

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

April 21, 2021

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COVID-19 update: Updated state guidance addresses graduation, athletics and other events



Updated guidance from the California Department of Public Health and Cal/OSHA effective April 15 **allows local educational agencies to move forward with activities including in-person graduation ceremonies, proms and other events.** Separate guidance also now in effect **allows for spectators and observers at indoor youth sports competitions and practices.** In both

instances, **precautions are still required to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus.**

New [Private Venues and Events guidance](#) can be used by LEAs to plan for **proms and other private events, as well as in-person graduation ceremonies, so long as there is a defined guest list, the ability to assign seating for guests and the ability to verify their testing or vaccination status.** Attendance is limited according to the county risk level. There are also specific requirements for testing and vaccination for indoor events, and separate capacity limits for outdoors, including options without the need for testing/vaccination proof. [Learn more »](#)

In other COVID-19 developments:

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture on April 20 issued a **broad range of flexibilities to allow school meal programs and child care institutions to extend several meal service flexibilities that enable social distancing through June 30, 2022.** Schools nationwide will be allowed to serve meals through USDA's National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option, which is typically only available during the summer months. This option maintains the nutrition standards of the standard school meal programs and **schools that choose this option will receive higher-than-normal meal reimbursements for every meal they serve, which will support them in serving the most nutritious meals possible while managing increased costs** associated with pandemic-related operational and supply chain challenges. USDA will continue to offer targeted meal pattern flexibility and technical assistance as needed. In addition, **schools and both child and adult care institutions can continue providing breakfasts, lunches and after-school snacks in non-group settings at flexible meal times. Parents or guardians can also pick up meals for their children when programs are not operating normally,** all while maintaining social distancing consistent with federal recommendations. [Learn more »](#)
- On April 19, the U.S. Department of Education posted its new [guidance on the Maintenance of Effort requirements for the new Elementary and Secondary](#)

Schools Emergency Relief funding under the American Rescue Plan (ARP ESSER). The guidance document includes the following:

- A chart outlining the main similarities and differences between the MOE requirements in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.
- Frequently asked questions about the MOE requirements and the process for states to request an MOE waiver under section 2004(a) of the ARP Act. The department's approach to MOE waiver requests will be rooted in consideration of the impact on students. The purpose of ARP ESSER, ESSER I, ESSER II, GEER I, GEER II, and EANS funds is to expand resources for K-12 and postsecondary schools and students, not to replace existing state commitments to K-12 and postsecondary education.
- An MOE worksheet describing how to calculate MOE under the CARES Act, the CRRSA Act and the ARP Act.

Register for CSBA's extended learning webinars



After a year of disrupted learning due to COVID-19, public education will never be the same — nor should it be. **Both the upcoming summer session and the next two years of instruction will set the stage for the transformation of public schools. How local educational agencies approach learning recovery, engage families and support students' social-emotional health over the**

next 24 months will determine student outcomes for a generation.

In this **two-part webinar series, CSBA explores the strategies, investments and best practices** that should guide schools as they prepare for summer school and for extended learning initiatives that will address the disruption of the past year.

School's in for Summer: Strategies for Successful Summer Programs and Beyond
Tuesday, April 27, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. | [Register here »](#)

Extending Learning: Governance for Developing Effective Learning Recovery Plans
Tuesday, May 4, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. | [Register here »](#)

Legislative update: Broadband access takes center stage



Proposed bills continue to make their way through policy committee hearings. Policy committees in the Senate and Assembly have until April 30 to hear bills that originated in their house. As the deadline approaches, CSBA will continue to track and advocate on key measures that impact K-12 education.

Among the top bills that CSBA is tracking that address broadband access:

- **Assembly Bill 34** (Muratsuchi, D-Torrance) **would place a \$10 billion general obligation bond on the November 2022 ballot to expand public broadband infrastructure to address the digital divide and provide access to high-speed, affordable and reliable internet** — targeting school districts and other institutions in unserved and underserved rural, urban, suburban and tribal communities. This bill was passed by the Assembly Communications & Conveyance Committee on April 14 and is currently in the Assembly Privacy & Consumer Protection Committee. **CSBA Position: Support**
- **AB 14** (Aguiar Curry, D-Winters) and **Senate Bill 4** (Gonzalez, D-Long Beach) **would extend the ongoing collection of funds deposited into the California Advanced Services Fund to provide communities with grants to bridge the digital divide.** AB 14 was passed by the Assembly Communications & Conveyance Committee on April 14 and is currently in the Assembly Local Government Committee. SB 4 was passed by the Senate Energy, Utilities & Communications Committee on April 12 and is currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee. **CSBA Position: Support**
- **AB 41** (Wood-D, Santa Rosa) would require the public be notified when broadband infrastructure is being deployed in neighborhoods and **expedite its deployment in unserved and underserved communities by allowing for microtrenching to install underground telecommunications cables when building and repairing roadways** throughout the state. This bill was passed by the Assembly

Communications & Conveyance Committee on April 14 and is currently in the Assembly Transportation Committee. **CSBA Position: Support**

CSBA webinar highlights need for universal broadband access



School board trustees, state legislators, federal advocates and business leaders discussed the **critical importance of universal broadband access to the state's K-12 schools and its economic future** during an April 20 CSBA webinar, **“Broadband for California: Connecting to Our Promise.”** CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy said it is unconscionable that that all children still do not

have adequate and consistent internet service. **“The internet is essential for full participation in our modern society,”** said Billy. “We’ve had decades to solve this problem, but we’ve waited until a time of crisis. We can’t wait any longer — the time for universal broadband access is now.”

Panelists spotlighted issues surrounding the digital divide such as overregulation, building industry collaboration, defining quality broadband access, the inadequacy of “discounted” internet services and technical assistance. Sen. Lena Gonzalez (D-Long Beach) and Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) discussed their bills that seek to expand broadband access, **thanking CSBA members’ consistent advocacy for universal broadband since the earliest days of the COVID-19 pandemic.** [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

CTC meeting highlights need for educator diversity



At its **April meeting**, the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing held a rich discussion about **teacher diversity** in the state, **approved a portion of the new Education Specialist assessment**, and **approved adjustments** to Commission-owned examinations. **CSBA President-elect Dr. Susan Heredia joined the CTC in her first meeting as a commissioner representing**

board members. After a presentation of **“Teacher Supply in California, 2019–20: A Report to the Legislature,”** commission members noted the finding that 61.2 percent of the current teaching force is white, while just 22.4 percent of students are white. While 54.9 percent of students are Latino, just 21.1 percent of teachers are. And while 5.3 percent of the student population is Black, 3.9 percent of teachers are — and that number was the same in 2014–15.

The commission **extended the waiver of preconditions related to demonstrated subject matter competence prior to student teaching for the 2021–22 school year.** The chief reason to continue the waiver is **ongoing issues with testing center closures and limitations on capacity** due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. In other assessment-related news, the commission approved **online proctoring** for most tests; will retire the paper-based CBEST in favor of the computer-based exam; and **approved two changes to the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment:** to divide the RICA Written Examination into three subtests for which examinees can individually register and pass, and move the current RICA Video Performance Assessment to online candidate registration and submission platforms. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

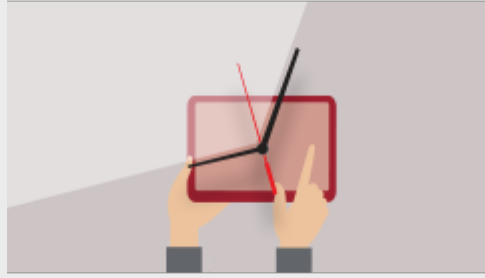
California School News April issue available online



The April issue of *California School News* features information on **the money coming to schools via the federal American Rescue Plan**; CSBA’s first virtual **Legislative Action Week**, which experienced record attendance; and a rundown of the State Board of Education meeting, in which the much-debated **Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum was adopted.**

Other articles acknowledge Earth Day in discussing policy around **environmental education** and an update on the work of **CSBA’s Climate Change Task Force.** [Read the April issue now »](#)

Around-the-clock crisis communication services



CSBA has partnered with the Donovan Group to offer **urgent and crisis communication services to public schools and districts across the state**. The Crisis Communications program helps school leaders respond to difficult situations arising in their schools, with live counsel over the phone, custom content, and around-the-clock service. You can also get custom talking points, parent letters, news releases, social media posts, and other written

content — delivered at a moment's notice.

Just one example of how Crisis Communications can assist your district is through **template letters that can be sent to stakeholders regarding sensitive national news and events, such as [this sample letter](#) regarding the verdict of Derek Chauvin in the George Floyd murder trial. [Learn more about Crisis Communications](#) »**

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

Webinar: School's in for Summer: Strategies for Successful Summer Programs and Beyond

April 27, 11 a.m. | [Register here](#)

Webinar: Extending Learning: Governance for Developing Effective Learning Recovery Plans

May 4, 11 a.m. | [Register here](#)

2021 Delegate Assembly Meeting

May 15-16 | [Register here](#)

2021 CCSA Virtual Spring Workshop

May 21 | [Register here](#)

MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration

June 11-12 | [Registration closed](#)

2021 Executive Assistants Certification Program (Gamma Cohort)

July 30 - Nov. 5 | [Registration closed](#)

2021 Executive Assistants Certification Program (Delta Cohort)

Aug. 13 - Nov. 19 | [Registration closed](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

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