

# California schoolnews

Weekly Update

October 28, 2020

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## COVID-19 update: CDE announces large facemask donation



State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced on Oct. 22 that the California Department of Education received **500,000 cloth facemasks donated by General Motors** for students in need across the state. In a [press conference](#) announcing the donation, Thurmond said that allocation of the face coverings **will prioritize the highest-need communities most heavily impacted**

**by the virus**, including families of farmworkers, African American and Latino students, children of essential workers and California tribal communities. The CDE will be working with county offices of education to distribute the donated masks.

### In other COVID developments:

- The CDE has partnered with major technology companies and internet service providers to develop programs that make it easier for schools to acquire necessary equipment and services for their students. **A large portion of learning loss mitigation funds that schools have received require devices to be secured by Dec. 30, 2020.** If your LEA has not placed orders yet, the CDE encourages it to start the process now, as devices are in high demand across the country. [Learn more »](#)
- The U.S. Treasury Department has released an **updated version of its frequently asked questions on the Coronavirus Relief Fund**, which was authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The FAQs had previously been updated to state the presumption that **expenses up to \$500 per student at elementary and secondary schools would be allowable under the CRF without schools being required to document specific costs up to that amount.** To clarify that point, the updated document says that if recipients choose to take advantage of that \$500 per student flexibility, then the recipient may not also cover the costs of additional school reopening aid with the exception of the following costs: expanding broadband capacity; hiring new teachers; developing an online curriculum; acquiring computers and similar digital devices; acquiring and installing additional ventilation or other air filtering equipment; incurring additional transportation costs; or incurring additional costs of providing meals.

## New report finds student homelessness on the rise, even before pandemic hit



New research reveals that even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, student homelessness was already on the rise and is estimated to worsen. According to [State of Crisis, Dismantling Student Homelessness in California](#) from the UCLA Center for the Transformation of Schools, **more than 269,000 K-12 students in California were homeless in the 2018–19 school year.** The

report, which analyzes data from the California Department of Education and includes findings from over 150 interviews, **shows a striking increase of student homelessness by nearly 50 percent in the past decade.** The report's findings are alarming: two out of three students experiencing homelessness in California receive no federal funding. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is intended to support the educational success of students experiencing homelessness. Yet, **just 106 of 1,037 (9 percent) of school districts in California actually receive these funds.** [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

## CSBA debuts new Masters in Governance program for County Offices of Education



CSBA is always working to better serve our members and we are happy to announce the launch of the new Masters in Governance for County Offices of Education. **This program is specially designed for county office board members to provide the knowledge and skills to build and support an effective governance structure.** MIG COE features four courses: Foundation of Effective

Governance/Setting Direction; Policy and Judicial Review/Student Learning and Achievement; Finance, Facilities and Charter Schools; and Community Relations and Advocacy/Governance Integration. **Interwoven into each course is a focus on equity and issues specific to COEs.** In addition to the new courses, CSBA has hired new faculty, including current and retired COE board members and superintendents. **Courses begin Dec. 8 and will be delivered virtually through April 2021.** [Learn more and register today »](#)

## AEC spotlight: Jason Dorsey, president of the Center for Generational Kinetics



CSBA's **2020 Annual Education Conference will be presented in a virtual format — giving attendees access to critical expertise and perspective from the comfort of their home or office.** The conference takes place Dec. 3–4, with virtual preconference activities happening from Nov. 30–Dec. 2. [Register here »](#)

The always dynamic and inspiring General Session speakers provide one of the highlights of AEC. CSBA spoke with **General Session speaker Jason Dorsey about the Center for Generational Kinetics, why knowledge about multiple generations can lead to workplace success and harmony, and why board members need to attend his talk.** [Read the interview »](#)

## CSBA's Cash Reserve Program can help weather education funding volatility



A new report from the Public Policy Institute of California, [Funding California Schools When Budgets Fall Short](#), finds that, **while the state's finances are stronger today than after the Great Recession a decade ago, local educational agencies this time around have drastically increased spending to keep children safe and learning from home.**

To continue funding K–12 at roughly the same level as last year, the 2020–21 state budget relies heavily on deferrals. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

To help LEAs balance budgets, **CSBA offers support through the California School Cash Reserve Program.** The program, provided in partnership with Dale Scott & Company; Piper Sandler; and Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe, **creates an additional cash**

reserve to the general fund, helping guard against temporary cash flow shortages in a safe, cost-effective way. Participants issue Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANS) through a streamlined, pooled process so that districts don't have to shoulder the burden alone. **LEAs that would like to be included in the February pool must apply by Nov. 20, 2020.** [Learn more and apply here »](#)

## County office lead needed for California Dyslexia Initiative



The California Department of Education and the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence are **seeking letters of interest from county offices of education that have the capacity to lead the California Dyslexia Initiative.** The goals of the CDI include building capacity in the statewide system of support for LEAs to provide early intervention services and supports for students with specific learning disabilities such as dyslexia;

identifying effective models for identification and treatment of specific learning disabilities; developing and delivering professional development on evidence-based instruction and strategies informed by research; developing partnerships between school districts, COEs and charter schools; and using the statewide system of support structure to disseminate professional learning, resources and information developed or identified as a result of the CDI. **Letters of interest must be submitted by 4 p.m. this Friday, Oct. 30.** [Learn more »](#)

## Let Total School Solutions help with your Facilities Master Plan



Do your facilities support your educational and programmatic goals? A **Facilities Master Plan provides a district with vital information regarding current and future needs for student housing, quality of existing facilities, and facilities renovation and expansion requirements to meet the district's educational and programmatic goals.** The Master Plan also assists the district

in identifying funding needs for capital improvement and developing financing options. Total School Solutions facilities master plans include accurate projections regarding enrollment, careful determination of school site capacity, educational specifications to ensure programmatic needs are served, a detailed need assessment and conclusions and recommendations about the availability and timing of financing and funding. [Learn more »](#)

## COVID-19 resources

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

**2020 Annual Education Conference**  
Dec. 3-4 | [Register here](#)

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

## Business Services

**aalrr**  
Atkinson, Andelson  
Loya, Ruud & Romo  
A Professional Law Corporation

SpyGlass

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

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

\*All Masters in Governance courses through Nov. 14, 2020 are sold out.

[View complete calendar](#)



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