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California schoolnews

Weekly Update

September 23, 2020

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In this Issue

- COVID-19: New resources for LEAs; survey collecting testing strategy information
- Legislative update: Governor signs bills related to worker's compensation and funding
- CCBE virtual conference features inspiring sessions and informative speakers
- Public feedback sought for Comprehensive State Literacy Plan
- Masters in Governance training has gone virtual. Sign up and learn today!
- 2021 CSBA officer candidates
- Nominate a CSBA Director-At-Large by Oct. 2
- Full-service OPEB liability prefunding

COVID-19: New resources for LEAs; survey collecting testing strategy information



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention **released new guidance on Sept. 15 to aid local educational agencies in school reopening decisions.** Though the guidance comes well after the start of the school year for many LEAs, it provides suggested reopening criteria for states that have not set their own. California released updated reopening guidelines for the economy

and schools **on Aug. 28** that are more detailed than those from the CDC, so **no additional measures are necessary for LEAs.** The CDC document proposes three core indicators that should drive decision-making and, similar to California's new guidelines, **includes a color-coded system that determines lowest- to highest-risk areas depending on the core indicators.** [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

In other COVID-19 developments:

- In collaboration with the State Board of Education and the California Health and Human Services Agency, the California Department of Education is **collecting information on local COVID-19 testing strategies for schools via an [online survey](#).** Please **respond to this survey by Oct. 2, 2020.** The **information collected will be critical in helping inform officials' decisions moving forward in developing state testing strategies and supports.** The survey should take 10-15 minutes to complete, and only needs to be completed by one representative from each LEA or private school. [Take the survey »](#)
- In the agreement on a [resolution](#) to extend government funding through Dec. 11, **Congressional and White House officials included an extension of the school lunch program waivers that have ensured millions of children remain fed during school closures caused by the pandemic.** Specifically, the resolution **extends the USDA's authority to issue child nutrition waivers through fiscal year 2021.** CSBA, as part of a larger nutrition coalition, has been [advocating for the USDA to extend these essential waivers](#) and increase funding to better ensure that school districts and county offices of education are equipped to provide the nutritious meals that children across the country need now more than ever. [Learn more »](#)
- The California Collaborative for Educational Excellence has published online [The Health & Safety Guidebook for California LEAs](#), which builds on industry guidance from the California Department of Public Health. Developed in collaboration with the California State Board of Education, **the resource supports the safe reopening of schools by providing rationale, tools and resources that LEAs can use or adapt** to support their community health context, facilities and school operations, safe school environments, and cohorts and schedules. [View the resource »](#)
- The Federal Communications Commission on Sept. 16 announced **a second E-Rate application window for funding year 2020, with applications being**

accepted until Oct. 16, 2020. With the funds, **schools will be able to purchase additional bandwidth to address digital learning demands** associated with instructional changes associated with the pandemic. [Learn more »](#)

Legislative update: Governor signs bills related to worker's compensation and funding



Gov. Gavin Newsom continues to sign and veto this year's crop of legislation, with a deadline of Sept. 30 just a week away. In the last week, **the Governor signed two key bills related to worker's compensation during the COVID-19 crisis and the 2020—21 education budget.** CSBA will continue to update members as additional legislation is signed or vetoed.

- **Senate Bill 1159 (Hill, D-San Mateo)** adds **COVID-19-related illness or death to the list of on-the-job injuries covered by worker's compensation until Jan. 1, 2024**, and reduces an employee's burden to prove that they contracted COVID-19 at work. The bill is effective immediately.
- **Budget trailer bill SB 820** makes further changes to the education budget and related requirements for LEAs. **The bill creates a pathway for LEAs to receive average daily attendance funding for growing enrollment during the state of emergency and provides additional time to spend and report learning loss mitigation funds.** SB 820 also **creates reporting requirements** for the new Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan template and clarifies distance learning requirements related to synchronous and asynchronous learning and recording. The bill is effective immediately.

CCBE virtual conference features inspiring sessions and informative speakers



The California County Boards of Education hosted its first virtual annual conference Sept. 11–12, offering an array of learning opportunities. Individual sessions included **strategies for managing alternative school programs; teaching and supporting students' social-emotional health during the COVID-19 crisis; and a focus on providing equity for all students.** Keynote

speakers covered the pressing digital divide and offered a legislative recap, and **CCBE President Janet Wohlgemuth and CSBA President Xilonin Cruz-Gonzalez lauded the critical work of county board trustees during these tumultuous times.** “Our current challenges exceed the capacity of local school districts to handle alone. School districts and the students they serve rely on county boards for information, guidance and support and to be the bridge between their local communities and the state.” Cruz-Gonzalez said. [Read a recap on the CSBA blog »](#)

Public feedback sought for Comprehensive State Literacy Plan



The state's **draft Comprehensive State Literacy Plan** is now open for its public comment and review period, with a **survey posted online** and comments also being accepted **via email**. The draft plan, which is a key part of the California Department of Education's work to implement a federal literacy grant, **aligns and integrates state literacy initiatives, content standards and**

state guidance documents to support teachers of students through grade 12. The feedback period will close on Oct. 28. At its November meeting, the IQC will consider feedback for potential revisions to the draft plan. [Learn more and offer your feedback »](#)

Masters in Governance training has gone virtual. Sign up and learn today!



CSBA is offering members the opportunity to reschedule Masters in Governance trainings, complete any MIG training that members may have begun prior to COVID-19 or begin the MIG program. In a time when things are rapidly changing and the “new normal” continues to shift, questions about good governance continue to come to the forefront and **it is more important than ever**

for board members to stay up to date and informed. The CSBA faculty is ready to assist with training in an easy and convenient format on issues that are crucial to your board’s ability to effectively govern your district. Take advantage of these small group, virtual trainings to be delivered on **a variety of dates and times.** [Learn more and register »](#)

2021 CSBA officer candidates



CSBA’s Nominating Committee met on Sept. 19, 2020, via Zoom virtual meeting to interview the following candidates for **President-elect and Vice President of CSBA.** For President-elect: Susan Heredia, Natomas USD. For Vice President: Susan Markarian, Pacific Union ESD. Following the candidate interviews and the Committee’s deliberations, the Committee nominated Susan Heredia as candidate for

President-elect and Susan Markarian as candidate for Vice President.

Qualified individuals interested in being nominated from the floor of the Delegate Assembly for either President-elect or Vice President, must **submit a complete Declaration of Candidacy packet along with their written intention to run, on or before Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020.** Intentions to run from the floor and the packet must be submitted to CSBA President Xilonin Cruz-Gonzalez **by email**, and the Nominating Committee Chair Christina Lucero [here](#). Find [more information online](#).

Nominate a CSBA Director-at-Large by Oct. 2



Nominations for **CSBA Directors-at-Large for Asian/Pacific Islander and Hispanic are being accepted through Friday, Oct. 2.**

Directors-at-Large must be nominated by a CSBA member board and nominees must be a member of a member board. **All candidates must submit a completed nomination form, a completed candidate form and two letters of recommendation.** The candidate form and

letters of recommendation will be published in the Delegate Assembly agenda packet exactly as submitted; it is the responsibility of the nominee to ensure these documents have been submitted to CSBA by the due date. [Learn more and apply »](#)

Full-service OPEB liability prefunding



The OPEB Solutions Program is a full-service GASB-compliant, **IRS-approved trust program designed to help your district safely and securely set aside funds to address and lower your Other Post-Employment Benefits liability.** Prefunding into a qualified trust such as the OPEB Solutions Program is considered “best practice” by the Government Finance Officers

Association and is a powerful way to quickly and easily get a hold of your OPEB obligations, lower risk, increase value and make your district’s money go the distance.

[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 Course 2

Oct. 8 & 14 | [Register here](#)

2020 CCSA Virtual Fall Workshop

Oct. 9 | [Register here](#)

Masters in Governance Course 3

Oct. 27-28 | [Register here](#)

2020 Annual Education Conference

Dec. 3-4 | [Register here](#)

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

[View complete calendar](#)



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