

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

February 3, 2021

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In this Issue

- [COVID-19 update: Governor's school reopening plan misses first deadline](#)
- [Legislative Action Day is now Legislative Action Week](#)
- [2021 Black History Month honors the African American family](#)
- [Register for CSBA business affiliate webinar on addressing child abuse during distance learning](#)
- [Apply for a grant to help evaluate school climate in your district](#)
- [New brief finds learning loss more acute among specific student groups](#)
- [Around-the-clock crisis communication services for California schools and districts](#)

COVID-19 update: Governor's school reopening plan misses first deadline



With the **Feb. 1** application date for Gov. Gavin Newsom's Safe Schools for All plan passed without movement in the Legislature, the administration has signaled that it is open to **negotiation** and substantive changes to the proposal. The plan has faced significant pushback from school officials, labor unions and legislators in Sacramento. During initial budget

hearings on the proposal, many legislators noted that they had heard from local educational agencies they represent that they would not be able to apply for the funds.

Alongside other management groups, CSBA submitted [a letter](#) to the Governor in January that reiterates support for a safe return to in-person instruction and **outlines the key components for that safe return**. The letter **highlights aspects of the plan that must be addressed in order to maximize LEA participation, particularly funding levels, testing cadences, support for schools that are now open, liability protection and alignment with California Department of Public Health guidance regarding consultation with labor, parent and community organizations**. As negotiations continue, CSBA will continue to work with the Legislature and Gov. Newsom to lay out a path to safe reopening that responds to the needs of California's schools and students. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

In other COVID-19 developments:

- In a [paper released on Jan. 26](#), three researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention **examined data from some U.S. school districts that have opened for in-person instruction and found that the type of rapid spread of COVID-19** that has been found in congregate living facilities or high-density work sites **has not been reported in educational settings**. The paper states that **all mitigation methods must be in place at schools to open safely**, including physical distance in classrooms and common areas, increasing room air ventilation, and “expanding screening testing to rapidly identify and isolate asymptomatic infected individuals.” Once again emphasizing the point that schools are not isolated from their communities, the paper states, **“Preventing transmission in school settings will require addressing and reducing levels of transmission in the surrounding communities through policies to interrupt transmission** (e.g., restrictions on indoor dining at restaurants).” [Read the paper »](#)
- A group of House Democrats led by House Education and Labor Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA) **introduced three bills that would provide \$466 billion in federal aid to K-12 schools**. The bills — **“Reopen and Rebuild America’s Schools Act”**, **“Save Education Jobs Act”** and the **“Learning Recovery Act of 2021”** — **would invest in upgrades to infrastructure, provide funding for learning loss and help to minimize job losses caused by COVID-19**. The infrastructure bill would expand high-speed broadband access for public schools and require states to develop public databases regarding the condition of their schools. The Learning Recovery Act would provide additional funding for Title I Part A, which can support summer school or extended school days. The Save Education Jobs Act would provide funding to states and school districts over 10 years (or until the national unemployment rate falls below 5.5 percent, though there is a built in six-year guarantee). [Learn more about the proposed legislation »](#)

Legislative Action Day is now Legislative Action Week



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 »](#)

2021 Black History Month honors the African American family



First celebrated in 1926, February has marked a time to commemorate and celebrate the contributions of Black Americans for nearly a century. The Black History Month 2021 theme, **“Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity,”** explores the African diaspora, and the spread of Black families across the United States. A 2014 **nationwide poll of African American**

families revealed that Black parents/guardians saw “lack of parental involvement” as a major issue in the quality of their students’ education. Parent engagement is required in California through the Local Control Funding Formula and many districts have formed African American parent committees to listen to and involve these vital voices. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Register for CSBA business affiliate webinar on addressing child abuse during distance learning



Educators have always been at the front lines of detecting and reporting child abuse. **With the move to an online learning environment, new strategies are needed to ensure students are safe.** Registration is open for the webinar, **“Protecting Students During the Pandemic: Detecting, Preventing, and Addressing Child Abuse in the Online Classroom,”** on **Feb. 16 at**

10 a.m. Presented by [Keenan](#), this webinar features the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the

Eastern District of California and **will equip teachers and administrators with the tools they need to detect, prevent and report abuse of their students while teaching remotely during the pandemic.** [Learn more and register »](#)

Apply for a grant to help evaluate school climate in your district



new grant program from the Orange County Department of Education and Butte County Office of Education **will provide training for school sites to evaluate their school conditions and create the systemic change needed to improve outcomes for all learners.** Schools will be able to train their entire staff and become certified in their knowledge based on their

particular role in the school. **This will allow schools to fully implement the [CA Multi-Tiered System of Support framework](#) and leverage it to improve school climate and conditions.** Participating school sites will be eligible for up to \$150,000 to provide stipends/release time for educators who participate and complete the online CA MTSS Pathway Certification course within an 18-month period. **Grant applications are due by Feb. 12.** [Learn more and apply »](#)

New brief finds learning loss more acute among specific student groups



A Jan. 25 [brief](#) from Policy Analysis for California Education finds that there has **been significant learning loss in both English language arts and mathematics, with students in earlier grades, low-income students and English learners most affected.** As local educational agencies craft school reopening plans or commit to distance learning for the foreseeable future, the

report calls for a concerted effort to target these student groups in any intervention efforts. **“Ultimately, addressing students’ learning loss will require a student-centered approach that puts family and student relationships first, and a systemic transformation in how schools address the overlapping learning, behavioral and emotional needs that support effective learning and teaching,”** researchers concluded. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

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



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. 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. [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

Institute for New & First Term Board Members

Feb. 11-12 | [Register here](#)

Institute for New & First Term Board Members

Feb. 19-20 | [Register here](#)

2021 Board Presidents Workshop

Feb. 20 | [Register here](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

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