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## COVID-19 update: California rescinds school employee vaccination and testing requirements



On Sept. 13, Dr. Tomás Aragón, state public health officer and director of the California Department of Public Health, **rescinded an August 2021 order requiring all workers in California's public schools to either be vaccinated or be subject to screening tests for COVID-19. This rescission is effective Sept. 17. Therefore, after Sept. 16, LEAs are no longer required to obtain proof of vaccination from**

**employees or require COVID-19 screening testing of unvaccinated employees.**

The order rescinding the prior order noted that this aligns California's requirements with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued Aug. 11 and 24. In rescinding the prior order, Dr. Aragón also relied on the dramatic increase in the vaccination rate in California, generally — 80 percent of Californians 12 years old and older are fully vaccinated and almost 50 percent have received their first booster — as well as high vaccination rates among workers in high-risk settings and a low proportion of unvaccinated workers. According to the order, because the omicron subvariants have shown increased transmissibility, mandating COVID-19 testing of the relatively small number of unvaccinated school workers would not be helpful in preventing disease transmission even though vaccinated individuals have lower rates of infection.

## Legislative update: Key labor bill awaits Governor's decision



All eyes have turned to Gov. Gavin Newsom to determine the fate of hundreds of bills sent to his desk in the final month of session. **Among the key bills for school districts is [Senate Bill 931 \(Leyva, D-Chino\)](#), which would impose new penalties on public employers, including school districts, for allegedly “detering or discouraging” employees from joining or participating in a union.** CSBA's Legislative

Committee took an **Oppose Unless Amended** position on the measure, which originally would have authorized a union to file a complaint with the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) and permitted PERB to levy a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 per affected employee and up to \$100,000 total, including awarding attorney's fees and costs, to a prevailing employee organization but not a prevailing public employer. The bill also lacks a clear definition of “deter or discourage.”

**In response to CSBA's advocacy, the bill was amended to permit PERB to consider 1) the public employer's annual budget, 2) the severity of the violation and 3) prior history of violations by the public employer when determining the amount of the civil penalty.** But even with these amendments, **CSBA and other public employer groups including the Association of California School Administrators, the California Association of School Business Officials, and the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association remain opposed and are advocating for a veto.** The bill awaits a decision from the Governor, who has until Sept. 30 to sign or veto all remaining legislation.

## School Boards in Action: 5 Questions with Manteca USD board President Marie Freitas



In CSBA's continuing effort to **highlight the hard work and effective practices of boards during these challenging times**, the association's 5



Questions blog series shares the experiences of board members around the state. **Manteca Unified School District board President Marie Freitas discussed professional learning, transparent communication with families and the larger community, and fostering a safe environment that supports students' academic and social-emotional needs.** [Read the interview »](#)

## Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates Latino culture and contributions



**CSBA will be recognizing National Hispanic Heritage Month over the next several weeks with a series of [blog posts](#).** California is home to the largest Latino population in the United States, with **55 percent** of the student population identifying as Latino/Hispanic. (The terms are often used interchangeably in education, as Hispanic is the official state and federal category for this population.) **National Hispanic Heritage**

**Month is celebrated Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 and provides a time to emphasize and appreciate the history, heritage and contributions of the ancestors of American citizens who came from Mexico, Spain, the Caribbean, and South and Central America.** The CSBA blog will feature stories on the Puente Project, which works with schools to increase the college-going rates of Latino students; Oakland Unified School District's Latino Student Achievement initiative; and Sweetwater Union High School District's Grupo Folklórico San Ysidro, which celebrates and encourages students through the art of dance.

## Teacher Quality Partnership grant program



On Sept. 12, the **U.S. Department of Education announced it has awarded almost \$25 million, including nearly \$4 million in California, to recruit, prepare, develop and support an effective and diverse educator workforce via the Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) grant program.** Consisting of 22 five-year grants, recipients of the awards consist of institutes of higher education and national nonprofit

organizations. California-based recipients include National University, Alder Graduate School and Reach Institute for School Leadership (also known as Reach University).

TQP provides funding for teacher preparation programs at colleges and universities located in high-need communities for the undergraduate fifth-year level and for teaching residency programs, according to the Education Department. **All TQP grantees have a strong relationship between the teacher prep programs and local school districts,**

often facilitated by mentor teachers who support up-and-coming educators. This year's competition included a Leadership Program priority to give applicants the chance to add programs on effective school leadership that will prepare individuals for careers as superintendents, principals, early childhood education program directors and more. [Learn more »](#)

## CSBA Legal Services offers expertise, monthly learning series



CSBA's District and County Office of Education Legal Services team was honored **to participate in a panel discussion on school safety at the California Association of African American Superintendents & Administrators (CAAASA) 2022 Round-Up**. CSBA Chief Legal Counsel Bob Tuerck joined California Attorney General Rob Bonta, State Board of Education Vice-President Cynthia Glover-Woods, and Mt. Diablo Unified

School District Superintendent and CAAASA President-elect Adam Clark for a collaborative discussion on gun violence and keeping students safe.

**Legal Services clients will be joining CSBA attorneys for the Lunch & Learn series on Sept. 21. The monthly series is available exclusively to Legal Services clients. This month, CSBA attorneys will provide practical guidance and legal information regarding best campaign practices and how to avoid common pitfalls.** Topics will include campaign funding, public speaking engagements, candidate endorsements and more. In addition to these opportunities, Legal Services clients can access other valuable resources including legal advice and counseling, advising on board governance, assistance with dispute resolution and a large library of collective bargaining agreements, salary schedules and other labor-related resources from local educational agencies across the state. [Learn more about CSBA's District and County Office of Education Legal Services »](#)

## Comprehensive performance audits for your district's bond funds

### *Annual Proposition 39* **PERFORMANCE AUDITS**

CSBA believes that a performance audit of bond funds should be comprehensive enough to assess the **best use of taxpayer money and provide recommendations for improvements based on best practices in procurement and construction**. CSBA partners with Total School Solutions in providing **comprehensive performance audits to assist our members** in improving their bond-funded facilities programs.

Please contact Susan Lendway at 707-422-6393 to request a proposal for your performance audit. [Learn more »](#)

Stay up to date with the latest news and resources on the [CSBA blog](#).

### Virtual events

**MIG Course 1: Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction**  
Sept. 26-27 | [Register](#)

**MIG Course 3: School Finance Part 1 and Part 2**  
Oct. 11-12 | [Register](#)

**MIG Course 4: Human Resources/Collective Bargaining**  
Oct. 26-27 | [Register](#)

**MIG Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration**  
Nov. 8-9 | [Register](#)

### In-person events

**The Brown Act**  
Oct. 20 | Rancho Cucamonga | [Register](#)

**CSBA Annual Education Conference and Trade Show**  
Dec. 1-3 | San Diego | [Register](#)

### Sponsors



[View complete calendar](#)



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