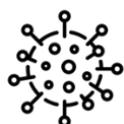


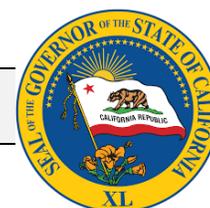


Martha Zaragoza-Díaz,
CABE Legislative Lobbyist



Governor Gavin Newsom and the Legislature continue to address issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are some of the recent governor Executive Orders and an update on the Legislature and its activities.

Governor Newsom and Executive Orders



Reopening of Schools

Along with other points made during his press conference providing updates on COVID-19, **Governor Gavin Newsom** stated on April 18, 2020, that the new school year could start late July 2020 or early August. The Governor recognizes that there has been a learning loss for students as a result of school closures and providing distance learning. The need for districts and schools to prepare for the eventual reopening of schools, preparation for the physical and environmental changes in the schools, as well as coordination of childcare space was emphasized by the Governor. Many were surprised by this announcement and questioned the practicality of this happening. Reopening schools early and expanding the availability of childcare is part of the second phase of a four-part plan to reopen the state.



State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond viewed early reopening of schools as an opportunity to start recovering from learning loss experienced by students between the time schools were closed and the shifting to distance learning. He also stated many questions need to be answered before this occurs, such as how to protect the health and safety of students, teachers and school staff. State Superintendent Thurmond also stated that there are fiscal implications. An example given was that practicing social/physical distance may require smaller classes which will require additional resources for schools to hire additional teachers, additional personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies for sanitizing schools. SPI Thurmond expressed his intention to work with the Governor's office, school superintendents, and others to begin identifying solutions to these issues.



Decisions have not been made. Stay tuned for further news!

Disaster Relief Assistance for Immigrants

On April 15, **Governor Newsom** announced one-time disaster relief assistance for undocumented Californians impacted by COVID-19, who are ineligible for most other forms of pandemic assistance, including direct assistance under the **CARES Act** and unemployment insurance. Eligible Californians may receive one-time COVID-19 disaster relief assistance at a value of \$500. A limit of two adults per household can receive this assistance (maximum assistance of \$1,000 per household).

The **CA Department of Social Services (CDSS)** will select immigrant-serving community-based nonprofit organizations to conduct targeted outreach, application assistance, and delivery of the disaster relief assistance to eligible individuals. The selected organizations will deliver the assistance directly to qualified individuals. CDSS' goal is for Californians to be able to access this relief through local community-based nonprofits starting mid-May 2020. A final date will be provided in the coming week.

CDSS should be contacted for further information. **Immigration Services Unit:** 916-651-8017 or email: ImmigrationServices@dss.ca.gov.

The **California COVID-19 website** (<https://covid19.ca.gov/guide-immigrant-californians/>) provides a guide with information, such as providing a list of immigration services by non-profit organizations, and where to go to get food or health care services. This guide is available in Spanish, Chinese traditional, Chinese simplified, Korean, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

California Department of Education



As previously mentioned, CDE maintains a **COVID-19 Response main web page** (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/coronavirus.asp>) that provides updates on various topics affected by the coronavirus. SSPI Tony Thurmond provides weekly updates.

An update everyone should be aware of is **Governor's Executive Order N-56-20** (<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/EO-N-56-20-text.pdf>) which speaks to changes to be made to the **Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)** and deadlines associated with the LCAP. Changes that will be made include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The deadline for a local school district governing board, county board

of education, or a governing body of a charter school to adopt the LCAP and the budget overview for parents by July 1 of each year, is extended to until December 15, 2020, on the conditions that:

(i) The governing board or body of the LEA adopts, during the same meeting at which the governing board or body of the LEA adopts the annual budget due July 1, 2020, a written report to the community that explains the changes to program offerings that the LEA has made in response to school closures to address the COVID-19 emergency and the major impacts of such closures on students and families, which shall include, at minimum, a description of how the LEA is meeting the needs of unduplicated pupils, and the steps taken by the LEA, consistent with Paragraph 2 of this EO, to support the following during the period of school closures:

- a. Continue delivering high-quality distance learning opportunities;
- b. Provide school meals in non-congregate settings; and
- c. Arrange for supervision of students during ordinary school hours.

(ii) School districts and county boards of education shall submit the adopted written report to the county superintendent of schools or the Superintendent of Public Instruction, respectively, in conjunction with submission of the adopted annual budget.

(iii) A charter school submits the written report adopted pursuant to clause (i) to its authorizer in accordance with Education Code 47604.33.

(iv) The LEA posts a copy of the written report adopted pursuant to clause (i) on the homepage of the internet website maintained by the LEA, if such website exists.

- The deadline for a county superintendent or the Superintendent of Public Instruction to approve the LCAP pursuant is extended until January 14, 2021.
- The deadline for a charter school to submit the LCAP to its chartering authority and the county superintendent of schools is extended to December 15, 2020.

CDE has developed **LCAP Executive Order-Frequently Asked Questions** that provide further information on how this EO is to be implemented. Please go to <https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/lc/lcapfaq.asp>. Additionally, this document provides additional information from CDE: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/lc/documents/tues2eolcapchanges.pdf>.

I can't emphasize enough, to please refer to CDE's and Governor Newsom's webpages regarding the coronavirus to keep up to date on information, activities and guidance on various topics specific to the coronavirus.



The California Legislature



The **California State Senate** is to return from recess on Monday, May 11, 2020 and the **California State Assembly** will return Monday, May 4, 2020. The Senate will allow Senators to participate remotely and may vote remotely, as specified in **Senate Resolution 86**. How the **Senate** will conduct its business and accommodate public input is not known at this time. More than likely it will be similar to the process and procedures established by the Assembly. The **Assembly** took a different path. It has taken action to ensure that Members, staff, and the public can safely participate in the legislative process during the era of COVID-19. Below are some of the steps taken:

- Members will attend hearings in-person but only in rooms, including the Assembly Chamber, to accommodate physical distancing.
- The Capitol will have health screening at the entrance of the State Capitol and controlled movement to committee rooms to preserve physical distancing. Hand sanitizer will be made available in all spaces used by the public.
- There is limited in-person seating in committee rooms to accommodate physical distancing.
- Usage of the web and phone options is greatly encouraged, rather than in-person testimony.
- Public Comment and witness testimony may be submitted through a dedicated phone service.
- Witness Videoconferencing Rooms (WVRs) in the Capitol will have dedicated remote, secure videoconferencing devices for hearing live testimony from witnesses in support of and opposition to bills. These rooms allow invited witnesses to provide testimony on bills without having to attend public hearing rooms in-person.

The legislative policy and fiscal committees more than likely will only convene two hearings. The **Assembly Education Committee** is scheduled to convene a committee hearing on May 6, 2020. The committee will only hear bills that address issues resulting from the coronavirus!

From approximately 150 educational bills, only fourteen will be heard on May 6, 2020!! Unfortunately, CABE's two co-sponsored bills (AB 2516 (Reyes) **Professional Development for Teachers** and AB 2602 (Jones-Sawyer) **Postsecondary Badge of Biliteracy**) will not be heard on that day. So efforts will be made to secure funding through the budget to address the loss of learning by our English learners and dual language learners.

Regarding the State Budget, the **Assembly Committee Budget Sub Committee 2: Education Finance** held a hearing on April 28, 2020. Several themes emerged from the discussion by members and panel members (representatives from the Department of Finance, CDE, State Board of Education, CTA and PACE). They are the need to address the digital divide as it relates to distance learning, how best to address the issue of loss of learning by students and specifically the most vulnerable students, the need for standardization around instructional minutes, and the need for academic and socio-emotional assessment for all re-entry students.

When asked the question about when schools will receive their allocation from the \$1.6 billion **CARE Act**, a representative from CDE replied that CDE received its award the previous week and is completing the required application to draw down the funds. It is estimated that funding will be allocated to LEAs around the beginning of July 2020. The DOF representative did say they are on track to deliver a May Revise to the Governor. As was previously mentioned in an earlier article, for the June 2020 budget the emphasis is on developing a work-load budget with another budget to be developed and approved by the Governor sometime in August 2020.

Again, stay tuned for further updates.