

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

February 24, 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: Legislature intensifies focus on schools, yet creates barriers to reopening



California legislators introduced [Senate Bill 86](#) on Feb. 18, 2021, a **\$6.6 billion proposal designed to get large numbers of students back in the classroom this spring.** The **“Safe and Open Schools Act,”** expands on the \$2 billion “Safe Schools for All Plan” introduced by Gov. Gavin Newsom in December 2020. The proposal — while imperfect — attempts to improve on the

Governor’s plan. It must be restated, however, that **education funding must be committed to educational services and must mitigate inequities heightened by the pandemic. COVID-19 testing and other health-related expenses are inappropriate uses of Proposition 98 funds.** CSBA acknowledges and appreciates the broader educational investments proposed in SB 86, but does not believe education dollars

should be spent for community health needs. **Every dollar of Proposition 98 spent on public health is a dollar that is no longer available to benefit students for instructional support, social-emotional services or learning loss mitigation.**

The Senate is scheduled to hear [Assembly Bill 86](#) in the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee Feb. 25. Similar to SB 86, AB 86 is the Assembly's version of the "Safe and Open Schools Act." Although it is unclear if or what amendments could be made to the bill, CSBA is advocating for changes to the bill to remove or change requirements that will serve to further delay the re-opening of schools.

SB 86 — [if some critical modifications are made](#) — presents a real opportunity to direct resources to already open schools and return students to the classroom safely. **CSBA remains committed to working with legislators to address these concerns and is dedicated to safely reopening our public schools.** [Learn more about the proposal](#) | [Read CSBA's recommended amendments](#) »

In other COVID-19 developments:

- The California Department of Public Health on Feb. 19 **announced that youth and recreational sports will be allowed to resume in counties with fewer than 14 positive COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents.** The new rules, which take effect Feb. 26, apply to all organized youth and adult sports. The [new guidelines](#) require that, in counties with positive case rates between seven and 14 per 100,000 residents, people age 13 and older be tested every week to play or coach football, rugby and water polo. Test results must be available within 24 hours of competitions. Gov. Gavin Newsom said the state would cover the cost of the tests. [Learn more](#) »
- The Biden administration [announced](#) Feb. 22 that **states must administer federally required standardized tests this year, but are permitting states to give shorter or remote exams, and/or a more flexible timeline to implement the assessment.** It will also provide an opt-out waiver for school accountability and identification. Education officials in several states, [including California](#), have already asked for or were planning to request a waiver from this year's testing requirements. The California State Board of Education had discussed a shorter exam in its January meetings. [Read more on the CSBA blog](#) »

Legislative Action Week is just around the corner



It's the legislative advocacy event of the year — now, in a virtual format! This year, CSBA is doing things a little differently to accommodate for the restrictions caused by the pandemic. From **Monday, March 15 through Friday, March 19, CSBA will schedule virtual advocacy meetings between school governance leaders and members of the California Legislature and their staff.** CSBA

staff will provide talking points and advocacy tips — all you have to do is log on from your home or office. [Learn more and register »](#)

Redistricting 101 registration now open

**CSBA &
Redistricting
Partners**



Redistricting is the process of redrawing and rebalancing legislative and local jurisdictional district boundaries every 10 years following the decennial US Census. **This process does not have to be difficult. 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, while**

also ensuring the highest-quality final product. Join Redistricting Partners and CSBA on March 8 at 11 a.m. to learn more and get an update on the 2020 Census data.

[Register for the webinar »](#)

CSBA offers new in-depth program focused on student equity and inclusion



The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on student learning and has been especially impactful for the most vulnerable students. **A new year-long professional development program from CSBA expanding on the Equity Network will provide a platform for teams consisting of a superintendent and two trustees to collaborate and build capacity to govern**

through an equity lens, which leads to improved opportunities and outcomes for historically and marginalized students. During the first year of this Equity Network training, participants will attend four three-hour courses covering a variety of equity-related topics.

Classes begin March 27 via Zoom. After the initial course, participants will be divided into cohorts. [Learn more and register »](#)

Facilities planning takes on heightened role during a pandemic



At no time before have the more mundane, day-to-day aspects of school facilities been discussed with such contention, nor have topics such as HVAC upgrades, filter changes and disinfection of classrooms been on the bargaining table for labor unions, experts said during a Feb. 10 [webinar](#) hosted by the California Association of School Business Officials. Still, **major systems upgrades take**

time and money — and with the push to reopen schools for in-person instruction sooner than later, local educational agencies may need to look first at what upgrades they can realistically implement in a short period of time. [Read a recap on the CSBA blog »](#)

CSBA Delegate Assembly election: Ballots due March 16



Ballots for this year's CSBA 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.** All districts, COEs and candidates will be notified of the

results by April 1. Run-off elections will be conducted in the case of tie votes. All new and re-elected Delegates are eligible to attend the May 15–16 Delegate Assembly meeting.

[Learn more about CSBA's Delegate Assembly and candidates for election »](#)

Get help developing a comprehensive Facilities Master Plan



TSS professionals have helped districts across California plan for their facilities needs through the development of high-quality comprehensive Facilities Master Plans. **A comprehensive Facilities Master Plan is an essential element of a district's planning process.** It provides districts with information regarding current and future needs for student housing, quality of the existing facilities, and

facilities renovation and expansion requirements to support educational and programmatic goals. A master plan also assists in identifying funding needs for capital

improvement and developing financing options. **TSS facilities master plans include accurate projections regarding enrollment, careful determination of school site capacity, consideration of educational specifications, a detailed needs assessment, and conclusions and recommendations about the availability and timing of financing and funding.** [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 CCBE County Board Governance Workshop

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

Governance with an Equity Lens: A Systemic Approach to Closing Equity Gaps in Public Education

March 27 | [Register here](#)

MIG Course 3: School Finance

May 6-7 | [Register here](#)

MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining

May 21-22 | [Register here](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

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