## BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

**Date:** January 22, 2016

### SUPERINTENDENT – JOSÉ L. BANDA

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<th>FROM</th>
<th>REGARDING</th>
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<td>Approved by: José L. Banda, Superintendent</td>
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<td>To the Members of the Board of Education</td>
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<td>Prepared by: José L. Banda, Superintendent</td>
<td>Contact Email: <a href="mailto:Superintendent@scusd.edu">Superintendent@scusd.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Subject: School Services of California’s Sacramento Weekly Update</td>
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Attached is the weekly update from School Services of California for your review.
DATE: January 22, 2016
TO: Jose Banda
    Superintendent
AT: Sacramento City Unified School District
FROM: Your SSC Legislative Team
RE: SSC’s Sacramento Weekly Update

The State of the State

Forty-one years after his first State of the State Address, Governor Jerry Brown gave the annual State of the State Address on Thursday, January 21, 2016. The speech, his 14th, was given to a joint session of the State Legislature and outlined his plan for the upcoming year.

“That challenge is to solve today’s problems without making those of tomorrow even worse,” Governor Brown stated in the annual address. During the 19-minute speech, Governor Brown remarked that the world we live in today is “profoundly uncertain” both in terms of the national economy as well as international turmoil.

His speech was a call for fiscal prudence and not one filled with new or expanded programs. His remarks focused on how to fill the current, ongoing commitments the state has already made without putting the state back in a precarious financial situation.

He highlighted the importance of building up the state’s Rainy Day reserve (approved by voters in 2014 as Proposition 2) and noted that the state’s next recession, even if it were of average intensity, would result in a loss of $55 billion over three years.

Brown pointed out that between 2000 and 2016, the combined deficits were seven times greater than the combined surpluses. Recognizing the pain associated with making the difficult cuts to schools, child care, social services, and other vital program, he stated his desire to never make those cuts again.

Governor Brown continued to highlight a number of policy areas where the state has made great strides, but still has work to do. With regard to education, Governor Brown noted that Proposition 30 has allowed the state to increase spending on K-14 education by more than $24 billion since 2011.

He used the speech to urge Republican and Democratic legislators to pass his revised managed care organization (MCO) tax proposal. The proposal would
replace an existing tax on MCOs that the federal government has deemed inconsistent with the federal Medi-care programs. Absent approval of a revised MCO tax June 1, 2016, the state could lose more than $1 billion in federal revenues.

Nancy LaCasse
Robert Miyashiro
Note: Both the referendum on Senate Bill (SB) 277 (Chapter 35/2015) and a recall of Senator Richard Pan, author of SB 277, failed to gain traction.

More Students Vaccinated as Enforcement Efforts Increase

By Jane Meredith Adams
EdSource
January 19, 2016

Vaccination rates increased across the state for kindergartners in 2015-16 as schools reacted to the news that their daily attendance figures would be scrutinized if they had high numbers of students who were only partially vaccinated, according to a summary analysis by the California Department of Public Health, which released its school-by-school immunization data on Tuesday.

The kindergarten vaccination rate rose to 92.9 percent, an increase of 2.5 percent from the previous year, and a rise that the state agency attributed to a 2.5 percent drop in “conditionally admitted” kindergartners who have completed some but not all of their vaccinations.

![Graph showing percentage of fully vaccinated kindergarten students by school type and school year, 2009-10 to 2015-16](image-url)
“We’re thrilled,” said Catherine Flores Martin, director of the California Immunization Coalition, a nonprofit group. “Vaccination rates are up, personal belief exemption rates are down and conditional admissions are down.”

The immunization branch of the California Department of Public Health has been working closely with the schools “to make sure they understand the impact of conditional admissions and how to do better at following up with parents,” she said.

Conditional admission is narrowly defined by the California Department of Public Health to cover students who are not currently due to receive a vaccination but have not yet completed their vaccination series. The category is widely misused and 90 percent of students in a recent sample who were conditionally admitted to school did not meet the criteria, the department said.

Among the interventions, which included strategies developed by the Alameda County Public Health Department, was to inform schools that 2015-16 financial and compliance audits will “scrutinize reimbursements for attendance at schools with higher rates of conditional entrance,” the California Department of Public Health said. That intervention and others prompted Alameda County to report the largest increase – 7.3 percent – in the rate of fully immunized students of any county in the state and a corresponding 7.2 percent reduction in the rate of conditionally admitted students.

Personal belief exemptions, which allow parents not to vaccinate their children based on a personal opposition to vaccines, and medical exemptions remained about the same between 2015-16 and 2014-15. Personal belief exemption rates declined to 2.38 percent in 2015-16 from 2.54 percent the year before. Medical exemption rates were .17 percent in 2015-16 compared to .19 percent the year before.

The increased immunization rates were reported in fall 2015, which was before the 2016 effective date for Senate Bill 277, which eliminates the personal belief exemption to vaccinations, but during the second year of enforcement of Assembly Bill 2109, which required parents to obtain a signed letter from a health care practitioner if they sought not to vaccinate their children.

Despite improvements in vaccination rates, “a number of schools and communities remain at risk of contagion,” with 20 out of 58 counties in California reporting immunization rates below 90 percent for kindergartners, according to the California Department of Public Health summary.

A 90 to 95 percent vaccination rate is considered “herd immunity,” the rate necessary to protect a community — particularly those who are too sick or too young to be vaccinated — from an outbreak of many types of contagious diseases. Measles, which is highly contagious, requires a 95 percent vaccination rate to protect the community, but 31 counties don’t meet that standard — they have fewer than 95 percent of kindergartners fully immunized against measles, according to the California Department of Public Health.

Measles was declared eradicated in the U.S. in 2000 but an outbreak at two Disney theme parks in Anaheim a year ago was spread by unvaccinated children and adults, according to the California Department of Public Health. The outbreak resulted in 134 confirmed cases of measles in California. Measles cases linked to the Disneyland outbreak also were reported in Arizona, Colorado, Nebraska, Oregon, Utah and Washington, as well as in Mexico and Canada.
Lowest Vaccination Rates for Kindergarten Students 2015-16

Source: California Department of Public Health

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Percentage of Kindergartners Fully Vaccinated</th>
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<tr>
<td>Trinity</td>
<td>77%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>77%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuloumne</td>
<td>78%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mariposa</td>
<td>82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humboldt</td>
<td>82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Siskiyou</td>
<td>84%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shasta</td>
<td>84%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plumas</td>
<td>86%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amador</td>
<td>87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Cruz</td>
<td>88%</td>
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Note: A decision can be expected within 90 days of the hearing, around late May.

Court of Appeal To Hear Arguments in Vergara Lawsuit Next Month

By John Fensterwald
EdSource
January 15, 2016

A state appeals court will rule on the high-profile Vergara lawsuit against the state and the California Teachers Association this spring.

On Friday, the state Court of Appeal, Second District, in Los Angeles set Feb. 25 for oral arguments on the lawsuit the nonprofit group Students Matter brought on behalf of nine students in 2012. They are challenging five state teacher workplace laws they claim harm students’ right to an equal opportunity for an education. A panel of three justices hearing the case must rule within 90 days after the hearing, by the end of May.

Vergara has become the center of a national debate over teacher unions and protections and has prompted a similar lawsuit in New York.

The state and the CTA are seeking to overturn a June 2014 ruling by Superior Court Judge Rolf Treu, who found that the statutes – governing teacher tenure, layoffs and dismissal procedures – protected a small but significant number of “grossly ineffective” teachers that disproportionately harmed poor and minority students. In his 16-page decision, Treu wrote that evidence from a two-month trial “shocked the conscience.”

The plaintiffs’ attorneys argued that the laws worked in tandem, amplifying the harm. They said the state’s statute granting new teachers legal protections known as tenure, after less than two years on the job,
is inadequate to screen out poor performers. Dismissal statutes then make it unnecessarily difficult and expensive to fire bad teachers who often are transferred to low-performing schools, they said. And a last-in, first-out layoff statute pushes out newer teachers, regardless of skills and performance, they argued.

“The unavoidable consequence of these statutes is that California school districts are stuck with a significant number of grossly ineffective teachers – teachers that everyone knows cannot, or will not, teach,” the plaintiffs’ lawyers argue in their brief to the court of appeal. Indirectly referring to the CTA’s political clout, their brief said that the inequalities are “the product of excessive teacher job privileges – perks secured through the legislative process by well-funded and politically connected adults at the expense of children.”

The state attorney general and the CTA argue that the plaintiffs failed to show that the statutes – the clear prerogative of the Legislature to write – caused the harm that they claimed, particularly to the nine students who brought the lawsuit. Both sides cited evidence from 60 witnesses to back up their arguments. School administrators testifying for the defense said the laws don’t stand in the way of denying poor performers tenure or making the case to fire them later on. Layoffs based on seniority establish an objective criterion that shield higher paid or outspoken teachers from retribution. There is no basis, the CTA wrote in its brief, “for invalidating the entire integrated statutory scheme as facially unconstitutional, especially given the undisputed evidence that many school districts make reasoned tenure, dismissal, and (layoff) decisions.”

Since Treu’s ruling, the Legislature has changed the dismissal laws to speed up and simplify dismissal proceedings – but not enough, Students Matter argues, to make a substantive difference.

The CTA has characterized the Vergara lawsuit as part of a larger campaign by wealthy backers to weaken unions. David Welch, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur, created and is funding Students Matter.

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Note: According to the latest State Budget documents, the state has increased K-14 spending by more than 50% since 2011.

**California School Boards Say Up to $42 Billion More Needed**

By Dan Walters  
*Sacramento Bee*  
January 20, 2016

Gov. Jerry Brown’s new budget would boost spending on K-12 schools by several billion dollars, but the California School Boards Association says that’s a small fraction of what’s needed to adequately prepare the state’s six million students for jobs and higher education.

The CSBA released a report Wednesday asserting, “California is underfunding K-12 schools by as much as $42 billion per year.”
That would be an extra $7,000 per student on top of the $10,591 that Brown’s 2016-17 budget projects will be spent on each from state and local funds and push California’s per-pupil spending to one of the nation’s highest levels.

Raising K-12 spending has been one of Brown’s major interests since reassuming the governorship after a 28-year hiatus. Already, his budget documents say, per-pupil spending has increased by 50-plus percent since 2011 and totals $14,550 when federal funds, teacher retirement contributions and school bond payments are included.

The CSBA’s report, however, says its studies mirror earlier surveys by the Public Policy Institute of California and the American Institute for Research, which were aimed at determining what it would take to raise California students’ generally sub-par performance on national academic tests to an adequate level.

“There is a direct correlation between what we invest in our schools and our schools’ ability to prepare the next generation for college, career and civic life. Right now, our school finance system places our children at a huge competitive disadvantage,” CSBA president Chris Ungar, a school board member in San Luis Obispo County, said in an accompanying statement.

“By nearly every measure, be it funding, staffing, or infrastructure, we’re lagging behind other states and countries in terms of the support we provide our students. We need to jumpstart a discussion among elected officials and the public about once and for all devoting the resources necessary to ensure the success of all California students.”

The $42 billion figure would be the equivalent of a 50 percent increase in personal income taxes, or more than a doubling of sales and corporate income taxes. Raising taxes by that amount would also make California, by far, the highest taxing state in the nation.

Coincidentally, the Tax Foundation also released its latest tax burden report on Wednesday, saying that California ranked 6th among the states, with state and local taxes equating to 11 percent of Californians’ personal incomes during the 2012 fiscal year.

New York was highest at 12.7 percent of income. Adding $42 billion in new taxes would push California over 13 percent.

Education groups, principally the California Teachers Association, will be asking voters in November to extend the temporary income tax rate hike on high-income taxpayers that was approved in 2012. The extension would generate about $8 billion a year for schools and medical services, with some going into the state’s “rainy day fund” reserve.

The CSBA report also is being released as the Legislature begins work on the budget that Brown proposed last week. Many Democratic legislators have complained that the budget shortchanges health and welfare services to the poor and some have publicly lamented that the schools, under a constitutional school finance law adopted by voters in 1988, are soaking up so much of the state’s recent revenue surge.
California Teacher Shortage Could Get Worse, Report Warns

By Claudia Meléndez Salinas
Monterey Herald
January 21, 2016

MONTEREY - The teacher shortage in the K-12 system has become so critical that a local school district is offering a $10,000 signing bonus for its next math and science teachers.

But the shortage, which began to show its effects in 2014 in Monterey County, is likely to get worse statewide if it’s not addressed, according to a report released Tuesday.

“Our analysis shows California on a trajectory that, if left unchecked, will likely result in increased teacher shortages and greater inequities among students in different communities,” said Linda Darling-Hammond, lead author of the report “Addressing California’s Emerging Teacher Shortage: An Analysis of Sources and Solutions.”

The report traces the shortage to an increased demand for teachers after school districts received new, post-recession money. California has the highest student-teacher ratio in the nation, and the gap became wider during the budget cuts.

By 2013, the state’s student-teacher ratio had reached 24-to-1, compared with the national average of 16-to-1.

For California schools to bring back the pre-recession student-teacher levels, the report concludes districts would have to hire 60,000 new teachers -- beyond their other hiring needs.

But not enough young graduates are going into teaching, and the report cites a number of reasons: Interest in the profession has declined because the recession layoffs made it unappealing, salaries are not seen as attractive because they were frozen during the recession and teaching conditions deteriorated.

Mark O’Shea, a professor of education at CSU Monterey Bay who has been tracking the teacher shortage since it began to show in 2014, agrees with the report’s conclusion that low pay is one of the causes for fewer candidates entering the profession.

“I don’t see a lot of millennials interested in teaching,” he said.

The shortage has become so acute that Soledad Unified School District is offering a $10,000 bonus to its next math and science instructors. In the past few years, the district has become more creative in the way it recruits and retains teachers.

“The vanpools, that was one of my ideas,” said Lisa Kleinhofer, assistant superintendent of secondary services, referring to the three vans that transport 30 teachers, mostly from Salinas, every day.
The district also recently launched a teaching internship program for high school students as a way to lure young people into the profession. For recruiting, they went to Nebraska last year, where they made three hires.

The strategy is to look at “impacted” regions with high numbers of graduates and not enough positions, Kleinhofer said.

“This year, we’re approved for 11” out-of-state job fairs, she said. “We may not need to go to 11 -- we’re already getting people interested in Soledad for next year.”

The shortage is being felt countywide. At the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District, human resources administrators are planning to attend 14 job fairs: three locally, eight throughout California and three out of state.

The district is also looking to advertise on a variety of sites, spokeswoman Marci McFadden said.

School districts began offering signing bonuses last year, with Greenfield offering $5,000 for a music teacher. Other districts, such as Salinas Union High, have offered bonuses for hard-to-find teachers in topics such as math, science and special education.

O’Shea has never seen a $10,000 bonus offered before.

“That shows the level of desperation,” he said. “I receive messages with a great deal of frequency (from) leaders asking if I can help in any way with the severe shortage, particularly in mathematics.”

For him, the ultimate solution would be to increase teacher salaries and improve working conditions beyond class sizes.

“A workday that provides time to prepare for lessons and grade papers, these are important contributors as well,” he said.
Subject: Highlights of Calendar for the Week of January 25

Monday, January 25
- Cabinet Retreat
- Meeting with United Latinos Representatives

Tuesday, January 26
- 1:1 Meetings with Cabinet Members
- Board’s Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 27 – Sunday, January 31
- Attending ACSA’s Superintendents’ Symposium
- California Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrators (CALS A)
The district has entered into a partnership with Hippo MD, a tech start-up company founded by Silicon Valley entrepreneur Bill Nguyen. Through an MOU, Hippo MD is beta testing a platform that is designed to connect families with health care services through a mobile app. The app has the potential for increasing access to health care in high-needs communities. At our pilot site – John Still K-8 School -- more than 600 families have opted to participate in the program.

As part of the MOU, Hippo MD is paying the salary of a full time nurse for John Still students. SCTA, which was informed of the partnership several months ago, is now requesting information about the nurse’s work at the school and the legality of the partnership. Please note that prior to its implementation, the MOU was reviewed by our legal services department.