

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

March 2, 2022

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: School mask mandate expires March 11



California will change its school masking policy from “required” to “strongly recommended” beginning March 12, according to a [joint release](#) on Feb. 28 in which Gov. Gavin Newsom joined the governors of Oregon and Washington in announcing new masking policies. **The announcement applies to students and staff, and there is no distinction between vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.** In

addition, as school buses serving K-12 populations are considered a school setting, masking remains required through March 11, 2022, after which time masking will be strongly recommended.

In a [press conference](#) following the announcement, Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly cited the metrics behind the decision. **Cases continue to trend downward in the state, decreasing 66 percent from Feb. 14. Hospitalizations are about half of what they were in the state two weeks ago and test positivity has dropped 53 percent.** [Read CSBA's full analysis »](#)

In other COVID-related news:

- The Governor on Feb. 25 issued an executive order **clarifying how flexibilities that are scheduled to expire on March 31, will carry schools through the end of the current school year. Please note that the below pertains to substitutes and retired educators hired prior to March 31.** Specifically, after March 31, 2022:
 - Days that a substitute teacher provided instruction in a single assignment prior to March 31, 2022, will not count towards that teacher's 60-day limit during the 2021–22 school year.
 - Post-retirement salary earned by a retired educator that returned to teaching in the 2021–22 year prior to March 31, 2022, will not count towards that retired teacher's post-retirement earnings cap for the 2021–22 school year.
 - Retired educators that returned to service prior to March 31, 2022, may continue in service even if they are still within the 180-day post-retirement employment wait period.
 - Allows for the lapsation of flexibilities around issuance of local substitute credentials without requiring a separate application to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, and state funding for classes taught by unsupervised student teachers.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Feb. 25 **issued new COVID-19 guidelines, which rank every county in the U.S. by low, medium and high levels of the virus and provide the precautions that should be considered** based on the level of COVID in their community and their underlying risk.

Legislative update: COVID ADA relief



daily attendance.

As budget hearings and negotiations move forward in Sacramento, CSBA is putting a spotlight on the most important issues for schools, including proposals addressing declining enrollment. Gov. Gavin Newsom's January budget proposed changing how the Local Control Funding Formula apportionment is calculated to consider the greater of a school district's current year, prior year, or the average of three prior years' average

CSBA's priority is to ensure that any adopted plan recognizes the ongoing and devastating impact of the pandemic on school attendance, particularly in the current school year. As such, CSBA is proposing that 2019–20 school year ADA percentages be used to calculate the ADA apportionment for the 2021–22 school year.

Key talking points in communicating with local governance leaders:

- Schools across California are seeing significantly lower attendance rates due to the impacts of the pandemic. Though ADA can be generated from students participating in independent study, there are high rates of absenteeism, particularly due to the delta variant in fall and omicron in early 2022.
- In recognition of the extraordinary nature of the 2021–22 school year, we request one-time COVID attendance relief to mitigate fiscal instability.
- We request that the attendance percentage an LEA generated in the 2019–20 school year be used in calculating apportionment in the current year (2021–22), as 2019–20 was the last semi-normal school year. Unlike the previous hold harmless for schools, we suggest using current enrollment numbers, to reflect declines or increases.

New *California Schools* issue available online



The winter issue of *California Schools* magazine **puts a spotlight on the disruptions happening at board meeting around the state related to hot-topic issues** like COVID-19 mitigation strategies and ethnic studies curriculum. The article features **interviews with board members, tips for managing meetings and the importance of strong communication** with the community. Other feature stories look at the

challenges and potential solutions for staffing shortages and how districts are **working with English learners after a long period of virtual learning.** [Read the issue](#)

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PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Credential survey available



The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing is **launching a survey regarding the New Teaching Performance Expectations (TPEs) for a new a new PK-3 ECE Specialist Credential.** ECE practitioners, multiple subject teachers, ECE faculty at institutions of higher education, ECE administrators, K-8 school administrators, members of ECE-related

organizations, groups, and entities, and all other interested community members are encouraged to respond to the survey. For questions about this survey or the work relating to the PK-3 ECE Specialist credential, email ECE@ctc.ca.gov. [Take the survey »](#)

U.S. Department of Education updates



The U.S. Department of Education released a **new fact sheet highlighting ways states and school districts are using American Rescue Plan funds to re-engage students and enhance academic learning by expanding career and technical education opportunities**. As schools help students address lost instructional time, high-quality CTE programs can be a powerful tool to boost school engagement and on-time graduation.

Students who complete a sequence of CTE courses in high school are more likely to graduate on time and enroll in postsecondary education. [Read the fact sheet »](#)

The Education Department is **accepting applications for the fiscal year 2022 Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP)**. The purpose of the program is to assist local educational agencies in the desegregation of schools by providing financial assistance to eligible LEAs for, among other things: the elimination, reduction or prevention of minority group isolation in public schools with substantial proportions of minority students; the development, implementation and expansion of magnet school programs that will assist LEAs in achieving systemic reforms and providing all students the opportunity to meet challenging state academic standards; the development, design and expansion of innovative educational methods and practices that promote diversity and increase choices in public schools. [Learn more »](#)

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 [CSBA blog](#).

Virtual events

2022 CCBE County Board Governance Workshop

March 11-12 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

March 15-16 | [Register](#)

Legislative Action Week

March 15-17 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

March 25-26 | [Register](#)

In-person events

2022 CCBE County Board Governance Workshop

March 11-12 | Sacramento | [Register](#)

2022 Leadership Institute

July 22-23 | Los Angeles | [Register](#)

Business partner event

The Digital Transformation Revolutionizing Education: The Keller ISD Journey

July 10-13 | Virtual | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

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