

California schoolnews

Weekly Update

January 5, 2022

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COVID-19 update: New state and federal isolation guidelines announced



Following the recent surge in positive COVID cases and resulting hospitalizations, **the California Department of Public Health issued updated quarantine guidance** on Dec. 30, which allows asymptomatic people to exit isolation only if they get a negative test result five days after testing positive. This goes beyond the latest recommendations issued Dec. 27 by the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention. The [CDC shortened recommended isolation timelines for those who test positive for COVID-19 if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving](#) (without fever for 24 hours) **from 10 to five days**, followed by five days of mask wearing when around others. **The new guidelines apply to everyone, including children, though no updates have been announced for school settings.**

New state and federal guidance both call for **unvaccinated individuals and vaccinated people who are eligible for a booster but have not yet received one who are exposed to COVID-19 to isolate for at least five days and also get an antigen test on day five. Vaccinated individuals who have received their booster, or are not eligible for a booster, and are exposed to COVID-19 do not have to stay home but should test on day five and wear a mask for 10 days.** On Jan. 4, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [updated its recommendation for when people aged 16 and older can receive a booster shot](#), shortening the interval from six months to five months for those who received the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Additionally, the [CDC now recommends an additional dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for some immunocompromised children aged 5–11 years old](#) to complete the primary series – a total of three doses. The booster interval recommendation for people who received the J&J vaccine (two months) or the Moderna vaccine (six months), has not changed.

CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said during a Dec. 15 White House briefing that **schools should limit quarantines by requiring testing for unvaccinated close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case.** Walensky cited two new CDC studies conducted [in Los Angeles](#) and [Lake County, Ill.](#), providing evidence that "test to stay" practices are effective in limiting the spread of COVID-19 in schools that have masking policies. [Learn more »](#)

In other COVID-19 news:

- Gov. Gavin Newsom [announced](#) on Dec. 22 that **6 million free in-home rapid tests will be sent to California schools and partner groups so that all K-12 students can be checked once or twice before returning to the classroom after the holidays.** CDPH is working with local education and health partners to distribute those test kits as efficiently as possible. A CDPH spokeswoman told the [Los Angeles Times](#) on Monday that just half of the tests had been delivered, with an additional 1 million tests en route and 1.5 million tests expected to arrive at the state's warehouse Monday before being directed to counties. The remaining 500,000 tests have been ordered and are expected to arrive later this week, the agency said.
- State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond [proposed legislation](#) Dec. 21 to **bolster mental health services for California students by providing prospective mental health clinicians up to \$25,000 in scholarship money.** The plan is **meant to entice at least 10,000 new mental health clinicians to work in the state's K-12 public schools**, which have been suffering a shortage of counselors, psychologists and social workers at the same time that student mental health needs have escalated due to the pandemic.
- In a Dec. 16 [letter to state education agencies and school districts](#), **Education Secretary Miguel Cardona urged school districts and states**

struggling with teacher, substitute and other staff shortages to consider offering hiring and retention bonuses, raising salaries and providing premium pay using COVID relief funds. He also encouraged officials to make exceptions for the next year or two that will allow retired educators to come back into schools without losing their pension, or that will allow current educators in line for retirement to collect their pension while they continue to work.

CSBA budget priorities: Fund the base



Gov. Gavin Newsom must release his budget proposal by Jan. 10, and with the **latest figures from the Legislative Analyst's Office** showing an estimated \$31 billion surplus and a projected surge in funding for schools, **it's likely that this will be another year of ambitious budget proposals.**

As CSBA looks ahead to this budget cycle, **a recommitment to the Local Control Funding Formula base is paramount.** While the **Budget Act of 2021 made significant investments in many worthy goals, the overwhelming majority of new funds are tied up in categorical programs with eligibility restrictions or in competitive grant programs that many districts do not have the capacity or resources to access or sustain.** As costs rise and schools are stretched thin to keep day-to-day operations running, CSBA will advocate for the Governor and Legislature to focus on increasing funding for the base before creating new categorical programs or competitive grants.

Further priorities include:

- Relief for schools facing significant increases in employer pension contributions.
- A hold harmless or multi-year rolling average for districts facing declining enrollment as well as funding for districts that saw average daily attendance growth during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Funding for education facilities, particularly as universal transitional kindergarten is implemented.
- Funding for home-to-school transportation equal to the actual costs for local educational agencies.

The Governor's budget is expected to be announced on Jan. 10. CSBA's Governmental Relations team will provide updates as details emerge, as well as opportunities for advocacy as the budget season continues.

Legislative update: New bills to watch

Sen. Anthony Portantino (D-La Cañada Flintridge) has **unveiled legislation to fund school**



districts and county offices of education based on enrollment referred to as “average daily membership” (ADM) rather than average daily attendance (ADA). [Senate Bill 830](#) would define ADM as the aggregate enrollment days for all TK-12 pupils in a local educational agency divided by the total number of instructional days in an academic year. **Subject to a budget allocation, LEAs would receive supplemental funding**

equal to the difference between the amount they would receive based on ADA and ADM, for an estimated total cost of \$3 billion. **LEAs receiving the supplemental funding would be required to demonstrate a maintenance of effort to address habitual truancy and chronic absenteeism and spend at least 50 percent of the supplemental funding on services that address the root causes of those problems.**

In other legislative news, Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) amended his bill, [SB 579](#), to **require that the fiscal apportionment for schools for the 2022–23 school year use the greater of the 2019–20, 2021–22 or 2022–23 fiscal year ADA.** Due to the pandemic’s impact on student enrollment and attendance, the state budget provided a school apportionment hold harmless for the 2020–21 and 2021–22 school years that is set to expire at the end of the current fiscal year on June 30. Recognizing that the pandemic will likely continue into the coming school year, **SB 579 proposes to extend the school apportionment hold harmless to the 2022–23 school year.** SB 579 will be heard in the Senate Education Committee on Jan. 12.

Saluting trustees during School Board Recognition Month



This January during **School Board Recognition Month**, CSBA salutes local educational agency boards and encourages communities around California to do the same. Roughly 5,100 California school board trustees — the largest group of elected officials in the state — aid in supporting student success by establishing policy priorities and benchmarks. Trustees provide a critical accountability link between

schools and the community and offer a level of accessibility to voters that is unrivaled by other public officeholders. CSBA encourages LEAs, community organizations, mayors and other local officials to designate January as a time to **recognize their hard-working board members and educate the public about the important role that school boards play in schools and communities.** [Sample resolution declaring January School Board Recognition Month](#) | [Sample news release](#)

Universal Meals Program FAQs and webinar series

Beginning with the 2022–23 school year, California will become the first state to



implement a statewide **Universal Meals Program** designed to build on the foundations of the federal **National School Lunch Program** and **School Breakfast Program**. To support the implementation, the California Department of Education's Nutrition Services Division (NSD) is creating a universal meals webpage and collecting frequently asked questions via email at

UniversalMealsSY22@cde.ca.gov. The top 21 FAQs already submitted to the mailbox have been answered on the [Universal Meals FAQ web page](#).

The NSD is also **hosting a monthly webinar series on the state's Universal Meals Program**. The next webinar, scheduled for Jan. 11, will feature a deep dive into the provision requirements included in the program. Webinar details will be available on the [Nutrition What's New web page](#).

Reading Instruction and Intervention Grant Program applications due soon



Applications for the [Reading Instruction and Intervention Grant](#) are due by 4 p.m on Jan. 28.

The California Department of Education's Educator Excellence and Equity Division is seeking grant applications in order to select a local educational agency, an LEA in partnership with an institution of higher education or nonprofit organization, or a consortia to disseminate professional learning opportunities for educators, including teachers, administrators and

paraprofessionals, serving K-12 students across the state. **The grantee will provide professional learning in the areas of evidence-based literacy, intensive literacy interventions and executive functioning skills.** [Learn more »](#)

Expert MAA and LEA billing assistance



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 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 newly redesigned [CSBA blog](#).

In-person event

2022 CCBE County Board Governance Workshop

March 11-12 | [Register](#)

2022 Leadership Institute | Los Angeles

July 22-23 | [Register](#)

Virtual events

Governance with an Equity Lens

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