

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

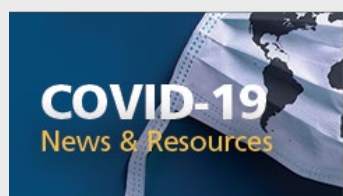
August 4, 2021

Opt in to receive texts about important education events and COVID-19 developments by texting CSBA4Kids to 52886.

In this Issue

- [COVID-19 update: California returns to universal masking indoors](#)
- [Free COVID-19 testing available to schools](#)
- [Legislative update: Expanded Learning Opportunities Grants requirements](#)
- [Nominate a CSBA Director-at-Large](#)
- [Vaccines, outdoor education will aid in a safe reopening of schools](#)
- [Ninth Circuit upholds closure of public schools during pandemic, but finds state infringed on rights of private school students](#)
- [CSBA Golden Gavel Award deadline extended](#)
- [Streamlined superintendent hiring for districts](#)

COVID-19 update: California returns to universal masking indoors



The California Department of Public Health on July 28 updated its [Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#), adding the recommendation that all people wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status in alignment with [the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). This

requirement is already in place for [K-12 schools](#). “With the emergence of the more contagious delta variant in California, which now accounts for over 80 percent of cases sequenced, cases and hospitalizations of COVID-19 are rising throughout the state, especially amongst those that remain unvaccinated,” according to the guidance “Despite ongoing outreach and improving COVID-19 vaccine access, as of July 27, 2021, a significant proportion of Californians throughout the state are not yet fully vaccinated. The delta variant is two times as contagious than early COVID-19 variants, leading to increasing infections.”

In other COVID-19 developments:

- The **U.S. Department of Education on Aug. 2 released the “Return to School Roadmap,” a resource to support students, schools, educators and communities as they prepare to safely return to in-person learning this fall.** The Roadmap outlines how federal funding can support local educational agencies in re-opening, as well as actionable strategies to implement the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s updated guidance for K-12 schools, so that schools can minimize transmission and sustain in-person learning all school-year long. [Learn more »](#)
- The U.S. DOE on July 28 released the remaining American Rescue Plan funds to support students experiencing homelessness. The [announcement](#) followed the DOE’s **review and approval of each state’s streamlined application to access the remaining 75 percent of their ARP Homeless Children and Youth funding.** States may use up to 25 percent of their funds for state-determined uses and, as the result of a rule published on July 9, states will award at least 75 percent of the state’s funding to school districts through formula subgrants, determined in part by a district’s population of children and youth experiencing homelessness and a district’s Title I-A allocation. **California will receive the remaining \$74,080,388 of its \$98,757,695 total.**

Free COVID-19 testing available to schools



The California Department of Public Health has partnered with Concentric by Ginkgo on a program to provide **no-cost, fully staffed, pooled COVID testing in K-12 schools**. This free state-sponsored program will enable pooled COVID testing to help keep classrooms open this summer and fall. **Regular testing — which**

takes about 10 minutes per classroom or cohort — can help schools safeguard staff and students.

This end-to-end testing program **includes clinical support on test days and administrative support throughout the service, courier logistics and lab processing through labs in Northern and Southern California, and fun educational content for students including comics and stickers**. For more information, webinars will be held Mondays at 12 p.m. ([register here](#)) and Wednesdays at 8 a.m. ([register here](#)). Or connect with a [Concentric team member directly to begin the process](#).

Legislative update: Expanded Learning Opportunities Grants requirements



Included in the 2021–22 state budget is **\$1.75 billion in one-time funding for the Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant Program**, which will fund after school, summer school or intersessional instruction opportunities **to provide to students with additional instructional and tutoring services to aid in learning recovery**.

Local educational agencies will **receive funding based on their number of unduplicated pupils (low income, foster youth and English learners) in grades TK-6**. In the 2021–22 school year, as a condition of receipt of funding, LEAs **must offer expanded learning to all pupils in grades TK-6 and provide these services to at least 50 percent of unduplicated enrollment**. Beginning in the 2022–23 fiscal year, on condition of receipt of funding, services must be provided to any TK-6 student who requests it.

LEAs will be **required to provide no less than nine hours of combined in-person instructional time and expanded learning opportunities for students in grades TK-6 on school days and nine hours of expanded learning opportunities for at least 30 non-school summer school or intersessional days**. As in the existing After School Education and Safety Program, programs will offer an educational element, such as tutoring, and a supplemental element such as STEM or fine arts. Programs will be required to maintain adult to student ratios of 1:10 for TK and kindergarten and 1:20 for grades 1-6.

This funding is intended as the **first step of a multi-year plan to provide such programs to all students, with the intent of expanding funding up to \$2,500 per student totaling \$5 billion in annual funding by 2025–26**. No district serving K-6 will receive less than \$50,000. CSBA will continue to advocate for sustainable and adequate funding for all new programs.

Nominate a CSBA Director-at-Large



Nominations for **CSBA Directors-at-Large for African American, American Indian and County** are being accepted through **Friday, Oct. 1**.

Director-at-Large candidates must be nominated by a CSBA member board and nominees must be a member of a member board. Please note: Only a CSBA member county board of education may submit nominations for the Director-at-Large, County seat. **Each nominating member board is required to submit a completed Nomination Form to CSBA by 11:59 p.m., Friday, Oct. 1. [Learn more and download a Nomination Form »](#)**

Vaccines, outdoor education will aid in a safe reopening of schools



Strategies for a safe return to in-person instruction were discussed during a July 29 webinar hosted by the California Department of Education. Along with other tools such as proper ventilation and testing, **the importance of having as many eligible community members as possible receive a COVID-19 vaccine was**

referenced as a key safety component by health and education experts. This is because children are more likely to catch the virus at home rather than at school where other mitigation efforts are in effect. **Additionally, outdoor learning is expected to become more common as it has increasingly recognized safety, mental health and academic benefits.** Examples from Chula Vista Elementary School District and San Mateo County Office of Education were detailed by presenters. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

Ninth Circuit upholds closure of public schools during pandemic, but finds state infringed on rights of private school students



The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on July 23, 2021, **rejected a legal challenge to California's decision to close public schools to in-person instruction and provide online distance learning** in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, the **court reversed the lower court's decision toward private schools, finding that the state's orders closing private schools infringed on the right of parents to choose their children's schools.** The case, [Brach v. Newsom](#), is a challenge by public and private school students and parents to various orders that California issued during the COVID-19 pandemic that closed school campuses to in-person instruction.

California's public schools will not experience a change in the status quo as a result of the Ninth Circuit's decision, and even for private schools, this latest decision in *Brach v. Newsom* may not have much practical impact in the next school year, as California's existing guidance encourages in-person instruction for all schools in the next school year. [Read more on the CSBA blog »](#)

CSBA Golden Gavel Award deadline extended



The deadline for CSBA's Golden Gavel Awards submissions has been extended to Friday, Aug. 13. The **Golden Gavel Award** is presented to an individual school board member who exemplifies best practices in effective governance and boardsmanship. Nominees for the Golden Gavel Award will be judged on their ability to value,

support and advocate for public education. Full awards criteria, program details and the application link are available on the [Golden Gavel Awards webpage](#).

Streamlined superintendent hiring for districts



In partnership with McPherson & Jacobson, L.L.C., CSBA offers Executive Search Service to **provide districts and county offices of education with a streamlined process to meet their executive hiring needs.** From identifying possible candidates to the selection of a qualified

superintendent, Executive Search Services offers an extensive and comprehensive process that guides the board through this critical time with ease and professionalism. [Learn more »](#)

COVID-19 resources

Business Services

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

Student Board Member Summer Training Session

August 11 | [Register here](#)

MIG COE Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

August 19 and 21 | [Register here](#)

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

August 23 and 25 | [Register here](#)

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

August 27-28 | [Register here](#)

2021 CCBE Annual Conference

September 10-12 | [Register here](#)

[View complete calendar](#)



California School Boards Association | 3251 Beacon Blvd., West Sacramento, CA 95691
Phone: (800) 266-3382 | Fax: (916) 371-3407
[Website](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)