



December 2, 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: Survey shows homeless student identification plummeting during campus closures](#)
- [Register now for CSBA's Orientation for New Trustees \(additional dates available!\)](#)
- [Native American student attendance must be prioritized, as highlighted by new state data](#)
- [IQC moves State Literacy Plan to State Board](#)
- [Are you ready for AEC 2020? Connect with CSBA now](#)
- [Temporary cash flow for districts and COEs](#)

COVID-19 update: Survey shows homeless student identification plummeting during campus closures



A national SchoolHouse Connection [survey of 1,444 McKinney-Vento education liaisons](#) in 49 states found a **28 percent drop in the identification of homeless students compared to fall 2019, amounting to an estimated 420,000 fewer children identified at the start of the 2020–21 school year.** The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act requires districts to appoint a homeless education liaison and

ensure homeless students have the same access to education as other learners, which includes identifying, enrolling and providing transportation for homeless students — a monumental task made more difficult as a result of the pandemic.

CSBA President Xilonin Cruz-Gonzalez shined a spotlight on the issue in a Nov. 23 [column](#) in *CalMatters*. **California has the highest number of homeless youth in the country. More than 269,000 K-12 students are experiencing homelessness, and that number is likely to grow as families face widespread evictions.** While student homelessness is a problem that cannot be solved by educational institutions alone, “schools and school boards play a pivotal role in bringing services, resources and academic support to students to improve their ability to get educated, find employment and improve their quality of life,” Cruz-Gonzalez said.

In other COVID-19 developments:

- **The National Assessment of Educational Progress, also known as the Nation's Report Card, has officially been postponed for 2021** by the U.S. Department of Education. James Woodworth, Commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics, [announced](#) the decision Nov. 25, noting that the change would allow local educational agencies struggling with the pandemic to stabilize before attempting a large-scale national assessment. [Learn more »](#)
- The [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) directed businesses with fewer than 500 employees to cover that time off at two-thirds pay. Under the law, employers can recoup those wages with a dollar-for-dollar tax write-off. **This temporary federal program that has allowed parents and legal guardians to take up to 12 weeks of emergency family leave to help kids with distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic expires at the end of 2020,** leaving families who have relied on this option with few meaningful alternatives. **This is likely to impact many California households, where Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Nov. 30 that 51 of 58 counties are now in “purple,” or the most restrictive tier in terms of school and business closures.** Congress is facing a Dec. 11 deadline to fund the federal government and prevent a holiday shutdown, while prospects for another coronavirus relief measure have been stalemated for months.

Register now for CSBA's Orientation for New Trustees (additional dates available!)



Due to popular demand, **CSBA has added two more days of its Orientation for New Trustees program to the training calendar.** The one-day **orientation for new trustees** will get members through their first 100 days of service with ease. Start building networks today by meeting other newly elected board members and sharing common goals, experiences and concerns. Registration is now open for both sessions,

taking place **Monday, Dec. 7** and **Saturday, Jan. 9.** | [Learn more and register today »](#)

Native American student attendance must be prioritized, as highlighted by new state data



Native American youth in California are still missing far too much school each year, according to statewide data released this month which, for the first time, included broad reasons for why students missed school in the 2017–18 and 2018–19 academic year. **During the 2018–19 school year, American Indian or Alaska Native students had an absence rate of 13.6 percent,** lower only than foster and

homeless youth.

Knowing the reasons why children missed class time creates an opportunity for school attendance staff to collaborate and share best practices on methods to improve attendance, identifying specific actions that can help students and their families overcome attendance barriers. In Humboldt County, education officials are doing just that. According to CDE data, the average student in the county missed 12 school days in the 2018–19 year, compared to state average of 9.6 days. Native American students that year missed an average of 14.5 days. **Humboldt County Superintendent Chris Hartley related this data to the county's high rate of Adverse Childhood Experiences, or ACEs, which include physical, emotional or sexual abuse; physical or emotional neglect or "household dysfunction" including parental incarceration; mental illness; substance dependence; parental separation or divorce; or intimate partner violence.** [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

IQC moves State Literacy Plan to State Board



The California Instructional Quality Commission at its November meeting approved edits and **moved the comprehensive Statewide Literacy Plan forward for approval at the Jan. 13–14, 2021 meeting of the State Board of Education.** Commissioner Barbara Murchison outlined the key components of the plan, as well as presenting recommended revisions based upon the nearly 350 public comments. She said that

while many public comments asked for stronger guidance around literacy, universal screening and teaching foundational skills, the purpose of the document is to align already-existing guidance. "The purpose of the State Literacy Plan is to align and integrate initiatives, content standards, and all of the many state guidance documents," said Murchison. "There is a lot of really wonderful guidance in our state around how to improve literacy, but I think people aren't aware of all of the various resources that are available, and they also struggle to see how it all fits together." [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Are you ready for AEC 2020? Connect with CSBA now



CSBA's Annual Education Conference starts tomorrow! **Stay connected with other attendees in the Connection Zone or on Twitter using the hashtag #CSBA AEC.** This first-ever virtual AEC will feature dynamic presentations and informative breakout sessions, all available from the comfort of your home. **Registrants can now log into the virtual platform to set up their profile, preview the**

Programs page and create their personalized schedule before AEC officially begins on Dec. 3.

Whether it's breaking news, in-depth analysis or events announcements, CSBA has you covered. Follow us on [Twitter \(@CSBA_Now\)](#) and [Facebook](#) for the most up-to-date information and news that impacts your district or county, subscribe to our [YouTube](#) channel to catch up on webinars and view featured videos, and connect with us on [LinkedIn](#). And don't forget to bookmark the [CSBA blog for daily updates](#) »

Temporary cash flow for districts and COEs



The **California School Cash Reserve Program** helps guard against temporary cash flow shortages in a safe, cost-effective way by creating an additional cash reserve to the general fund. Participants issue Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANs) through a streamlined, pooled process that allows for low borrowing costs, flexible use and repayment process and easy, efficient administration. CSBA works with Dale Scott & Company; Piper Sandler;

and Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe to provide the Cash Reserve Program for school districts, community colleges and county offices of education. [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

Orientation for New Trustees
Dec. 7 | [Register here](#)

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

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](#)

Business Services

