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# California schoolnews

Weekly Update

January 20, 2021

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## COVID-19 update: CDPH releases updated school reopening guidance for 2020–21 school year



The California Department of Public Health on Jan. 14 released an update to its "**COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework & Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2020–2021 School Year.**" The document notes the **new version consolidates content from other CDPH COVID-19 and school-related guidance and supersedes**

**previous CDPH COVID-19 and Cal/OSHA school guidance.**

In addition to these releases, an [all-county letter](#) was sent providing greater clarity and highlighting key issues raised by schools that are currently open or plan to reopen in the near term; [Guidance for COVID-19 School Reopening Status Reporting](#), which says that, “Beginning January 25, 2021, every local educational agency (school district, county office of education, and charter school) and private school in California shall notify the California Department of Public Health whether it is serving students in-person;” and [Guidance for COVID-19 Case Reporting by Schools](#). [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

**In other COVID-19 developments:**

- The [Safe Schools for All Hub](#) launched on Jan. 14. The website **aims to provide the support and accountability to establish a clear path to minimize in-school transmissions and enable a phased return to in-person instruction.** The hub consolidates key resources and information related to COVID-19 and schools. New resources will be added on a routine basis. **The hub also contains links to information about the Safe Schools for All plan**, including a summary, rationale and science behind the plan.

## Register for CSBA webinar on current trends and research in reopening schools



Having a difficult time keeping up with the ever-shifting landscape of reopening schools? What do we know about the districts and schools that have brought students back to campus or remained in distance learning? In [“The path to reopening schools: Early research and the current California landscape”](#) on **Jan. 25 at 11 a.m.**, panelists from **CSBA and WestEd** — a

nonprofit organization that uses data and research to promote excellence, achieve equity and improve learning — **join Solana Beach USD and CSBA Director, Region 17, Debra Schade and Napa Valley USD Superintendent Rosanna Mucetti for updates on and new analyses of data on reopening efforts and considerations for reopening schools in your district.** Information on the state’s recent initiatives related to a safe return to school and factors that influence a district’s ability to resume on-campus instruction will be covered. [Register today »](#)

CSBA’s 2020 Year in Review available exclusively online



Each winter, CSBA's annual Year in Review reports on the year's educational challenges and how CSBA has addressed them. **2020, however, was unlike any other year and the format of this Year in Review reflects that.** The COVID-19 pandemic has displaced students, exhausted

resources and tested governance teams like never before. **Faced with a once-in-a-lifetime challenge, school district and county office of education boards have responded in remarkable fashion. That is why this year's review highlights the accomplishments of just a small sampling of districts across the state,** along with CSBA's offerings for the year. [Read the Year in Review »](#)

## CSBA and other education groups advocate for vaccine priority for educators



In response to recent guidance from the state allowing all people age 65 and older to receive a COVID-19 vaccination, **CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy cosigned a letter to Gov. Gavin Newsom urging the state to ensure that the education workforce is among the first within the Phase 1b priority group.**

The letter — also signed by the Association of California School Administrators, California Association of School Business Officials and California County Superintendents Educational Services Association — states that **schools are uniquely suited to address the logistics of providing vaccinations for educators** and applauds the state's conclusion that **"vaccinating educators will have an immediate societal impact and help mitigate the severe inequities experienced by children and their families during this pandemic."** [Read the letter »](#)

## January State Board meeting moves forward state literacy plan and ESSA amendments



In its first meeting of 2021, the State Board of Education **moved California's State Literacy Plan one step closer to final adoption; approved submission of the year's amendments for the Every Student Succeeds Act State Plan and COVID-19 State Plan Addendum; and discussed the possibility of pursuing a waiver from the federal**

**government to forego standardized testing,** as was done in the 2020–21 school year.

SBE President Linda Darling-Hammond commended the Governor for the inclusion of funds to support community schools in the state budget proposal and pointed to the vital role that school play in the lives of children, their families and communities. As districts and county offices of education move forward with reopening plans, they **will need to provide both academic and social-emotional resources, as well as work to connect families to social services** — a statement echoed by other board members throughout the two-day meeting. [Read the State Board Report »](#)

## Registration open for CCBE Board Governance Training



The California County Boards of Education is offering a new, **two-track virtual professional development training** for all county board members. This board governance training will **provide new county-focused learning opportunities in governance, equity in education, special education, county board appellate role, charter schools, legislative**

**advocacy** and more. Board members will also gain a greater understanding of the impact of social media, virtual meetings, charter oversight and the pitfalls to avoid.

The trainings will be **held virtually every Tuesday beginning March 9 through March 30 from 8:30–11 a.m., plus one session from 3:30–5:00 p.m.** Live sessions will be recorded and available for registered attendees only to view asynchronously. Each session will be 2.5 hours long. [Register today »](#)

## New CSBA partner: Redistricting Partners



The process of **redrawing and rebalancing legislative and local jurisdictional district boundaries every 10 years following the decennial U.S. Census, known as redistricting, has become more complex** since passage of the Fair Maps Act in 2019. In addition, boards that still conduct at-large elections may find additional pressure to convert to trustee-area

elections with the release of new census data. **CSBA has partnered with Redistricting Partners to deliver districting or redistricting services to school boards in a cost-effective way that is data informed, community driven and board focused.**

Redistricting Partners has developed a program over the past decade that allows boards to have a fair, open redistricting that follows best practices and engages communities.

[Learn more »](#)

## Annual Proposition 39 Performance Audits

### Annual Proposition 39 PERFORMANCE AUDITS

California School Boards Association has partnered with Total School Solutions to offer school districts Proposition 39 Bond Performance Audits. This program **provides a comprehensive performance audit to show your local community how the district has expended bond proceeds.** In addition, **TSS will solicit and compile feedback on how the community**

**views** a district's school facilities program. The feedback is then used to help districts in their public outreach efforts to the community, and assist in winning approval for future bonds. [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. 22 | [Registration closed](#)

### 2021 The Brown Act

Jan. 27 | [Registration open soon](#)

### 2021 The Brown Act

Jan. 29 | [Register here](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

## Business Services

