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California schoolnews

Weekly Update

November 18, 2020

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COVID updates: School reopenings further challenged by increasing spread of COVID infections



With more than 1 million cases and a 4.2 percent coronavirus positivity rate as of Nov. 16, **Gov. Gavin Newsom announced an immediate rollback of COVID-19 restrictions for 28 counties to the most restrictive tier on the [state's tracking system](#) — the "purple" tier — due to increase in cases. It is likely the announcement will force some school districts to put their plans to reopen on hold.** In total, 41 counties are now in the purple tier, up from just 13

counties last week. [State guidelines](#) released in summer allow districts located in counties in the purple tier to reopen elementary schools for in-person instruction if they receive waivers from their county department of health. The Governor also announced that counties would now be evaluated based upon weekly data (a change from every two weeks).

In other COVID-19 developments:

- Gov. Newsom said during a Nov. 16 [press conference](#) that **youth sports guidelines have been developed and approved by his office. However, in light of the recent surge in coronavirus infections, state health officials would wait to release the guidance.** California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly said he would continue reviewing the guidance as needed.

Explore CSBA's Annual Education Conference virtual platform now



CSBA's Annual Education Conference is just around the corner! **Registrants can now log into the virtual platform to set up their profile, preview the Programs page, explore the Connection Zone and create their personalized schedule before AEC officially begins on Dec. 3.** Some of the conference features, such as the Trade Show Floor and video content, won't be available until conference week. [Registration closes on Nov. 24.](#) [Learn more »](#)

AEC registrants received informational eblasts about the platform last week. This information is intended to help you prepare to log in and navigate the AEC virtual platform, so **please review your emails carefully and make sure to check your Spam/Junk folder** as two of the eblasts came from outside of CSBA's network. To register for a pre-conference activity, or to make other registration changes, email the CSBA Registrar at register@csba.org. For any other AEC-related questions, please email aec@csba.org.

New CDE attendance data can better support districts' work in reducing chronic absenteeism



State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced Nov. 10 that the **California Department of Education had released statewide absenteeism data that, for the first time, provides information about the types of reasons why students were absent** during the 2017–18 and 2018–19 academic years. The “absenteeism by reason” (AR) reports available on the [CDE Dataquest website](#) offer an extensive statewide view of absenteeism

numbers that can help local educational agencies develop targeted intervention strategies and support. The AR report categories are excused absences, unexcused absences, absences due to out-of-school suspension, and incomplete independent study absences.

“Knowing why students are missing school is a crucial step in helping them stay in school,” Thurmond said in a [statement](#). “These data add an extra layer of transparency to existing absenteeism information and a level of detail that school districts can utilize as they evaluate the effectiveness of existing attendance plans and compare absenteeism rates with other districts. It also creates an opportunity for school attendance staff throughout the state to collaborate and share best practices on methods to improve attendance, identifying specific actions that can help students and their families overcome attendance barriers.”

Seating newly elected board members in 2020



The date to seat new board members has created some confusion in the past. **To avoid a situation where board members are seated before the results of the election are officially certified, [Assembly Bill 2449 \(2018\)](#) changed the seating date for newly elected school district and county board of education members to the second Friday in December following their election. **Board members elected this November are first able to take office on Friday,****

Dec. 11, 2020.

Board members are required to take the oath or affirmation set forth in Section 3 of Article 20 of the Constitution of California. (Government Code section 1360.) The oath may be administered and certified by a board member, secretary or assistant secretary to the board, superintendent, deputy or assistant superintendent, principal or county superintendent of schools or any other person authorized in Education Code section 60 or Government Code 1225. The executed oath shall be filed with the county clerk. The Government Code is silent as to the place or medium where the oath is to be administered. **Boards therefore may conduct the oath remotely over Zoom or other medium, to ensure public health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, as long as the other requirements described in Board Bylaw 9224 are met. [Learn more »](#)**

TOMORROW: CSBA webinar targets barriers to equitable education during pandemic



Join CSBA on Thursday, **Nov. 19**, for a new webinar, “[Equitable Support for California Students During the COVID-19 Crisis: Strategies for School Board Members](#),” which brings together California leaders to share their insights on education during the COVID-19 pandemic. The panelists will draw on their **expertise as practitioners and researchers who focus on school reopening plans, school finance, the digital divide, and best practices for English**

learners. Panelists will share important takeaways for school board members, and attendees will have an opportunity to participate in a Q&A segment. The webinar will also **preview a series of CSBA briefs that focus on strategies for promoting learning for all California students during the COVID-19 pandemic**, particularly students most likely to be impacted by disparities in access. [Register »](#)

CSBA’s Director-at-Large, Native American, Crystal Martinez-Alire talks ethnic studies and the impact of a diverse education



November is National Native American Heritage Month, a time to recognize the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the United States. **CSBA talked to Crystal Martinez-Alire, CSBA’s Director-at-Large, Native American** and trustee in the Elk Grove Unified School District, about her research on the Native community, what is missing from the current ways Native American studies is being taught and how board members

can best serve Native American students.

A member of the Miwok Tribe, **Martinez-Alire said her background working in community colleges and at UC Davis and CSU Sacramento in their Native American Studies departments has shown her the need to help bridge K-12 education to higher education and raise awareness of the diverse tribes throughout California.** [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Delegate Assembly nominations open until Jan. 7



Nomination and candidate biographical sketch forms for CSBA's Delegate Assembly are now being accepted until 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 and information related to the election process are available to download [here](#) »

Federal Impact Aid Coronavirus Relief Act passage expected; Senate Appropriations Committee proposes increases in education spending



President Donald Trump is expected to sign the [Impact Aid Coronavirus Relief Act](#), which will help mitigate loss of federal funds to school districts that participate in the Impact Aid and Migrant Education programs. Specifically, the bill will allow districts to utilize the student enrollment for Impact Aid certified from the 2019–20 school year, thereby ensuring that schools do not need to recount federally connected students during the uncertainty

created by COVID-19. This legislation also **directs the U.S. Department of Education to utilize either school year 2018–19 data or school year 2019–20 data — whichever data are greater — to determine funding allocations to states for the Migrant Education Program.**

[Impact Aid funding](#) is provided to school districts that educate large populations of students who reside on federal properties or tribal trust lands, and whose parents or guardians are enlisted in the Armed Forces. [Migrant Education State Grants](#) provide formula-based assistance to help meet the educational needs of children of migratory agricultural workers and fishers, including overcoming educational disruption and other challenges resulting from repeated moves.

Looking ahead, the **Senate Appropriations Committee released 12 draft fiscal year spending bills** last week, including the [Labor-HHS-Education](#) bill, which **proposes an increase of \$433 million for the U.S. Department of Education.** The committee's proposals include increases of \$125 million for Title I and \$125 million for special education, as well as language to bump the maximum Pell Grant by \$150. With temporary federal funding running out on Dec. 11, Senate appropriators have suggested they instead plan to use the funding bills as a basis for negotiating with the House. Find a summary of the draft bill [here](#), or just the highlights [here](#).

Expert school-based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities and LEA billing assistance



Student-centered services and medical care in the schools are pivotal to students' success. CSBA's **Practi-Cal can assist your local educational agency in maintaining service compliance and maximizing your federal reimbursement.** While in the care of your LEA, a student may receive focused educational and medical services coordinated to obtain desired outcomes. **Practi-Cal's innovations in recording and supporting student medical services sets it**

apart from other billing firms, as it does not see recording services as simply a method for billing, but rather a resource for practitioners to collaborate, coordinate and make care accessible. [Learn more »](#)



California School Cash Reserve Program

DON'T GET CAUGHT SHORT ON FUNDS IN FEBRUARY FROM STATE DEFERRALS.
Secure funds for your LEA and apply to our Cash Reserve Program by **November 20, 2020**

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 event 2020 Annual Education Conference

[View complete calendar](#)

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