

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

February 10, 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: CCEE provides at-a-glance update on recent changes to state school reopening guidance



The California Collaborative for Educational Excellence has released **a helpful chart that shows exactly what has changed in the January 2021 update of California Department of Public Health school reopening guidance.** Included in the changes are updates regarding symptom exposure and screening, social

distancing in classrooms, what to do if a student or staff member is suspected to be or is confirmed to have COVID, testing and much more. [Read the overview »](#)

In other COVID-19 developments:

- **California's statewide labor unions released a [seven-page COVID-19 school reopening proposal](#) Feb. 3 that calls for an even heavier lift to open campuses for in-person instruction than the Governor's [Safe Schools for All plan](#). CSBA**

understands the concerns brought forth by the unions, which is why the association has been engaged in fierce advocacy on behalf of local educational agencies, calling for the state to provide the resources and support required to implement mitigation efforts that will keep students and staff safe. **In a series of letters to Gov. Newsom and in several meetings with administration officials and legislators, CSBA and other statewide education organizations have called for the prioritization of school staff for vaccinations and provided extensive recommendations** that should be included in a statewide school reopening plan. [Read more about the labor proposal »](#)

- **Gov. Newsom announced Feb. 3 on TikTok an additional \$10.3 billion in General Fund revenue.** The new infusion of funds are "going to put us in a position to do even more to help support our small businesses, support our vaccine administration and support our efforts to reopen our public schools for in-person instruction," he said in the [26-second video](#). **Under Proposition 98, schools can expect roughly 40 percent of those additional funds — approximately \$4 billion — to be directed to K-14 education.** CSBA urges the Governor and the Legislature to allow LEAs the flexibility to use this additional funding as needed to meet the educational needs in their communities.
- President Joe Biden signed an executive order Jan. 22 **directing the U.S. Department of Agriculture to consider issuing new guidance to allow states to increase emergency benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** that Congress has approved but have not been made available to those in need due to the pandemic. The Biden administration said in a [fact sheet](#) that the goal is to address food insecurity caused by the pandemic by extending a benefit to a federal nutrition program and focusing resources on children who have missed meals due to closed schools over the last several months.

FCC requests public comment on expanding E-Rate program



The Federal Communications Commission is [seeking public comment](#) on recent petitions for emergency relief that would “allow the use of E-rate funds to support remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.” The request for comments includes questions about which types of devices would be most useful for

students who are learning at home; what guidance the FCC should provide to ensure that school districts are getting a bargain when making tech purchases; and whether the FCC should reimburse schools for purchases they’ve made in the last year to address these issues. **Initial comments are due by Feb. 16 and reply comments are due by Feb. 23.** CSBA will be submitting comments in conjunction with its federal partnership. [Learn more and leave comment »](#)

Applications open for summer meal programs



State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced Jan. 29 that **applications are available for the Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option**, both federally funded, state-administered programs that serve free meals to children ages 18 and younger when school is out of session. Schools

are among the organizations eligible to participate in summer meal programs.

Applications are due by May 15, 2021. [Learn more »](#)

State digital divide taskforce discusses legislation to expand broadband connectivity

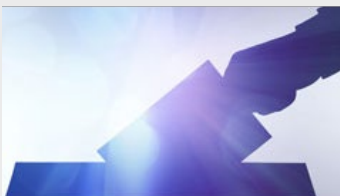


California's Closing the Digital Divide Task Force **met Feb. 2** to provide **an in-depth look at some the initial proposals put forth by lawmakers to boost broadband access to students and communities**. "For us, this is one of the highest priorities, and now it's time to get to work," said Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia (D-Coachella).

"We have exciting proposals [on] making investments in infrastructure, bond initiatives, reforms to existing programs and looking at programs as it relates to affordability. Without a doubt, at the center of all this is our students."

In addition to legislative solutions, a new \$1 million cash-incentive program was introduced by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond and Dr. Gary Michelson, an orthopedic surgeon and philanthropist. The **California Digital Divide Innovation Challenge is an open call for proposals that will not only help learners right away but remove barriers to success long after the pandemic is over. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)**

Delegate Assembly ballots are due March 15



Ballots for election to CSBA's Delegate Assembly, in subregions that have elections, were mailed to school districts and county offices of education by Feb. 1. **Completed ballots should be returned to CSBA's West Sacramento office and must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service no later than**

Monday, March 15, to be valid. Run-off elections will be conducted in the case of tie votes. All districts, COEs and candidates will be notified of the results by April

1. Delegates will serve two-year terms beginning April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2023. [Learn more about CSBA's Delegate Assembly »](#)

Refinance outstanding general obligation bonds with GO Bond Refunding Pool



School districts can save their taxpayers money by refinancing their outstanding general obligation bonds into lower interest rates. However, many smaller refundings cannot be completed because high fixed costs of issuance carve too deeply into potential savings. **The GO Bond Refunding**

Pool allows districts to unlock taxpayer savings by driving down costs through an easy-to-use shared financing platform. [Learn more »](#)

Virtual events

Institute for New & First Term Board Members

Feb. 26-27 | [Register here](#)

2021 CCBE County Board Governance Workshop

March 9-30 | [Register here](#)

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

March 19-20 | [Register here](#)

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

March 26-27 | [Register here](#)

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