

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

October 7, 2020

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

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COVID-19 update: Scaled back HEROES Act approved by House, no Senate agreement



The U.S. House of Representatives last week passed a \$2.2 trillion **COVID relief package**, a pared-down HEROES Act, in an effort to provide relief prior to the November general election. The bill includes **\$436 billion in emergency aid for state and local governments; \$225 billion for schools and child care**; \$1,200 stimulus checks for most Americans; money to restore \$600 expanded unemployment payments through

January; **\$75 billion for coronavirus testing, contact tracing and other health care efforts**; and funding for housing assistance, the census, U.S. Postal Service and elections.

The bill passed mostly along party lines and there is so far no agreement on the proposal with the Senate nor the White House. On Tuesday, President Donald Trump directed Republican representatives to stop negotiating for a new coronavirus relief package until after the election. [See a one-page summary of the bill »](#)

In other COVID-19 developments:

- The California Department of Education has released an **updated guide to assist local educational agencies with meeting statutory requirements for tracking daily participation and weekly engagement**, as well as certifying instructional time being assigned to students. The optional guide is designed to provide a menu of options for tracking attendance and engagement and **provides information on modifying existing internal student information systems, learning management systems** or by creating a local process/system that includes all required elements. [Read the guide »](#)
- The Federal Communications Commission **extended the waiver of the E-Rate program's gift rules until Dec. 31, 2020**. The waiver, created in March, is designed to enable rural broadband providers to offer discounts and service upgrades to low-income households and support online learning for students displaced by the coronavirus pandemic. The temporary change **allows E-Rate program participants to "solicit and accept improved connections or additional equipment for telemedicine or remote learning during the coronavirus outbreak."**
- Though details have yet to be released, on Sept. 30, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced that the **CDE has worked closely with technology companies to make available more than 500,000 more computing devices for California students in need**. "Thousands of devices will be made available within weeks as many schools either continue distance learning or transition to hybrid models that require some remote instruction," according to the [press release](#).

Legislative update: Gov. Newsom vetoes ethnic studies and LCFF bills



Sept. 30 marked the final deadline for Gov. Gavin Newsom to sign or veto bills sent to his desk during the 2020 legislative session.

With [his message](#) citing concerns that the model curriculum requires further revision, Gov. Newsom **vetoes Assembly Bill 331 (Medina, D–Riverside), which would have added the completion of a one-semester course in ethnic studies to the high school graduation**

requirements beginning in the 2029–30 school year.

The Governor also vetoed [AB 1835 \(Weber, D–San Diego\)](#), which would have required LEAs to identify and report unspent Local Control Funding Formula supplemental and concentration grant funds annually and clarified that the unspent funds **must continue to be used to increase or improve services for unduplicated pupils in future years**. In his [veto message](#), Gov. Newsom wrote that he deeply supported the underlying goal of the bill but was concerned that it could not be implemented in a timely manner and is “directing the Department of Finance to propose language for your consideration as part of my budget in January.” [Read about more signed legislation on the CSBA blog »](#)

Plan your AEC agenda with the new Schedule-at-a-Glance



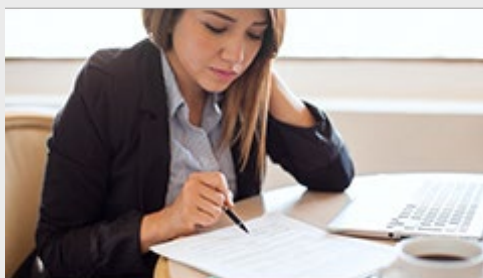
The 2020 AEC Schedule-at-a-Glance is now available on our conference website, allowing you to **prepare for a jam-packed day of education insights, leadership development and networking opportunities** like never before.

This year's interactive features include:

- 48 highly-focused Breakout Sessions
- Meet & Greets with General Session speakers
- Live chats on the virtual Trade Show Floor
- Sunrise Starts and Night Owl Cafes to connect with colleagues

[View the Schedule-at-a-Glance now »](#) | [Register for AEC »](#)

CCEE Request for Proposals: Professional learning opportunities and materials



The California Collaborative for Educational Excellence is **seeking submissions of professional learning opportunities and materials that build the capacity of local educational agencies as they respond to the evolving educational environment in response to COVID-19, distance and hybrid learning, and social justice/equity issues**.

Content areas to support instruction in distance or hybrid-learning instructional models may include, but are not limited to quality instructional

practice, accelerating learning, social-emotional learning and well-being, supporting instruction for all students, support for teachers and staff, and data and technology support. [Learn more »](#)

2021–22 FAFSA form available now available online



The U.S. Department of Education announced on Oct. 1 that the **2021–22 Free Application for Federal Student Aid** form is now [available online](#). The enhanced website offers more help topics than in previous years and other changes made as a result of user feedback, including images of the forms with relevant line numbers visually highlighted to help applicants navigate the FAFSA form. The deadline for many of

California's state financial aid programs is March 2, 2021. [Learn more »](#)

Celebrating Latino Heritage Month on the CSBA blog



California has more than 15 million Hispanic and Latino residents, or just under 40 percent of its population. **Hispanic Heritage Month is recognized nationwide from Sept. 15–Oct. 15 as a time to honor the cultures and contributions of these Hispanic and Latino Americans.** Gov. Gavin Newsom, in a [proclamation issued on Sept. 15, 2020](#), recognized Latino Heritage Month to honor and

recognize the contributions of this diverse group, “with roots throughout Latin America and beyond, many Latino Californians also trace their heritage to the original Indigenous communities of Latin America and Africa.” The **CSBA blog is recognizing Latino Heritage month with a series of [blog posts](#). [Read more »](#)**

Comprehensive performance audits for your district's bond funds

Annual Proposition 39 **PERFORMANCE AUDITS**

CSBA believes that a performance audit of bond funds should be comprehensive enough to assess the **best use of taxpayer money and provide recommendations for improvements based on best practices in procurement and construction.** CSBA partners with Total School Solutions in providing **comprehensive performance audits to assist our members** in improving their bond-funded facilities programs.

Please contact Susan Lendway at 707-422-6393 to request a proposal for your performance audit. [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

Masters in Governance Course 2
Oct. 8 & 14 | **Sold out**

2020 CCSA Virtual Fall Workshop
Oct. 9 | **Registration closed**

Masters in Governance Course 3
Oct. 27-28 | **Sold out**

2020 Annual Education Conference
Dec. 3-4 | [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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