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California schoolnews

Weekly Update

March 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: CSBA webinar weighs pros and cons of school reopening bill



Board members and superintendents joined CSBA staff to separate fact from fiction in a March 9 webinar discussing the school reopening bill, [Assembly Bill 86](#). Panelists broke down the details of the bill and highlighted the efforts that were underway to reopen campuses well before Gov. Gavin Newsom signed AB 86, as well as the

benefits of the legislation, the new hurdles it creates and the issues it fails to address, such as no liability protection for local educational agencies and the failure to pay down the June apportionment deferral. View [“The School Reopening Bill \(AB 86\): Separating Fact from Fiction”](#) | [Slide deck](#) | [Read more on the CSBA blog](#) »

In other COVID-19 developments:

- The California Department of Public Health updated its guidance for [Outdoor and Indoor Youth and Recreational Adult Sports](#), effective March 5, stating “**a team in any sport, including indoor sports, may return to competition and contact practice at any time (i.e., earlier than otherwise authorized by this Guidance), if the team adheres [to] the additional requirements imposed on collegiate sports, as specified in the [Institutions of Higher Education Guidance](#).**” Requirements include **regular periodic COVID-19 testing of athletes and support staff**, which “includes baseline testing and ongoing screening testing. Based on current evidence and standards, both daily antigen testing and periodic PCR testing are acceptable testing methods for both baseline and ongoing screening testing.” For high-risk contact sports (basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, rowing, rugby, soccer, squash, volleyball, water polo and wrestling), competition between teams is permitted only if the team can provide COVID-19 testing and results for all athletes and support staff within 48 hours of each competition. [Learn more »](#)
- The Biden administration announced last week that it is using the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program](#) to provide states with enough vaccine supply to fast-track school staff and child care workers throughout the country. **As of March 1, 34 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have made some or all teachers eligible to receive the coronavirus vaccine**, according to *Education Week*. In California, as well as Alabama and Tennessee, vaccines have already been prioritized for all school staff. **In the first week in which California was guaranteed to set aside at least 10 percent of vaccinations for school staff, or 75,000 doses, the goal was far exceeded by providing 210, 224 doses, according to Gov. Gavin Newsom.**
- The United States Department of Agriculture [announced March 9](#) the nationwide **extension through Sept. 30, 2021, of several waivers that allow all children to continue to receive nutritious meals this summer when schools are out of session.** The waivers were previously extended only through June 30, 2021. The waivers **allow for safe meal distribution sites that serve all children for free, regardless of income**; allow meals served through the [Summer Food Service Program](#) and [Seamless Summer Option](#) to be made available in all areas at no cost; allow meals to be served outside of the normally required group settings and meal times; and allow parents and guardians to pick-up meals for their children, including bulk pick-up to cover multiple days of feeding children.

Experience AEC 2021 YOUR way!



Whether you're ready to head to San Diego **in person** or prefer the **comfort of your home office**, AEC 2021 offers amazing speakers, enriched learning opportunities, and a variety of networking opportunities. **The in-person**

conference takes place Dec. 2–4 in San Diego, followed by our virtual conference Dec. 9–10. [Learn more »](#)

CSBA President explains nuances of school reopening in PPIC webinar



CSBA President Suzanne Kitchens participated in a panel discussion on reopening schools hosted by the Public Policy Institute of California [on March 4](#), along with California Teachers Association Executive Director Joe Boyd and Association of California School Administrators

President Ron Williams. Kitchens emphasized that local educational agencies have been preparing to reopen since schools were shut down. **“Contrary to some common narratives, school districts and county offices of education have been diligently preparing for in-person instruction during a time of great uncertainty, inadequate support and insufficient guidance,”** Kitchens said. **For most LEAs, however, the biggest hurdles to the resumption of in-person instruction have been inadequate resources, inconsistent and insufficient guidance, lack of staffing, differing perceptions of what constitutes safety, and lack of access to vaccines** for educators, Kitchens further explained. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Ballots due March 16 for CSBA Delegate Assembly election



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 »](#)

Conducting board meetings during the pandemic



In this CSBA guest blog post, Gregory Dannis of Dannis Woliver Kelley writes about the Brown Act and the ways **board meetings have changed during the pandemic. While there are benefits to increased public attendance in this virtual environment, drawbacks include the public not understanding the statutes of the Brown**

Act and the purpose of board meetings. “Consequently, governance team members must redouble their ongoing professional development efforts to learn about the Brown Act and stay apprised of rapid changes in the contours and application of the law,” writes Dannis, who also serves as a trustee on the Hillsborough City School District board. Dannis Woliver Kelley, along with Atkinson Andelson Loya Rudd & Romo, Fagen Friedman & Fulfroost, and Lozano Smith are four of CSBA’s Premier Affiliates who act as full-service law firms for their public education clients. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Raise funds needed for real property acquisitions and capital improvements



CSBA’s Certificates of Participation program **assists California school districts, county offices of education and community college districts in their efforts to raise funds for capital equipment or real property acquisitions and improvements** and allows capital project finance or loan refinancing without voter approval. Finance construction, renovations, equipment, energy projects and more with fast and efficient financing. [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

MIG Course 2: Policy & Judicial Review / Student Learning & Achievement
March 19-20 | **SOLD OUT**

Business Services



Fagen Friedman & Fulfroost LLP

**MIG Course 2: Policy & Judicial Review /
Student Learning & Achievement**
March 26-27 | **SOLD OUT**

**Governance with an Equity Lens: A
Systemic Approach to Closing Equity
Gaps in Public Education**
March 27 | [Register here](#)

**MIG Course 4: Human
Resources/Collective Bargaining**
May 21-22 | [Register here](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

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