

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

March 16, 2022

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COVID-19 update: Spring break testing; Air quality tips



The **California Department of Public Health** is offering a minimum of 13 million at-home rapid tests to the state's 58 county offices of education to be used by public and private school staff and students around spring break. According to the California Department of Education, **deliveries are being scheduled in accordance with the dates of scheduled spring breaks.**

This round of tests is being funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, meaning the state and its school partners who participate will need to provide the federal government with information verifying the intended use of all tests purchased with FEMA money. Participating COEs will need to verify the number of tests given to each LEA for students and staff with the CDPH.

In other COVID-19 developments:

- The CDPH recently released a fact sheet, “Tips for Improving Indoor Air Quality at School” in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). **The one-page document shares strategies that LEAs can implement to limit exposure to COVID-19 as well as harmful chemicals and wildfire smoke in schools and classrooms.** It includes information on the importance of indoor air quality and advice for improving air quality today as well as long-term tips. [View the fact sheets and other ventilation tips »](#)

Legislative update: CSBA’s Legislative Action Week underway



CSBA’s virtual Legislative Action Week is happening now, as more than 360 local education leaders from across the state meet with their senators, assemblymembers and legislative staff to shine light on the most important issues facing California’s schools.

Over the next few days, participants will speak with legislators on five priority topics:

- Increasing the base local control funding formula
- School employer pension relief
- COVID average daily attendance relief
- Home to school transportation funding
- CSBA sponsored legislation related to elections including [Assembly Bill 2584](#) (Berman, D-Palo Alto) on recall reform and [Senate Bill 1061](#) (Laird, D-Santa Cruz) on in lieu elections reform

As the legislative session moves forward, the lived experience and advocacy school board members brought to the Capitol during Legislative Action Week will be pivotal in informing the votes of senators and assemblymembers.

E.E. v. State of California case update

On March 11 **the federal trial judge in *E.E. v. State of California* denied the state’s request for a stay of the preliminary injunction beyond March 17.** As CSBA informed members in [this March 9 blog post](#), an injunction was issued in



favor of 15 plaintiff special education students from local educational agencies throughout the state directing the California Department of Education to issue guidance to all LEAs regarding, among other things, providing distance learning to special education students whose parents had independently determined the students are not able to safely attend in-person instruction due to COVID-19. **The state defendants in the matter,**

including CDE, requested a stay of the injunction. The judge stayed the injunction until March 17 and heard from the parties on the state's requested longer stay. However, she ultimately did not grant the longer stay requested by the state defendants.

The state defendants have appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for a stay from that Court. Specifically, the state defendants filed an Emergency Motion requesting that the Court issue a stay effective March 16. **If the Ninth Circuit does not issue a stay, CDE will be required to issue the guidance ordered by the District Court no later than March 17.** CSBA will update members if the stay is granted and provide further updates if and when that guidance issued.

CSBA releases Fast Facts sheet with demographic info on public schools



CSBA has published a **Fast Facts and Figures sheet**, including information on K-12 public education in California, K-12 public school governance in the state, governing board member demographics and 2021–22 CSBA membership. In 2021–22, there are 940 K-12 public school districts and 58 county offices of education. Statewide, there are 4,977 public school district and county board of education

seats. According to the sheet, **53 percent Of California school board members serve on the board of a small school district.** Additionally, **99.9 percent of K-12 public school students in the state are represented by CSBA member local educational agencies.** [View the fact sheet »](#)

SBE moves forward on accountability, waivers approved



Three new members of the California State Board of Education were sworn in at the start of the board's March 9-10 meeting, during which the board took action to revise school accountability reporting to account for COVID impacts, approve several waivers and more.

State educational agencies received waivers from federal accountability requirements for the 2019–20 and 2020–21 school years and from the assessment requirements for

the 2019–20 school year. As a result, many states have not implemented all aspects of their statewide accountability systems or identified schools for support and improvement since fall 2019. The board is attempting to reconcile the lack of reliable school accountability data as a result of the pandemic with a [requirement by the U.S. Department of Education](#) to “resume identifying schools for comprehensive, targeted, and additional targeted support and improvement using data from the 2021–22 school year in the fall of 2022 ... as quickly as possible.” [Read a full recap of the meeting »](#)

Federal updates: Congress’ omnibus bill increases education funding; Q&A on serving students with disabilities at private schools



A **\$1.5 trillion omnibus bill for fiscal year 2022, funding the federal government through September, was approved by Congress** last week and was signed by President Joe Biden on March 15. **It includes a \$2.9 billion increase in Department of Education funding from FY 2021. The bill includes a \$1 billion increase for Every Student Succeeds Act Title I Grants from the level enacted the prior year for a total of \$17.5 billion in FY 2022.** Additionally, it includes \$2.2 billion for ESSA Title II-A; \$13.3 billion for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B; 1.3 billion for Student Support and Academic Enrichment State Grants; and \$1.38 billion for career technical education state grants.

A new Q&A **“Questions and Answers on Serving Children with Disabilities Place by Their Parents in Private Schools”** was recently published by the Department of Education. **The 55-page document addresses issues related to students who require IDEA services who have been put in private schools by their parents and what public schools must do to provide services.**

Around-the-clock crisis communications 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. [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 [CSBA blog](#).

Virtual events

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction

March 25-26 | [Register](#)

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

April 6-7 | [Register](#)

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

April 8-9 | [Register](#)

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

April 12-13 | [Register](#)

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

April 14-15 | [Register](#)

In-person events

2022 Leadership Institute

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

External event

APISBMA: Sharing stories: Hope, inspiration, & COVID recovery — an AAPI perspective

March 21 | Virtual | [Register](#)

[View complete calendar](#)

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