

California School News Weekly Update  
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# California schoolnews

weekly update



September 2, 2015

## Upcoming Events

**2015 CCBE Annual Conference**  
 Sept. 11 - Monterey

**One System: Reforming Education  
 to Serve All Students Webinar**  
 Sept. 22 - Online

**2015 CCSA Fall Workshop**  
 Sept. 18 - Emeryville

**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**

## News

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 OF PARTNERSHIP.

### **CSBA members urged to increase support for SB 799 Sept. 11 deadline approaching for passage of reserve cap legislation**

With the end of the legislative session now only nine days away, CSBA is intensifying efforts to pass SB 799 (Hill – D, San Mateo) and fix the cap on school district reserves. With support from 16 bipartisan co-authors, SB 799 would fix the reserve cap by reforming several key elements of the original budget trailer bill SB 858. These reforms include significantly increasing the size of the cap, clarification that it will apply only to general fund and reserve fund unassigned balances, and exempting small school districts (2,501 Average Daily Attendance or less). Recent press on SB 799 includes opinion pieces in the [Bakersfield Californian](#), [Modesto Bee](#) and [Los Angeles Daily News](#). The support of CSBA members is critical to ensuring the bill is passed. Please visit <http://www.fixthecap.com> and use the form provided to contact your representatives to urge their “aye” vote on SB 799. Your engagement is critical to ensuring that CSBA’s voice is heard on this issue as the legislative session comes to a close.

### **ELA asks Calif. Supreme Court to protect beneficial ruling** *Calif. Charter School Assoc. had asked Court to depublish appellate decision*

Last week, CSBA’s [Education Legal Alliance](#) filed an amicus letter opposing the California Charter School Association’s request of the California Supreme Court to depublish the appellate decision in [Westchester Secondary Charter School v. LAUSD](#). State law requires local education agencies such as districts or county offices of education to “make reasonable” efforts to facilities “near” to where a charter “wishes to locate.” The Westchester decision clarifies this requirement, which otherwise creates a situation ripe for litigation. The court first held an LEA did not have to offer space at the specific location requested by the charter. Additionally, the court held an LEA could consider the impact on district students and students from other charter schools in determining where to offer space to the charter. If approved, the request to depublish would prevent other districts from

Sept. 26 - Anaheim  
Nov. 14 - Sacramento

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relying on the decision as precedent in responding to future charter facility requests.

### **AB 975 school facilities bill held in legislature** ***Stalled legislation would provide contractor relief on lease-leaseback projects***

On Aug. 27, Senate Appropriations referred AB 975 (Mullin – D, San Mateo) back to the Senate Education Committee and it will not be heard prior to the end of the current legislative session. The bill would allow contractors of school facilities projects to still be paid even if the contract was later found to be invalid. The legislation is based on the highly publicized *Davis v. Fresno USD* case dealing with lease-leaseback school construction agreements. A request to hear an appeal on the case was recently denied by the California Supreme Court, meaning that the appellate court's finding for the plaintiff can now be held as statewide precedent on any similar cases which could arise. Additional legislation related to the *Davis v. Fresno* decision is likely to be introduced to the legislature in January, which CSBA will continue to closely monitor. The [Education Legal Alliance](#) will provide additional information on the impact of *Davis v. Fresno USD* in a forthcoming weekly edition of California School News.

### **CAASPP parent guides now online** ***Online guides available to help parents understand tests***

The California Department of Education now has an online guide available to help parents better understand the new Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments. Test scores are due to be released in September and differ from the previous STAR tests. Overall, the new SBA tests will reflect students' thinking and problem skills as part of a broader state push to ensure graduates are ready for college and the 21st century job market. The tests are taken spring for grades **three** through **eight**, and for **11th grade**. SBA exams are also taken on a computer and adapt to how a student performs to better match the test with ability. More support is also available for English language learners and students with disabilities. More information about the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments is available at [Smarter Balanced Assessments](#).

### **Important notice regarding Legislative Awards Program**

Due to an unforeseen internal server error, some of the nominations submitted online for CSBA's Legislative Awards Program may not have been received when they were originally submitted – Faxed or mailed nominations have all been received. To ensure your Legislator of the Year nomination was received, CSBA staff is asking any members who submitted an online form to please resubmit your nomination prior to the Sept. 11 deadline. Please [click here](#) to access the online form. We appreciate your participation in the [Legislative Awards Program](#) and apologize for any inconvenience.

### **CSBA's August newsletter now available** ***Read the latest on the reserve cap, CAHSEE and more***

Check your mailbox for the August issue of California School News, which is also available in [digital format](#). In this issue, CSBA President

Jesús Holguín writes about the need for more progress on bilingual education. You'll also read about the press conference introducing Senate Bill 799 — the CSBA-sponsored reserve cap legislation — at the State Capitol, plus the latest on Senate Bill 172, which would suspend administration of the California High School Exit Exam through the 2017-18 school year and remove passage of the exam as a requirement for graduation. Other stories cover S. 1777, the Every Child Achieves Act, which overhauls ESEA, and Assembly Bill 2706, which requires California schools to provide parents with health care coverage information beginning this school year. [Read the newsletter.](#)

## Events, Training and Opportunities

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### Register now for CLSBA conference *October event to center on education equity and achievement*

The [California Latino School Boards Association](#) in partnership with CSBA, the California Association of Latino Superintendents & Administrators, the California Association for Bilingual Education, and other organizations will host the annual 2015 CLSBA Unity conference at the Hilton San Diego/Del Mar, Oct. 1-4. The theme of this year's conference is Education Equity & Academic Achievement: The Opportunity Gap Undressed. CLSBA invites all school board trustees, administrators and community stakeholders to attend content-rich, action-oriented workshops tailored to today's educational and political climate. Full conference registration is \$450 and single-day registration is \$225. Register and find information about housing on CLSBA's website. For more information about the conference, contact [Barbara Flores](#).

### September is national suicide prevention month *Share valuable prevention information with schools and families*

September is national suicide prevention month. According to the [Jason Foundation](#), suicide kills more teenagers and young adults at a much higher rate than cancer, heart disease, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia, influenza, AIDS and chronic lung disease, combined. In order to spread awareness about the warning signs, Sept. 7-13 is national suicide prevention week. The theme this year is Preventing Suicide: Reaching Out and Saving Lives. Share important [suicide prevention information](#) with other educational leaders, learning communities and through social media throughout this week and the month of September. Learn how to get involved at [Each Mind Matters](#) and get campaign materials to share with students' families in English, Spanish, Chinese, Hmong, Khmer, Korean, Lao, Tagalog and Vietnamese. CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy also writes about youth suicide in the summer issue of [California Schools magazine](#).

## Member Services

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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 educational 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 January 1, 2015. Medicaid 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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