

# California schoolnews

Weekly Update

August 18, 2021

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## COVID-19 update: More details on vaccination order for school employees



As noted in CSBA's Aug. 11 [e-blast](#), the California Department of Public Health issued a public officer health order entitled "[Vaccine Verification for Workers in Schools](#)." The order requires "school workers" to either provide proof of their full vaccination status or undergo weekly testing for COVID-19. Because this is an order of the State Public Health Officer, it has the **force and effect of**

**law and all local educational agencies and private schools in California must comply with it.**

The order, which must be **fully implemented by LEAs by Oct. 15, 2021**, provides no exceptions, even for individuals who have a medical contraindication to vaccination or who are otherwise unable to be vaccinated. This means that LEAs are **responsible for tracking vaccine verifications, establishing testing protocols, and addressing workers who refuse to comply with the order.** For purposes of this order, workers are defined as "all paid and unpaid adults serving in the *school settings* [described in the order] including certificated and classified staff and volunteers who are on-site at a school campus supporting school functions." This includes bus drivers and other staff who are in contact with students on a regular basis **but does not apply to board members or staff who are not at a school site or otherwise in regular contact with students. Board members who are regularly on-site at a school campus should follow the order.**

[Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

### In other COVID-19 developments:

- Two recent webinars hosted by the California Department of Education covered changes to independent study in adherence to Assembly Bill 130. One **presentation in late July focused on requirements for the 2021–22 academic year.** Read more about this event on the [CSBA blog](#). The **Aug. 3 webinar addressed the CDE School Fiscal Services Division's frequently asked questions covering independent study apportionment, instructional time and attendance accounting requirements associated with AB 130.** The FAQs detail current and future requirements. As more information becomes available, the division will continue to post FAQs to the webpage. [Learn more »](#)
- On Aug. 13, the **U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights informed school superintendents that it will administer a 2021–22 Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC).** It will be the first time CRDC, including public school districts and their schools, has been conducted two years in a row. **The collection of an additional year of data is meant to help advance equity as the nation's educational landscape has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and LEAs are receiving new funds to address associated challenges.** The data will inform ongoing decisions on support for schools, educators and students. [Learn more »](#)
- **Applications for the federal Impact Aid Discretionary Construction Grant Program are due by Sept. 13, 2021.** An estimated \$17.4 million will be made available through the program **for emergency repairs and modernization of school facilities to certain LEAs that receive federal Impact Aid formula**

**funds.** Eligible LEAs have a limited ability to raise revenue for capital improvements because **their boundaries include large amounts of federal land.** In its announcement, the U.S. Department of Education recognized that school districts need safe facilities to support learning and prevent the spread of COVID-19. A [webinar](#) for prospective applicants is scheduled for Aug. 19. [Learn more »](#)

## Legislative update: What to expect during the remainder of the 2021 session



Members of the state Senate and Assembly returned to Sacramento this week as the Legislature reconvenes for the final stretch of the 2021 legislative session. Moving forward, the Appropriations Committees in both houses will have until Aug. 27 to consider bills with significant price tags. During this time, these committees will consider their “suspense file.”

**The suspense file is a legislative procedure used only by the respective Appropriations Committees to assess the fiscal implications of bills with a cost estimate of over \$150,000.** Bills with an estimated cost of \$150,000 are placed into the suspense file and considered all at once (likely to occur on Aug. 26) to weigh their fiscal impact as a whole.

**A number of bills of interest for K-12 education are up for consideration in these committees; with major investments already made in the 2021–22 budget, it remains to be seen whether the Legislature will be willing to commit to additional costs or whether remaining proposals will find themselves on the cutting room floor.**

After Aug. 27, both houses will transition to full votes on the floors of the Senate and Assembly. The session will conclude on Sept. 10, after which Gov. Gavin Newsom will have until Oct. 10 to sign or veto legislation.

## CTC discusses RICA subtests, legislation and early learning



**The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing met Aug. 5–6 to discuss key items related to new Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) subtests, legislation and early learning.** Among the efforts moved forward, the CTC determined passing scores for the new RICA subtests. Once a single, long test that examinees passed or failed as a whole, the RICA’s written

exam has been split into three subtests to make the scheduling of exams more efficient and to minimize the costs associated with retaking the test should an examinee not pass one or two sections. **The CTC also discussed its position on Assembly Bill 898, a bill about criminal background checks, and early education training pilots.** [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

## State Board accepting applications for 2022–23 student board member



**The California State Board of Education is currently accepting applications for the 2022–23 student board member position.** All California residents enrolled in a public high school who will be a senior in good standing during the 2022–23 academic year are eligible to apply. Those interested must also be available to attend a virtual, statewide student leader conference from Oct. 30 to Nov. 1,

2021. The student member is appointed by the Governor for a one-year term and functions as a regular voting member of the SBE. **Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 8, 2021.** [Learn more »](#)

## Upcoming webinars on COVID-19 testing, document management



### Keeping Students Safe: Testing for COVID and Limiting its Spread in Schools

In recognition of the new state mandate that all school employees must be vaccinated or tested weekly for COVID-19 and the additional urgency it's created around testing, CSBA has replaced the originally scheduled Air Purification & Safety Supplies webinar with one that features both personal protective

equipment (PPE) and testing solutions.

The excitement of back-to-school has been undercut by anxiety over how to keep students safe from COVID and comply with state orders on masking, testing and school safety. **Join AMI Expeditionary Healthcare and Maclean Health in discussing how a layered approach to school safety can help keep students in school and address concerns from families and community.** The webinar will take place from 11 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Aug. 19. [Learn more and register here »](#)

### Save time with document management services

Confidential and private files require a trusted partner. **The PPE & Document Scanning program offers document management services for your hyperlink plans, specification manuals, administrative/confidential records and more. With both on-site and off-site scanning services, digitizing documents has never been easier.**

Save time without having to look for physical copies. This webinar will take place from 11 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Aug. 26. [Learn more and register here »](#)

## Expert MAA and LEA billing assistance



[more »](#)

CSBA's Practi-Cal offers the most comprehensive Medi-Cal and Medicaid Administrative billing services available to local educational agencies. Its broad range of expertise allows it to **identify areas of reimbursement often overlooked by others and simplifies the complicated billing process**, while minimizing your efforts. There are **no up-front costs to the district.** [Learn](#)

## 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 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction**  
August 27-28 | [Register here](#)

**2021 CCBE Annual Conference**  
September 10-12 | [Register here](#)

**MIG Course 3: School Finance**  
September 13 and 15 | [Register here](#)

**MIG Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review**  
September 17-18 | [Register here](#)

**MIG COE Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review**  
September 23 and 25 | [Register here](#)

**2021 CCSA Virtual Fall Workshop**  
September 24 | [Register here](#)

## In-person events

## Business Services



**MIG 1: Foundations of Effective  
Governance**

September 24 | [Register here](#)

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

September 25 | [Register here](#)

[View complete calendar](#)



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