, social science standards and English language arts standards; ESEA; and math misplacement. In addition, CSBA staff and guest speakers will provide election analysis and a legislative summary on the reserve cap, teacher evaluations and other legislation. You can tune in individually or as a group from a home, office or COE/district office computer. You will also have an opportunity to engage with presenters via the chat screen. [Register now for this free webcast.](#)

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CSBA's FlexFund Program offers lease/purchase financing for equipment and real property needs of \$5 million or less. Administered by George K. Baum & Company, the program can finance improvements to existing property and almost any major purchases of equipment, land or buildings, as well as smaller items such as furnishings and equipment. Our FlexFund lease program is also popular for financing interim construction in anticipation of receiving state aid or bond monies. [Visit our website](#) or contact Alest Walker at 800-266-3382, ext. 2603, for more information.

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

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