

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

December 9, 2020

Opt-in to receive texts about important education events and COVID-19 developments by texting CSBA4Kids to 52886.

In this Issue

- [COVID-19 update: Stay-at-home orders in place for some regions; existing CDPH guidance for schools remains in place](#)
- [Legislative update: New session begins with a number of bills addressing broadband access](#)
- [CSBA's 2020 virtual Annual Education Conference by the numbers](#)
- [Honoring CSBA's Golden Awards recipients](#)
- [Court finds plaintiff may still recover for violation of public bidding requirements after completion of the school construction contract](#)
- [Register for CSBA's spring classes today](#)
- [CSBA's Delegate Assembly nomination and candidate biographical sketch forms due Jan. 7, 2021](#)
- [Coverage you need to ensure student and district safety](#)

COVID-19 update: Stay-at-home orders in place for some regions; existing CDPH guidance for schools remains in place



In a Dec. 7 morning press conference, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced that the **state's 14-day test positivity rate is 8.4 percent** and continues to rise, and there has been a **69 percent increase in hospitalized COVID-19 patients** over the same time frame. Two regions, **Southern California and San Joaquin Valley**, have ICU capacities that have fallen below the 15 percent capacity and thus

triggered **stay-at-home orders for those regions**. As reported last week by CSBA, the new orders do not change **existing guidance for schools** from the California Public Health Department. Despite this, some counties are taking further precautions in consultation with local health departments. Los Angeles County school campuses will **shut down completely** beginning Thursday, Dec. 10. In-person tutoring and some special education services have been performed with precautions on campuses.

As of Monday, **ICU regional capacity was:** Bay Area – 25.7 percent; Greater Sacramento – 20.3 percent; Northern California – 28.2 percent; San Joaquin Valley – 6.3 percent; Southern California – 10.9 percent.

In other COVID-19 developments:

- **CDC shortens COVID-19 quarantine recommendations:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention **issued new guidance** for people who have been in close contact with those diagnosed with COVID-19. The guidance states the **quarantine can end after day 10 if no symptoms have been reported from daily monitoring; quarantine can end after day seven if a diagnostic test comes back negative for COVID-19 and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring**. The specimen may be collected and tested within 48 hours before the time of planned discontinuation of quarantine, but quarantine **cannot be discontinued earlier than after day seven**. Federal health officials said the ideal quarantine period is still 14 days.
- **GAO report finds schools have struggled to serve students with disabilities and English learners during pandemic:** In accordance with the CARES Act, the Government Accountability Office published a **report outlining the challenges** schools faced when providing distance learning to ELs and students with disabilities. GAO researchers **reviewed distance learning plans from 15 school districts with high proportions of either students with disabilities or EL students**, and interviewed advocates, researchers and national education organizations. The researchers found that the most significant challenges facing EL students and students with disabilities include a lack of necessary technology, language barriers and providing for basic family needs.

Legislative update: New session begins with a number of bills addressing broadband access



The California Legislature rang in the 2021–22 session in socially distanced style on Monday, Dec. 7, swearing in members and announcing priorities for the coming year. Senators and Assemblymembers wasted no time in introducing 185 new pieces of legislation for consideration when they return in January 2021, including a number of notable education proposals covering the reopening of schools

during the COVID-19 crisis, expanding broadband access, early learning programs and funding for school facilities. Four bills introduced indicate the Legislature will make broadband access a priority, reflecting CSBA's consistent advocacy for universal broadband since the earliest days of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read about the new bills on the CSBA blog »](#)

CSBA's 2020 virtual Annual Education Conference by the numbers



The first virtual **2020 Annual Education Conference from Dec. 3–4 had more than 2,000 attendees** joining a total of 45 sessions, which were available twice. These 45 sessions — covering Advocacy and Community Engagement; Equity, Opportunity and Accountability; Funding, Finance and Facilities; Innovation and Student Achievement; Leadership Through Governance; and

Wellness, School Climate and Safety — **generated almost 29,000 views** from board members, administrators, superintendents and executive assistants. **Three inspiring and informative General Session Speakers** — Jason Dorsey, president of the Center for Generational Kinetics; Hadi Partovi, CEO of the education nonprofit Code.org, tech entrepreneur and investor; and Leslie Odom Jr., multifaceted Tony and Grammy Award-winning performer — over **two days** made for **one incredible experience**.

The end of CSBA's annual conference also **marks the ascension of new association officers**. CSBA welcomes 2021 CSBA President Suzanne Kitchens from Pleasant Valley School District in Ventura County, CSBA President-elect Susan Heredia from Natomas USD in Sacramento County and CSBA Vice President Susan Markarian from Pacific Union Elementary School District in Fresno County. Xilonin Cruz-Gonzalez from the Azusa Unified School District will serve as Immediate Past President.

And this year's learning does not stop at the end of conference! If you attended AEC, you now have access to all conference sessions on the [CSBA Online Learning Center](#).

Honoring CSBA's Golden Awards recipients



CSBA created the **Golden Awards program to recognize the extraordinary work school districts and county offices of education engage in across California**. The prestigious **Golden Bell Awards promotes excellence in education and school board governance by recognizing outstanding programs and governance practices of school boards** in local educational agencies throughout

California. [Watch the Golden Bell Award Ceremony and browse all of the winners »](#)

The **Golden Gavel Award honors individual school board members and governance teams who exemplify best practices in effective governance and boardsmanship**. CSBA is honored to announce **Milpitas Unified School District Board Vice President Chris Norwood as the 2020 CSBA Board Member of the Year recipient**. Since 2014, Norwood has demonstrated what it means to lead for students, the schools they attend, and their community. [Read more about the board member of the year »](#)

The **Golden Quill Awards highlight the essential role that journalists play in increasing understanding of public schools** and are given in recognition of fair, insightful and accurate reporting on public school news by individual print, broadcast and online news media representatives. **The 2020 recipients are:** Jeff Hudson, *David Enterprise*; Tori James, *Clarke Broadcasting*; Eliana Lopez, *KUNA (Kunamundo/KESQ)*; Dawn Megli, *The Acorn*; Damian Trujillo, *NBC Universal, KNTV*; and Howard Yune, *Napa Valley Register*.

Court finds plaintiff may still recover for violation of public bidding requirements after completion of school construction contract



On Nov. 24, 2020, a California appellate court held in *Davis v. Fresno Unified School District* that the plaintiff's claim that a contract for school construction violated public bidding requirements was not moot after construction was completed, because the plaintiff could still recover by having the contractor pay back to the district the profits they received to build the middle

school. The case has been remanded to the lower court for further proceedings.

The case originated in 2012, when the plaintiff, who was also a building contractor, successfully sued the school district and building contractor, alleging they entered into a \$36.7 million lease-leaseback construction contract in violation of California's competitive bidding requirements. After a series of judgments and appeals, the trial court held in 2019 that the case was moot because the middle school was already completed. The decision on Nov. 24 found that the case could continue as relief was still available through the contractor refunding or "disgorging" profits earned under the contract, and is a reminder to districts and contractors of the importance of properly executing the procedures required of construction contracts. Read more about the case »

Register for CSBA's winter classes today



2021 CSBA trainings are now open for registration! With newly elected board members in mind, CSBA has increased the availability of many of its trainings. Coming up fast is the **Orientation for New Trustees on Jan. 9**; the **Brown Act on Jan. 15**, and **two available Institutes for New and First-term Board Members** in early February! View the full slate of spring trainings, including the

Board Presidents' Workshop and **Masters in Governance for County Offices of Education**, on the CSBA website. Virtual sessions offer convenience and safety. [Learn more and register »](#)

CSBA's Delegate Assembly nomination and candidate biographical sketch forms due Jan. 7, 2021



CSBA's Delegate Assembly is a vital link in the association's governance structure. **Working with local districts, county offices of education, the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, Delegates ensure that the association reflects the interests of school districts and county offices of education throughout California.** Nomination materials are due Thursday, Jan. 7.

Information related to the election process and forms are available to download [here »](#)

Coverage you need to ensure student and district safety



Accidents happen. Are your students covered? To help our members **best address the insurance-related issues, CSBA has joined forces with California's leading provider of student accident and sickness insurance. Myers-Stevens & Toohy** is a full-service administrator based in Southern California that has worked closely with public K-12 schools for over 35 years. [Learn more »](#)

COVID-19 resources

Business Services

Stay up to date with the latest news and resources related to COVID-19 on [CSBA's](#)

[dedicated webpage](#) and with articles frequently posted on the newly redesigned [CSBA blog](#).

Virtual events

Masters in Governance for County Offices of Education Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance / Setting Direction
Dec. 8 & 10 | [Registration closed](#)

Orientation for New Trustees
Jan. 9 | [Register here](#)

MIG COE Course 2: Policy & Judicial Review / Student Learning & Achievement
Feb. 16 & 27, 2021 | [Register here](#)

MIG COE Course 3: Facilities & Finance / Charter Schools
March 20 & 27, 2021 | [Register here](#)

MIG COE Course 4: Community Relations & Advocacy / Governance Integration
April 17 & 24, 2021 | [Register here](#)

*All 2020 in-person events have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[View complete calendar](#)

 **CLIMATEC**[®]
MERGING BUILDINGS & TECHNOLOGY

SpyGlass

D | W | K

DANNIS WOLIVER KELLEY

Attorneys at Law

