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# California schoolnews

Weekly Update

January 13, 2021

*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: CSBA webinar breaks down school funding in Governor's January budget proposal**



Gov. Gavin Newsom on **Jan. 8** released the **2021–22 budget proposal**, which includes **significant investments in school reopening and learning loss mitigation amid the COVID-19 pandemic**. Despite the ongoing crisis, **higher-than-expected revenues will allow for the paying down of most school funding deferrals, and a Local Control Funding Formula cost-of-living adjustment,**

as well as additional investments in teacher preparation, pension relief and special education. While CSBA appreciates the increased funding, framing the school budget as the “highest ever” neglects to account for the deferral payments already owed to districts from the 2020–21 budget.

CSBA's Governmental Relations team was joined by local school board trustees and *Politico* education reporter Mackenzie Mays to analyze Gov. Newsom's budget proposal shortly after it was announced. [Watch the webinar here »](#) | [Read the highlights on the CSBA blog »](#)

Budget negotiations began with the Legislature on Jan. 11 and will continue throughout the spring. The Governor's May budget revision must be released on or before May 15 and negotiations will continue until the June 15 deadline to send the final agreement to the Governor, who will have until July 1 to sign it. **Discussions will be prioritized for the Safe Schools for All plan, since the first round grant applications are due from districts on Feb. 1. CSBA will continue to provide updates as the budget season progresses.** [Learn more about what's included in the proposal »](#)

#### In other COVID-19 developments:

- Looking for a deeper dive into California's state budget? Capitol Advisors — in collaboration with partners including CBSA and the Association of California School Administrators — is hosting a series of **workshops throughout California beginning Jan. 19 providing the latest political, fiscal, budget and policy information local educational agencies need to plan their budgets** and programs, including specifics on LCFF, distance learning and school reopening rules, early learning, special education and more. [Learn more »](#)
- The Federal Communications Commission **invited public comment on the \$3.2 billion Emergency Broadband Connectivity Fund** approved as part of the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Act. The fund is designed to help connect low-income families to broadband. **Schools should develop plans for notifying their families about the opportunity to ensure all students can connect to digital learning** during the pandemic.

Legal update: Court declines to invalidate FPPC regulations, but governing boards gain some protection



On Dec. 14, 2020, in ***California State Association of Counties & California School Boards Association v. Fair Political Practices Commission***, the court denied CSAC and CSBA's petition for writ of mandate and declaratory relief, declining to invalidate FPPC Regulations 18420.1 and 18901.1. However, the decision offers some potentially important protections for governing

boards and elected officials involved in educating the public about ballot measures, as **the FPPC asserted that it does not interpret its regulations to mean that use of tv, radio and electronic media by government are automatic, or "per se," violations of the prohibition** against spending of public funds on political advocacy. [Learn more »](#)

## Winter issue of *California Schools* magazine available online



The winter 2020 edition of *California Schools* magazine is available online now and **includes features on shifting attitudes on policing in schools; the extraordinary efforts local educational agencies have taken to address student mental health needs during the pandemic; and the innovations, challenges and successes among districts working to improve everything from student internet**

**connectivity at home to meeting the needs of children that require additional support.** This issue also includes examinations of special education lawsuits facing LEAs, the necessity and benefits of community engagement, supporting school meals during COVID-19, an interview with **CSBA President Suzanne Kitchens and more.**

[Read the issue here »](#)

Register now for these Winter 2021 trainings



CSBA is dedicated to equipping its members with the foundational knowledge to help you build an effective governance team, conduct meaningful meetings and serve your students and community. **Join us for these virtual professional development events this winter:**

▪ **The Brown Act: What You Need to Know:** Every member of your governance

team needs to know about The Brown Act and open meeting laws. While the principle of open meetings initially seems simple, the application of the law can be quite complex. Let us help! [Register »](#)

- **Institute for New and First-Term Board Members:** This innovative two-day seminar allows newly elected and first-term trustees to learn about their unique role and responsibilities and sharpen their skills on effective governance, finance, human resources and student learning. [Register »](#)
- **Board Presidents Workshop:** The Board Presidents Workshop provides current and aspiring board presidents with tools to help you fulfill governance responsibilities in a way that focuses all district and county office efforts on improved student learning and achievement. [Register »](#)

## DeVos resigns following insurrection at the Capitol



U.S. Secretary of Education **Betsy DeVos** [submitted](#) her resignation to President **Donald Trump** last week, citing the violent riots at the U.S. Capitol. “That behavior [of rioters] was unconscionable for our country,” DeVos wrote in her resignation [letter](#). “There is no mistaking the impact your rhetoric had on the situation, and it is an inflection point for me.” DeVos’ resignation was effective Friday,

Jan. 8 — less than two weeks before President-elect Joe Biden’s inauguration.

## Around-the-clock crisis communication services for California schools and districts



CSBA has partnered with the Donovan Group to offer urgent and crisis communication services to public schools and districts across the state. **The Crisis Communications program helps school leaders respond to urgent crisis situations arising at their schools with live counsel over the phone, custom content and around-the-clock service.** Even if your district has a dedicated

communications staff, Crisis Communications can be an invaluable resource to work directly with your team. **From COVID-19 communications to situations specific to your district, the Donovan Group has you covered.** Learn more about how Crisis Communications can help you gather the facts, determine who you need to reach first and communicate quickly, accurately and effectively. The service includes live counsel over the phone, along with custom talking points, parent letters, news releases, social media posts and other written content — delivered at a moment's notice. [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

**2021 The Brown Act**  
Jan. 15 | [Register here](#)

**2021 The Brown Act**  
Jan. 22 | [Register here](#)

**2021 The Brown Act**  
Jan. 29 | [Register here](#)

**Institute for New & First Term Board Members**  
Feb. 2-3 | [Register here](#)

**MIG Course 4: Community Relations & Advocacy / Governance Integration**  
Feb. 5-6 | [Register here](#)

## Business Services



**Institute for New & First Term Board  
Members**

Feb. 5-6 | [Register here](#)

**2021 Board Presidents Workshop**

Feb. 6 | [Register here](#)

**MIG COE Course 2: Policy & Judicial  
Review / Student Learning &  
Achievement**

Feb. 16 & 27, 2021 | **SOLD OUT**

[View complete calendar](#)



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