

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

January 26, 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: CSBA and CDE provide insight to independent study and the J-13A waiver process



High absentee rates among students and staff result in a loss of instructional days, which, in turn, can affect apportionment and funding. Typically, when emergency conditions cause a school closure, reduction in attendance, or change in schedule that affects the minimum number of instructional days or minutes required by law, the local educational agency can use the J-13A waiver process to obtain approval of

apportionment credit. However, [Assembly Bill 167](#), which along with AB 130 established new independent study requirements and school closure procedures, **includes additional requirements for the waiver process, and if the LEA wants to receive apportionment credit for the days missed, it must take additional steps prior to closing any schools.**

CSBA has partnered with California Department of Education officials to provide a webcast to members explaining the J-13A waiver process, the changes in place for 2021–22, and information on scheduling a staffing shortage consultation with the CDE. **CSBA has also released a guide to provide a better understanding of what LEAs can do and the processes that must be followed** when facing material staffing decreases when there is no state or local health order closing schools. [CSBA Guide to School Closures](#) | [CDE webcast “2021–22 Form J-13A and Staffing Shortage Consultation Process”](#)

In other COVID-19 developments:

- Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) introduced [Senate Bill 866](#), which **would permit a child 12 or older to consent on their own to any vaccine approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.** That list includes the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, as well as immunizations for influenza, measles, chickenpox and others. Currently, children over 12 can get HPV and hepatitis B vaccines without parents’ permission.
- A second bill — [SB 871](#), authored by **Sen. Richard Pan (D-Sacramento)** — **would add COVID-19 vaccines to California’s list of required inoculations for attending K-12 schools.** These are the first bills to come out of a [legislative vaccine work group](#) that is determining what steps the Legislature should take to improve vaccination rates and reduce misinformation.
- The U.S. Department of Education **announced** on Jan. 18 that **the distribution of \$122 billion in American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds had been completed and that every state education agency had received approval of their ARP ESSER plan** before the end of Dec. 2021. [Fact sheets](#) are available for each state’s ARP ESSER plan outlining how they will use their funds. In addition, the Education Department’s website now includes [links to school districts’ plans](#) for the use of these funds. These funds are meant to help states and local districts safely keep schools open for in-person learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Learn more »](#)

CSBA President Commission on Teacher Credentialing appointment confirmed

CSBA President Dr. Susan Heredia’s appointment to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing was confirmed unanimously by the Senate on Jan. 20. One of



the state's critically important political bodies that often fly under the radar, the CTC is currently tasked with helping to relieve **California's massive and persisting teacher shortage**. In a **recent meeting**, Dr. Heredia — who has been serving on the commission since April 2021 — voiced her support for offering teacher preparation coursework in more flexible ways, especially for those in rural communities where there are limited

resources and where the pandemic has hit especially hard on multiple fronts.

Two education ballot initiatives shelved



Two proposed ballot initiatives that would have affected school districts and county offices of education are unlikely to be on the ballot in 2022, as backers of the proposals have **reportedly stopped efforts to collect signatures to qualify the initiatives**.

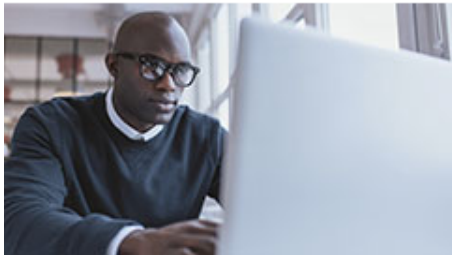
Advocates of school vouchers had proposed two ballot initiatives for the 2022 ballot. "**Fix**

California" has suspended its effort to put its voucher initiative on the ballot, and **instead has voiced its support for the nearly identical initiative** by **Californians for School Choice**. The remaining voucher proposal would **provide \$14,000 annually to parents out of existing public education funding to pay for tuition and other education expenses at private schools or home school, with unused funds to be eligible for the students to use for post-secondary education**.

Promoters of the "**Constitutional Right to a High-Quality Public Education Act**" ballot initiative have **reportedly delayed their effort to qualify the initiative until the 2024 ballot**, citing challenges collecting signatures amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the omicron surge. The initiative **would have amended California's Constitution to assert that all students have the right to a "high-quality public education that provides them with the skills necessary to fully participate in the economy, our democracy, and our society."** The proposal limited any remedy that could be imposed by a court to the invalidation of any law, regulation, policy or official action that interfered with a high-quality public education. The initiative also included language that would be subject to interpretation for its application, that "[t]he remedies for this right shall not include new mandates for taxes or spending."

CSBA's Institute for New and First-Term Board Members starts soon

CSBA's **virtual Institute for New and First-Term Board Members** provides new trustees a crash course in four major areas of board **responsibility and authority**: effective governance, finance, student learning and human



resources. **Throughout the two-day training program, attendees learn about tools needed to become a more effective member of their governance team.** Superintendents are encouraged to attend as well, and registration is complimentary if you attend with your new board member(s). [Learn more and register today »](#)

California Prekindergarten Planning and Implementation Grant Program template available



California's 2021–22 state budget committed major funding to expand both transitional kindergarten and the California State Preschool Program, marking a new chapter in universal prekindergarten (UPK) implementation using a mixed-delivery system. The budget also **established the [UPK Planning and Implementation Grant Program](#) with the goal of expanding access to prekindergarten programs. As a condition of receiving grant funds, state law requires each local educational agency create and submit a plan to its board for consideration by June 30.** The plan should articulate how all children in the attendance area of the LEA will have access to full-day learning programs the year before kindergarten that meet the needs of parents.

The California Department of Education has released a [template to support these efforts by offering relevant questions for LEA consideration in developing comprehensive plans and outlining the data that will be required for submission to the CDE to meet education code requirements.](#) The CDE also released the [estimated funding allocations](#) of the \$200 million provided by the 2021–22 Budget Act to support UPK Planning & Implementation. LEAs will receive grant award notices for these allocations early in 2022. [Estimated county office of education allocations](#) for the UPK Planning and Implementation – Countywide Planning and Capacity Grant are also available. COEs will also receive grant award notices for these allocations early in 2022.

CSBA's Cash Reserve Program can help your LEA manage state deferrals

The impact of the apportionment deferrals and the timing of expenditures versus state and federal stimulus payments could make it difficult to maintain positive cash flow during the 2022–23 school year. Now in partnership with California Association of School Business



Officials, CSBA's Cash Reserve Program has provided local educational agencies **a reliable and cost-effective short-term cash flow funding option** for over 30 years. Participants issue Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANS) through a streamlined, pooled process. Learn more today about how the Cash Reserve Program can offer you low borrowing costs and flexible repayment terms, with easy and

efficient administration. [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

Institute for New and First-Term Board Members

Feb. 1-2 | [Register](#)

Feb. 4-5 | [Register](#)

Executive Assistants Certification Program

Feb. 4-May 13 | [Register](#)

Equity Network Training: Governance with an Equity Lens

Feb. 12-May 7 | [Register](#)

MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance

Feb. 18-19 | [Register](#)

In-person events

2022 CCBE County Board Governance Workshop

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

2022 Leadership Institute

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

[View complete calendar](#)

