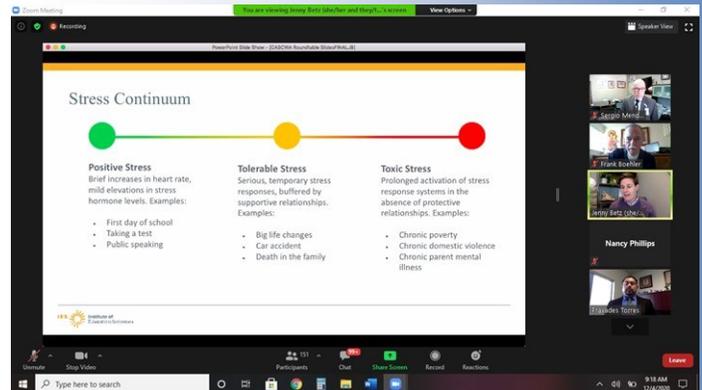
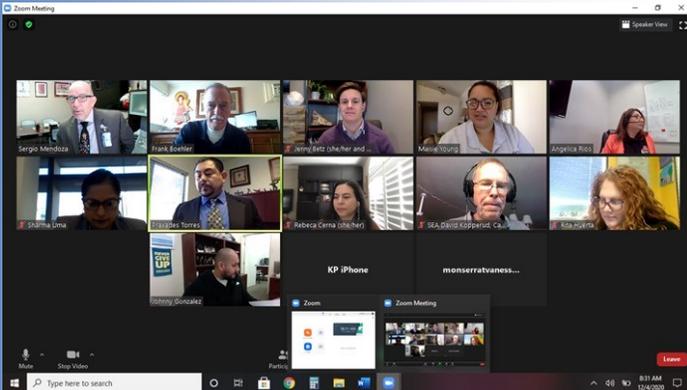




CELEBRATING CASCWA'S EIGHTY ONE YEARS OF ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN

We never quit only going stronger

CASCWA STATE VIRTUAL STATE CONFERENCE April 26th and 27th



In this December 2020 edition, you will find:

Registration has begun for the 2021 Virtual State Conference, Specific Conference Information Included, LACOE's Annual Legislative Update - Print Screens, San Joaquin's Supporting Students Returning to In-Person Learning During Covid Times Workshop, Legend Victor Thompson Retiring, Model SARB Deadline, SI&A The Achievement Initiative, Student Support Solutions; Jeni Mendel's Webpages and much more!

Please Visit our Updated Website at: <http://cascwa.wildapricot.org/>



**California Association of Supervisors of
Child Welfare & Attendance**

CASCWA State President's Message

Jeni Mendel, Grossmont Union High School District, Retired

jenifermendel53@gmail.com



This year has gone by so quickly, here we are in December and 1st semester is coming to a close for the 2020-2021 school year. All of us are still navigating our new reality in providing a quality education to our youth in spite of barriers and confusion under COVID19 regulations and guidelines.

CASCWA has entered the wonderful and truly amazing virtual platform. Southern Section put on a very informative workshop in October with over 600 participants zooming in to hear what the 6 experts had to share on best practices during COVID19. San Joaquin also has put on a brilliant workshop in November. David Kopperud from CDE and Jennifer Gomez-Trejo from S4 will be doing Model SARB workshops for those of you who are looking to submit for the CDE Model SARB awards this year, information on these can be found on our website at cascwa.org.

This last year we had to cancel our State Conference due to the COVID 19 guidelines. Unfortunately, we are still struggling through COVID19 so we will not be able to hold an in-person State Conference this coming year either. The good news is that we are looking forward to April 26th and 27th of 2021 when we will be holding a State Virtual Conference. We are excited to be able to present to you a wide array of sessions on topics that are very much affecting you and your students in this very confusing time. Please continue to review our website www.cascwa.wildpricot.org, we will be updating the most current information on the conference and all the other trainings and workshops that will be held around the State by CASCWA's four sections.

CASCWA is still here and dedicated to assist you in a verity of ways. Through our newsletter, the Intercom, you can find articles posted of current concerns, best practices and legislative updates. All of our four sections and state board members are posted on our website. This includes email contact information and any of them would be honored to answer any questions you may come upon.

CASCWA has always strived to assist educators with bringing forth the best practices, the most up to date legislative information, and the professional resources from around the State. Our strong partnership with CDE, SI&A, Red Book, S4, Sherman Garnett and Associates, Dora and Nancy Dome and may others, provides us so many avenues to share information with our members.

We invite all of you to become members of the legacy that is CASCWA. We welcome and need all of your expertise. Your diversity and the sharing of information is what makes CASCWA strong, so please join this 84-year-old organization of truly dedicated people, help us to help all those who work with youth!

CASCWA State President's Message Continued

Jeni Mendel, Grossmont Union High School District, Retired

jenifermendel53@gmail.com

While our lives and past practices do not appear to be returning to normal as quickly as we would have liked, especially how we educate our youth, I commend all of you that are resilient and striving to still provide the best opportunity to every youth to reach their fullest potential and create a future for themselves and others.

If you are working in the fields of child welfare and attendance, you are special. You are making a difference in today's world and positively impacting the future of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Jeni Mendel
CASCWA State President

BAY Section

Please visit the CASCWA Bay Section Website at:

<http://cascwa.org/about-us/bay-section/>



Dear Members and Friends of CASCWA,

As we head into 2021, we continue to have a sense of uncertainty. COVID numbers are rising as we enter the holiday season. This is a time that may be difficult for those struggling with economic needs, sadness over separation from family and friends.

Let's remember that our students and communities may be facing difficult times. Let's continue to attempt to provide resources for our communities.

It may be more and more difficult to engage students in school. Student engagement should still be at the forefront of our work. Socio-emotional learning will be pertinent as we continue to support attendance, student learning and engagement.

Please know that our team remains in place to support this work.

Be well, be safe and be brave!

Sincerely,

Dr. DiShawn Givens

CASCWA Bay Section President

Delta Sierra Section

Please visit the CASCWA Delta Sierra Section Website at:
<http://cascwa.org/about-us/delta-sierra/>

Dear CASCWA Community,

Hello from the Delta-Sierra Section!

My heart goes out to everyone right now. Despite wildfires, power outages and a relentless global pandemic, those in the education system continue to persist. It certainly has not been easy.

In recent months, there seems to be more and more pressure for punitive action from the schools with respect to attendance. Despite years of working to get the message out that family engagement and service provision is the best remedy for attendance issues, there are still those that want to see punishment administered.

I am blessed to be working with a supportive Superintendent, who also believes that meeting the needs of families takes priority over sanctioning. Together, we are working to tighten as many screws as possible on the referral process and coaching schools to review and refresh their efforts to address the attendance challenges at hand. However, in a rural community many folks argue that there is nothing left that they can do to help a family and say that "lack of resources" is to blame. So, I have leaned closer in on my relationships with local community service partners to help dispel those myths and get needs met. I wondered if there was more that could be done and reached out to some of my CASCWA support system. It is also in October, Joan Jeffery (Shasta County), Jane Loomis (Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District), Sheila Silan (El Dorado County office of Education), and I (Nevada County Office of Education) got together via Zoom to have an open dialogue about what smaller, rural counties are doing with respect to attendance interventions, limited resource challenges, and SARB practices during COVID. It was so very helpful to converse with others in like settings and to learn from one another. If you are interested in a similar opportunity, please feel free to reach out to me or any other CASCWA member.

Delta-Sierra members have been busy sharing their time and expertise by speaking at a variety of recent online events. Long-time CASCWA member, Erica Peterson, National Education Manager for School Innovations & Achievement, recently partnered with Hedy Chang (Executive Director and President, Attendance Works), Bryan Campoy (Supervising Administrator of Innovative Programs, Kern High School District) and Randy Miller (Opportunity Classes Administrator, Panama-Buena Vista Union School District) to present the online webinar "Insights & Data Tracking: Eliminating Barriers to Attendance and Participation".

Erica also presented at the November State SARB meeting, in which she shared out current trends in chronic absenteeism within California and interventions that work. Fellow Delta-Sierra members, Dan Sackheim and David Kopperud from the California State Department of Education (CDE) have also been providing online trainings throughout the region on the successful attendance intervention strategies, Model SARB application process, etc.

For those of you who work with homeless student populations, I'd like to remind you that the Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) RFA is available on CDE's website. LEAs are now able to apply separately from their COEs without being in competition with one another. Award amounts are based upon prior year homeless student counts. However, if you are from a small district or county do not be discouraged. You do have the ability to collaborate with others and apply as a consortium.

Many thanks to Rick Riegel, Southern Section President, for opening their conference planning meetings to Delta-Sierra in order that we may learn from them and prepare for 2022 conference planning.

Happy Holidays,

Melissa Parrett
CASCWA Delta Sierra President



Please visit the CASCWA San Joaquin Section Website at:
<http://cascwa.org/about-us/san-joaquin-section/>

CASCWA San Joaquin Section President's Message

Praxades Torres III

Parlier Unified School District

ptorres@parlierunified.org



Dear CASCWA Members and Friends,

I cannot believe that we are already entering December and the end to our first semester is a couple of weeks away. Everyone has worked hard and despite this state going through so much in 2020, from the pandemic, the economic fallout, the largescale switch to virtual learning, we've gone through it all.

In speaking with many colleagues throughout the state, I have been very impressed with the work they are doing in helping their districts. I have been very fascinated with our colleagues who have set plans that have worked for their district and their continuation of sharing ideas, and giving examples of much needed resources. In times like these it is great to see your commitment, passion, creative solutions, and courage to go above and beyond our traditional roles.

The San Joaquin Section is proud to announce that our first Roundtable Zoom Workshop had 200 attendees. Our Board is proud and would love to give a round of applause to two members from our very own San Joaquin section. Mr. Manuel Escandon from Fresno County Superintendent of Schools and Mrs. Kristi Jackson of Fresno Unified School District who gave awesome presentations. Mrs. Jackson and her team have taken Fresno Unified to new heights when it comes to attendance, as well as new techniques during virtual learning. Her team and district have worked hard in building their program to become recognized as a state "Model SARB" district and should be mirrored by others. Once again thank you Mr. Escandon and Mrs. Jackson.

I'm proud to announce our second Roundtable Workshop will be held on Friday, December 4th at 8:30 a.m. The theme is "Supporting Students to School After COVID" and will be presented by School Climate Specialist Jenny Betz from WestEd. The San Joaquin Section will continue to bring virtual professional learning opportunities for our members and we would love to hear of any suggestions or ideas that could benefit all our members in supporting our districts.

Our section hopes you have a restful and much deserved Thanksgiving and Christmas break. We pray that everyone returns rested, relaxed and re-energized and that the New Year brings blessings to all. Thank you for all you do!

We're in this together. Stay well,

Praxades Torres III

San Joaquin Section President

Please visit the CASCWA Southern Section Website at:
<http://cascwa.org/about-us/southern-section/>

CASCWA Southern Section President's Message

Rick Riegel

Placentia Unified School District
Director Child Welfare and Attendance
rriegel@pylusd.org

Dear CASCWA Members and Friends,



As the year 2020 draws to a close, Southern Section CASCWA looks back at year that has called upon us to respond with flexibility, creativity and collaboration to a new level, bringing us to new ways of doing business. Primarily, we have entered into the virtual world to do training and meetings.

Our first entrée was on October 28th with a workshop titled, "Issues in Student Services." Outstanding presentations included, "Bridge Over Troubled Water: Creating Inclusive Online Learning Environments that Foster Student Engagement" by Don English and Dr. Cherina Better of San Bernardino County Office of Education, "Attendance and Reengagement" by Jennifer Gomeztrejo of S4 Consulting and David Kopperud from CDE, and "Discipline 2020" by Lexe Davidson and Alefia Mithaiwala of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud and Romo. We had one of the largest CASCWA events of all time with

over 600 online attendees.

Next, we look forward to the 2021 CASCWA State Conference using a Zoom Webinar format with 48 workshop sessions and additional keynote sessions and the Model SARB awards. This will be a first for us, and you won't want to miss it. Registration is now available, and we encourage you to sign up at www.wildapricot.org.

Currently, we have the Call for Presenters going out, to bring in the outstanding leaders and experts to help us train our new and experienced professionals in the field of Student Services. Help us reach out to those with something important to share.

If you have any questions, please contact me at rriegel@pylusd.org.

See you in 2021!

Sincerely,

Rick Riegel
Southern Section President

[For more information on our 2021 state conference click here!](#)

[To register for our 2021 CASCWA State Conference click here!](#)

84th Annual CASCWA Virtual Zoom State Conference and Model SARB Awards Presentation

Monday - Tuesday, April 26 -27, 2021, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

\$175 per person

FUTURE EVENTS



STATE CONFERENCE - SOUTHERN SECTION
CASCWA

CASCWA 2021
Virtual Zoom State Conference
April 26 and 27th, 2021

The California Association of Child Welfare and Attendance will be holding a **Virtual Two Day Zoom State Conference** on April 26th and 27th. There will be several presentations with numerous breakout session. The Planning Committee is busy putting the conference plans in place and are working hard to bring forth the best presenters in their fields!

The Conference Strands Include:

Climate & Culture	Attendance	Safe Schools Plan
cultural Competence & Equity	Wellness & Health	Attention to Student Groups



CASCWA has a history of great conferences focusing on important topics for our members and friends. Come join us virtually in April. For more information, please go to:

<http://cascwa.wildapricot.org/>



CASCWA's Southern Section is proud to host the 2021 State Conference & the State Model SARB Awards Presentation. Our CASCWA Southern Section Conference Committee is committed to bringing to our members and friends the most relevant state conference possible!



The 2021 CASCWA State Conference will be delivered in a 100% "Zoom" format. Approximately one week prior to the event, all registrants will receive the linking zoom address. An authentication process will be put in place to ensure that only registrants receive access to the conference. There is a limit of 900 registrants for this State Conference, so register early!

Over the course of two days, participants will be able to select up to four out of 20-24 sessions per day that address the program strands listed above. Each session is 75 minutes long, beginning at 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 1:30 pm, and 3:00 pm. A few select presentations that require more time for the presenters to cover the topic in more detail will take up two time slots.

CONFERENCE STRANDS

C	A	S	C	W	A
Climate & Culture	Attendance	Safe Schools	Culture Competence & Equity	Wellness & Health	Attention to Student Populations

Climate & Culture

- Positive Behavioral Intervention & Support
- Restorative Practices
- Alternatives to Suspension
- Multi-tiered Systems of Support
- Parent & Family Engagement

Attendance

- Chronic Absenteeism
- Truancy
- Attendance Improvement Plan
- Tiered Reengagement Plan
- School Attendance Review Board
- Pregnant & Parenting Teens
- Chronic Illness & Temporary Disability

Safe Schools

- Comprehensive School Safety Plan
- Emergency & Disaster Preparedness
- Human Trafficking
- Collaboration with First Responder Entities
- Tactical Response
- Threat Assessment

Cultural Competence & Equity

- Sex Equity
- Pupil Fees
- Alternative Education
- Unconscious Bias
- Compliance Officer Responsibilities

Wellness & Health

- Individual Health Care Plans
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Student Athletes
- Addiction (drugs, alcohol, social media)
- Suicide Prevention
- School Counseling & School Social Workers
- Trauma-Informed Care

Attention to Student Populations

- Homeless Children & Youth
- Foster Children & Youth
- Student with Disabilities (IDEA)
- Section 504
- LGBTQ
- Safe Place to Learn Act

STRANDS AND PROGRAM

Our Southern Section Conference Committee is busy aligning our presenters, their presentations with our six identified conference "Strands." There will be on-going adjustments until the program is finalized. We will be constantly updating our website with current conference information and we will be sending out CASCWA updates to all registrants.

Please mark your 2021 calendar for April 26-27 and bookmark our website at:

[HTTP://CASCWA.WILDAPRICOT.ORG/](http://CASCWA.WILDAPRICOT.ORG/)

PRESENTATIONS

Each registrants will be contacted prior to the conference regarding their choice of strands and presentations. The conference committee is planning on using the **SCHED** program to facilitate your choices. As we get closer to the state conference specific information will delivered to all registrants.

We thank all of you who have registered early! Our last three CASCWA State Conferences have been sold out. Fortunately, this Zoom conference will be able to accommodate a larger number of registrants! We are all excited about this year's conference and look forward to another successful CASCWA State Conference!

FINANCES

The cost for this "Virtual Zoom Conference" is \$175 for each registration. All registrations will include a one-year membership to CASCWA. If you are currently a member, the one-year membership will be added to your current membership date. There will be one registration completed for each registrant.

Specific conference payment information is posted on the CASCWA website at:

<https://cascwa.wildapricot.org/conference>

One individual registration must be completed for each registrant. If an individual is registering another person, must enter their name and email address. It is essential that all email addresses are accurate. All payments will be made through pay pal or through a check.

If there are any questions or unusual circumstances, please contact Bonnie Boone at bboone@ocde.us or Frank Boehler at frank_boehler@roadrunner.com prior to Thursday, April 1, 2021.

TO REGISTER
CLICK HERE

Message from Maria Bravo

Over the past 80 years, CASCWA has provided high-quality, current and relevant professional development opportunities in the area of child welfare and attendance/student services throughout the state. The upcoming Virtual State Conference in 2021, hosted by CASCWA Southern Section, will continue on the tradition of featuring dynamic speakers covering issues that fall within the following strands: Climate & Culture, Attendance, Safe Schools, Cultural Competence & Equity, Wellness & Health, and Attention to Student Populations. Over the course of two days, participants will have the opportunity to choose from at least 45 different general and academy sessions.



The Call for Proposal to present at the Virtual State Conference has been posted on the CASCWA website. Already, the conference committee overseeing scheduling and programs have received several noteworthy proposals. The deadline to submit is December 31, 2020, so don't miss out on this opportunity to share your knowledge and expertise with your colleagues. The selection of proposals will take place soon after the submission deadline. Proposals will be selected to ensure that the conference offers a comprehensive, objective, and diverse program that addresses issues within the six strands and meets the needs of all attendees.

By the beginning of March, the full program will be available for review, and registered participants will have the ability to select from the sessions using the Sched app. The Sched app will also provide general information about the conference and a full directory of participants, including speakers, sponsors, vendors, and attendees.

We are reaching out for presenters for our April event because we have a vast array of professional colleagues who we hope may be willing to share their expertise. We have a few spots open.

If you are interested or know someone that would be interested in submitting a proposal to be considered to present in a general session (75-minute slot) or an academy session (two 75-minute slots), please click on the link below to complete and submit a presentation proposal. [The attached document provides extensive detailed information for presenters.](#)

To apply, fill out the Proposal Form here: <https://forms.gle/FTXH8JAvPMQQo89x6>

The Proposal deadline is Dec. 31, 2020.

If you have any issues with your application via the Google form, please contact Bonnie Boone at bboone@ocde.us

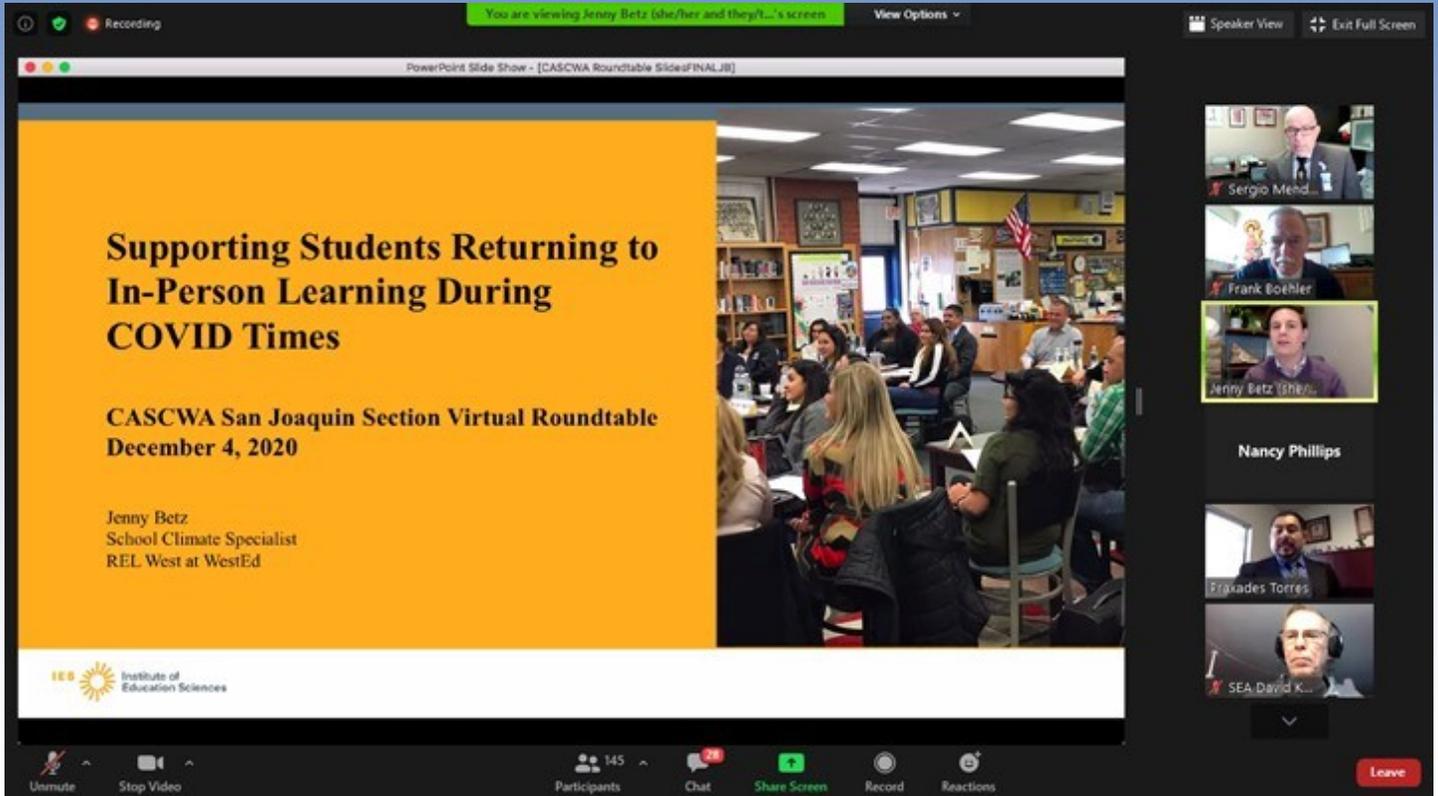
Thank you for your support and willingness to join us and present important information, and we look forward to receiving a proposal from you!

If you have any questions, or need further information, please contact the CASCWA Conference Presenter Committee Chair:

Maria Hwang de Bravo

bravo.maria@s4edconsultants.org

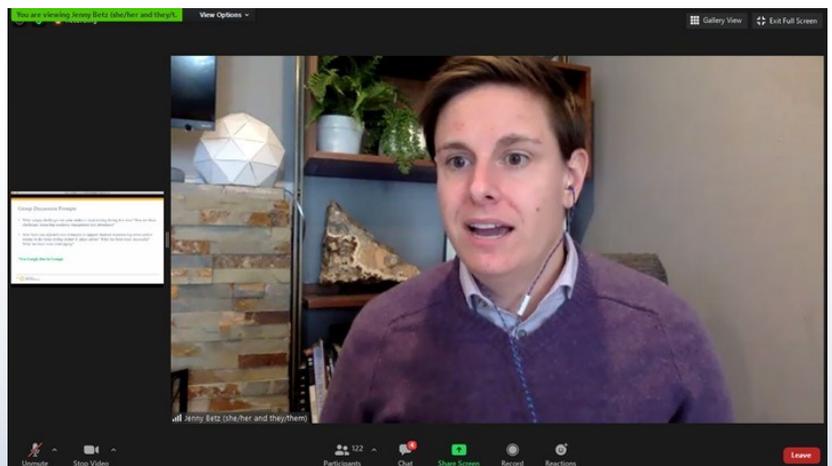
CASCWA – SAN JOAQUIN WORKSHOP—DECEMBER 4, 2020



The editors of the Intercom wish to compliment President, Praxades Torres, and the entire San Joaquin Executive Board for their awesome workshop held on December 4, 2020.

The presenter was Jenny Betz, School Climate Specialist at REL West at WestEd.

Jenny laid out her excellent presentation in seven parts. Introduction/Opening Activities; Why are we here?; Identifying Students at Risk of Significant Attendance Issues, Breakout Session 1: Supporting Students Experiencing Stress and Trauma at Home; Breakout Session 2: Reconnecting and Building Relationships; Self and Collective Care; and Action Steps and Closing Activity.



This was a real “stop and think” workshop. We are all experiencing challenges at a new level of activity. Jenny’s message was real, upbeat and personal. Thank you Jenny.

This is the second “Virtual” workshop presented by the “San Joaquin Team.” They are special!

We took several print screens of Jenny’s presentation and they will be posted on the CASCWA’s Website at www.cascwa.wildapricot.org.

We all look forward to future events coming from our San Joaquin friends!

WORKSHOP CONTACT FOLLOW-UP



At the recent San Joaquin workshop, this editor met two amazing young ladies! We were in a breakout sessions and began discussing challenges that are being addressed in their districts.

Rural California has unique problems that often do not occur in heavily populated areas.

Cari Webb is a Principal at the Shasta County Office of Education. The topic focused on the challenges faced by districts to communicate with ipads in areas that are mountainous and reception is difficult. Cari was proud to say that her area received important services when their transportation unit placed several buses in locations where they could relay the signal for the ipads. She spoke with great pride for this creative effort!

Jodi McCarthy is the Coordinator, Student Services, Alameda Unified School District.

When Jodi spoke up in our breakout session, she immediately focused on "Atlas for Schools." She sent us the following message, *"So good to see you today! Any time we get a free resource that is awesome, I like to share. I'm glad you are going to put this out there! J"*

Alameda Unified is partnering with Atlas this year at all our middle and high schools. It is a Tier 1 mental health/wellness app for secondary students. Before we brought this on, I had six students on a call with Max Savage, the founder of Atlas (max@atlasmh.com.) He told them about the app, they asked questions, and after learning about the app they were super excited that it was coming to Alameda. If Max can impress our students and get them excited about it, it is worth looking at.

This was the first time I had ever heard of "Atlas for Schools." I went to their website at <https://www.atlasmh.com/schools>. It is an impressive website and I encourage you to check it out!

There were 274 registrants for this San Joaquin workshop. We are sure that if we could have sat in on all the workshops we could have compiled a long list of actions that are making a difference in these challenging times.

For many of you who have attended our state conference and workshops in the past, we are sure you would agree that the presentations are important, but the professional contacts, the connections and the friendships that are made, have a positive impact over one's career.

This editor became the director of CWA in a large district decades ago. His secretary worked under one of the early CASCWA giants. She saw to it that this "rookie" attend a CASCWA workshop in Ventura within a week. The rookie saw several presentations and was impressed. Two weeks later, the phone rings. Police are at a high school wanting to immediately take a student, who is not a suspect, off campus. The rookie was not ready for the challenge. He panicked and then picked up the phone and called LACOE's Division of Student Services. He talked to a great educator, Milt Dooley, who calmed down the crisis and then directed the rookie not to impede an investigation, to release the student and to immediately notify the parent. Crisis solved! We are all in this together and always sup-

Important Date: Model SARB Recognition Program



The Model SARB Recognition Program identifies outstanding results-based school attendance improvement programs that provide comprehensive services to high-risk youth with school attendance or school behavior problems. A new, shortened Model SARB Application has been developed due to circumstances created by COVID-19; in addition, the submission process has been modified.

The Intent to Submit form must be submitted electronically by December 18, 2020 and the Model SARB Application must be submitted electronically by January 22, 2021.

For more information and to access the forms, please go to:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ai/sb/modelrecognition.asp>

DELTA SIERRA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT— AMOS HUMBER

The Delta-Sierra Section would like to highlight Richard C. Davis scholarship recipient, Amos Humber. When we last heard from Amos, he communicated with our board that he wished to convey his gratitude to Mr. Davis and Delta-Sierra for their continued support in his academic pursuit.

"I really, really appreciate all the support that you (Lisa Sanchez, Delta-Sierra Scholarship Coordinator) and the CASCWA board have given to me these last few years.

This money is actively helping me achieve my goals. In fact, I just scheduled my TEAS test for August 7th. Once I complete this exam and finish my prerequisites in fall, I can start applying to nursing programs. Currently, I am looking at programs at Sac State, Sierra College, and American River College, but I am sure I will be applying to more.

I am excited to see what will happen next and I am so grateful that you are all a part of it. Many thanks! -Amos"

We are so very proud of you, Amos!





Los Angeles County Office of Education

Serving Students ■ Supporting Communities ■ Leading Educators



Victor Thompson, Ed.D.

Student Supports and Financial Related Bills



Melissa Schoonmaker, LCSW

Child Welfare and Attendance Related Bills



Jewel Forbes, M.A., P.P.S., M.Ed.

Safety, Juvenile Court, and Mental Health Related Bills



Marian Chiara, M.Ed

Attendance Related Bills



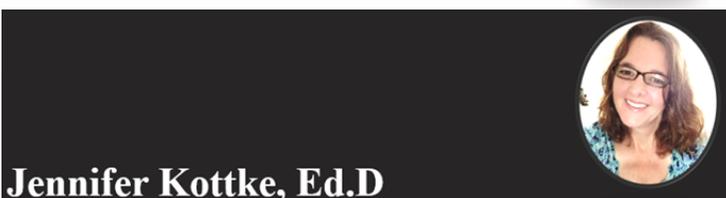
**Susan Chaides,
M.Ed, R.N., C.P.N.P.**

Community Health and Safety Related Bills



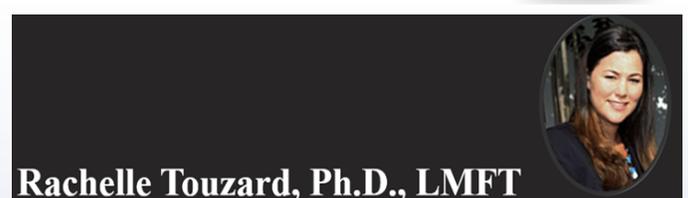
LaShona Jenkins, DSW, LCSW

Foster Youth Service Coordination Related Bills



Jennifer Kottke, Ed.D

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Related Bills



Rachelle Touzard, Ph.D., LMFT

Student Support and Mental Health Related Bills

LACOE's Annual Legislative Update December 4, 2020

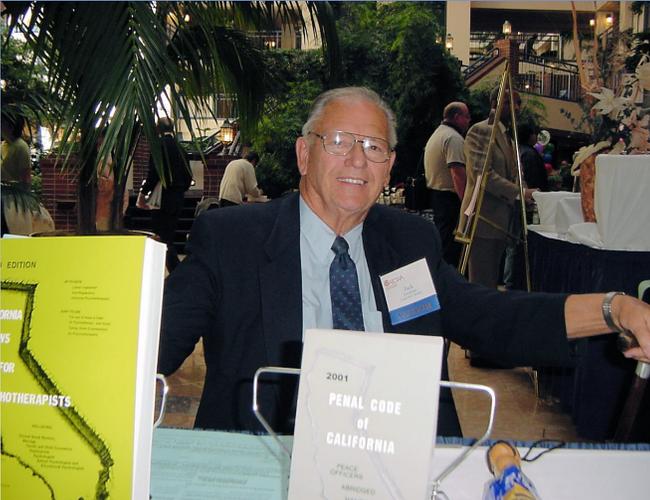
On Friday, December 4th, LACOE's Division of Student Services conducted their "Annual Legislative update" for legislation going into effect on January 1, 2021.

Dr. Thompson is an incredible man who has put together an impressive talented team of educators to meet the demands of the Los Angeles County Community.

To put this awesome responsibility into perspective, if you compare the number of K-12 students in Los Angeles County and compare that number to the number of students in each of the 50 states, you will find that Los Angeles County provide services to more students than 42 of our 50 American States.

This team is amazing and this Intercom Editor wishes to commend everyone associate with the Los Angeles County Department of Education for a job well done!

Annual LACOE Legislative Update—Comments from Jennifer Kottke



The Los Angeles County Office of Education, Division of Student Support Services, held its annual Legislative Update on Friday, December 4, 2020. The Legislative Update this year was held via Zoom due to COVID-19. The 2020-2021 Legislative Update focused on laws that either immediately go into effect or that go into effect on January 1, 2021.



The focus of the laws always surrounds new legislation that will affect California public schools, including charters, in the areas of school administration, safe schools, and child welfare and attendance. Ms. Pamela E. Gibbs, LACOE's Director of Governmental Relations, also presented an overview of the past legislative session and provided some insight into coming events.



At the conclusion of this year's event, Dr. Victor Thompson announced his retirement from directing the Division of Student Support Services. Dr. Thompson has spent his last 15 years supporting students at LACOE with many years prior at various districts across LA County. He will be greatly missed but we know he will remain busy as he moves into the next season of life as he continues to support many community-based programs and has a robust ukulele singing schedule.

Congratulations Dr. Thompson!!

Three CASCWA Legends!

The top picture on the left is of Jack Erickson. The middle picture is of Phil Kauble and the bottom picture is of retiring Victor Thompson. All three are giants in the history of "Student Services" and all three retired as the Director of LACOE's Division of Student Support Services. All three are true child advocates. Congratulations to Victor and best wishes in all future endeavors!



Los Angeles County Office of Education

Serving Students ■ Supporting Communities ■ Leading Educators

Legislative Update: Student Support Services

December 4, 2020

Everyone in the fields of student support services look forward to LACOE’s annual Legislative Update. The following pages contain a series of print screens that show the legislation that will take effect on January 1st. There are a few emergency legislation usually listed.

The following print screens merely highlight many of the bills that became law and can not replicate the excellent descriptions that were presented at the workshop. Each year, LACOE usually publish an extensive booklet that contains a great deal of information on the legislative activity, many of which mark specific legislation that may require a change in board policy. **The 2020-21 Student Support Services Publication Order Form is posted on the main page of CASCWA’s website. The cost is \$20.**

The goal of this portion of the Intercom is to highlight those bills that were identified to be of relevance to the fields of child welfare and attendance.



To obtain a complete copy of a bill please go to:
<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/home.xhtml>

AB 992: Open Meetings: local agencies, social media

- Social media engagement within existing parameters.
- Not in violation of Brown Act:
 - May answer questions, seek community input, provide information – if within the subject matter jurisdiction of the board.
- The intent is to make the legislators available to the public beyond council meetings, by making appointments, or by chance meeting in public.

Assembly Member
Kevin Mullin
San Mateo (D)



Quote from Kevin Mullin:

“Civic engagement is a core principal of democracy. We have evolved from the times when a constituent could only access their local officials by appointment, by attending a Council meeting, or by chance meeting them out and about in the community. To exclude social media participation in the 21st century, does a disservice to the public and undermines transparency. AB 992 helps give citizens nearly full access to their elected officials.”

AB 1645: Student support services: Dreamer Resource Liaisons

Assembly Member
Blanca Rubio
West Covina (D)



Former Baldwin Park USD
Board Member

High School Counselors:

- Connect High School Seniors:
 - UC, CSU, and CC Dreamer Resource Liaisons
- Streamline access to financial aid, social services, state-funded immigration legal services, internships, externships, and academic opportunities for **undocumented students**

AB 1929: Child abuse and neglect reporting

Effective January 1, 2021

- Previous pilot program for internet-based reporting of child abuse & neglect
- This bill extends operation of this program indefinitely
- Online reporting system for mandated reporters: LA County – Child Abuse Reporting Electronic System (CARES)

Assembly Member
Blanca Rubio
West Covina (D)



SB 276 and SB 714: Immunizations: medical exemptions (ME)

State Senator
Richard Pan
San Francisco (D)



Both SB 276 and SB 714 Partner Bills:

- From 2019-20 Legislative Session
- Student with medical exemption submitted before January 1, 2020
- Allows student to continue enrollment until next grade span TK/K or 7th grade
- On or after July 1, 2021 prohibits schools from admitting, readmitting, or promoting to 7th grade unless student has been immunized or has a medical exemption through CAIR

AB 2300: CA Youth Football Act

Assembly Member
Jim Cooper
Elk Grove (D)



Effective January 1, 2021

- EMT, paramedic or higher level medical professional must be present during a football game
- Allowed to evaluate and remove a youth from tackle football game due to injury, not limited to a concussion or head injury
- Authorized to provide pre-hospital emergency medical care or rescue services consistent with certification/license

Retroactive grant of high school diplomas AB 1350 (Gonzalez)

- Result of COVID 19-Safe at home order
- Disengagement / Learning Loss
- Distance Learning



In good standing

On track to graduate

COVID-19 closures

Assembly Member
Lorena Gonzalez,
San Diego (D)



Retroactive high school diplomas: Historical References (AB 1350)

Education interruptions in California and US History for HS Seniors:

- Japanese internment during WW2
- WW2 Veterans
- Korean War Veterans
- Vietnam War Veterans
- Deportation



AB 2112: Suicide Prevention

Assembly Member
James Ramos
Rancho Cucamonga (D)



Office of Suicide Prevention within State Dept. of Public Health:

- Duty to provide information and technical assistance to statewide and regional partners
- Inform best practices on suicide prevention policies and programs
- Reporting on progress to reduce rates of suicide
- Authorizes grant applications to utilize existing staff and resources
- Consult with Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission to implement suicide prevention efforts.

AB 2741: Children's Advocacy Centers

- Multidisciplinary response to investigate reports involving child physical or sexual abuse, exploitation, or maltreatment
- Utilize representatives from child-focused settings for interviews and other services
- Multidisciplinary team may share information with each other concerning the child, the family of the child, and the person who is the subject of the abuse or neglect investigation
- Exemption for team members for limited liability – must be related to child advocacy.

Assembly Member
Blanca Rubio
West Covina (D)



Focusing on trauma informed instruction while avoiding returning to trigger traumatization through the investigative process

AB 3242: Mental health: involuntary commitment

Assembly Member

**Jacqui Irwin
Camarillo/
Oxnard (D)**



Involuntary assessments during COVID-19:

- Telehealth – holding assessment by telephone
- Avoids exposure of team members to assess
- Removes need to go to ER for assessment

This bill provides speedy attention in a crisis situation, with behavioral health provider, but is this going to work with lack of in-person compassion and non-verbal cues?

AB 1979: Foster Youth and Housing

**Assembly Member
Laura Friedman
Burbank (D)**



(2010-2012: AB 12 Extended Foster Care (EFC) Program)

- EFC from age 18 to 21 years of age.
- Early adulthood risks: poverty, homelessness, or incarceration.
- Increases housing options for EFC program participants
 - County evaluation of resources/programs
 - Promote placements and hold for up to 14 days
- Definition of Supported Independent Living Placements (SILP) increases – preventing further housing instability
 - Houses, apartments, single rooms, dorms, and college housing

FAFSA

SB 860: Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program: postsecondary education financial aid applications

- Clarifies role of Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP)
- Coordinate efforts to support Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and/or Dream Act Application
- Ensures Students in Foster Care have Access to financial resources for continued college education
- Lack of resources leads to
 - dropping out of college
 - Discouragement due to complexity of application
- Builds upon current law to coordinate supportive efforts

Accountability: report to CDE percentage of FY who complete FAFSA or Dream Act Application

**State Senator
Jim Beall
Campbell/
San Jose (D)**



SB 98: Education Finance: education omnibus budget trailer bill

Committee on Finance and Fiscal Review:

- EL teacher observation protocols.
- COVID-19 pandemic reimbursement to contracting agencies.
- Appropriation of \$198M from Federal Trust to provide relief and assistance. \$245M early learning grants.
- Waiver of ADA and change in attendance documentation to “Participation” for Distance Learning.
- Tracking absences to reflect “chronic absenteeism” on the dashboard
- Instructional minutes were adjusted by grade levels and specific programs
- The Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) has been replaced with the Local Continuity and Attendance Plan (LCP) to address learning loss and re-engagement strategies due to school closures during the 20-21 SY.
- Templates provided by California Department of Education (CDE)

SB 98: Education Finance: education omnibus budget trailer bill

- Local plans are needed and must be available for review by school community.
- Policies to be posted and notifications provided:
 - Student Participation: synchronous and asynchronous participatory attendance captured and collected in Weekly Engagement Reports certified by the teacher
 - LCP information to be shared with community, reported to CDE (**mandated costs**)
 - Individual Education Plans (IEP) updated to address instruction during emergency situations (**mandated costs**)
 - Superintendents to require mental health education and well-being programs if federal funding is provided
 - Authorizes California Newcomer Education to provide services for refugees, unaccompanied undocumented minors, and immigrant children



**Governor
Gavin
Newsom**

SB 820: Education finance Partner Bill for SB 98

- Consent is **not required** to record synchronous virtual lessons; teacher may record or may give principal permission to record. **Students may not record without consent.**
- Notices to parents to inform that audio, video, or digital recording of distance learning requires prior consent and students must follow local acceptable use of technology policies.
- Although not collecting ADA, districts may be **eligible for an increase** due to increased enrollment from prior to the 2020-21 school year.
- The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) deadline for the budget overview was moved to 9/15/2020 to align with the recently implemented Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan.
- Weekly engagement reporting **may need to be reviewed by local labor agreements** to not cause complications with mandatory attendance reporting.

AB 901: Juveniles

Policy Changes

- SARB’s responsibility to make referrals to community services continues
- **Truancy Mediation Program**
- SARB may require counseling, mental health resources, educational supports, and other youth services
- Policy needs to be easily located on district and charter website, if not already posted.

**Assembly Member
Mike Gipson,
Gardena/Compton (D)**



AB 901: Gipson partners with Youth Justice Coalition

Youth Justice Coalition

@YouthJusticeLA - Community Organization

The Youth Justice Coalition (YJC) is working to build a youth-led movement toward Restorative Justice in Los Angeles County.



Mandates/Notifications

- Parents of students who are identified as Truant must be notified that Probation or District Attorney may conclude that the minor is to be a ward of the court, only if the available community resources cannot resolve the problem of truancy through collaboration with the schools.
- **Mandates apply costs to Probation only.**



AB 908: Work Permits and COVID-19

Policy Changes

- Adopt a policy to allow a probationary period to exceed one semester for work permit eligibility
- **Only applicable during emergencies or school shutdowns**
- Allow electronic Signatures

Mandates/Notifications:

None

Assembly Member
Patrick O'Donnell,
Long Beach /
San Pedro (D)



Policy Changes

- None

Mandates/Notifications:

- None

Ensures that sexual harassment training be completed to gain or maintain work permit in entertainment industry

Assembly Member
Marc Levine,
San Rafael/Petaluma/
Santa Rosa(D)



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AB 2416: Financial Aid. Extension

Assembly Member
Jesse Gabriel
Woodland Hills (D)



- 19% of CC Students & 11% of CSU students experience homelessness
- **Disproportionally impacted:** Black students, Native American students, LGBTQ+, Foster Youth & McKinney-Vento identified students
- No financial aid often means an end of higher education experience
- Requires colleges to consider homelessness as an extenuating circumstance when evaluating appeals for the loss of financial aid due to not making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
- Requires colleges to use their flexibility in appeals to allows student experiencing homelessness to remain enrolled and have access to higher education.



AB 2426: Postsecondary Education: Student Financial Aid: Satisfactory Academic Progress

POLICIES

- Amends education code tied to postsecondary education
- No policy change needed at the k-12 system

MANDATES

- No mandated costs
- No appropriation

NOTIFICATIONS

- No Annual Parent Notifications



Effective January 1, 2021



Countywide Plan to Provide Educational Services to Expelled Students

AB 922: Los Angeles County Plan for Expelled Students 2021

See flyer added to LACOE resources

• Education Code (EC) 48926 Mandates

- School districts and county office of education are to develop a collaborative plan
- Last plan was developed in 2018: Due for Triennial Update
- 2021 Plan is submitted to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- Link to SURVEY: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YQLJ7GW>
- Please complete survey if you have not already done so...
- Bulletin # 5285 is added to the LACOE Resources

Pam Gibbs, J.D.

LACOE Executive Director, Government Relations

Legislative Counsel

Gubernatorial Appointee

Assembly & Senate Capitol Staffer



News from Sacramento

SI&A Confirms Alarming Trends in Distance Learning; Early Data on Chronic Absenteeism

Press Release · Thursday, November 19, 2020

The California Department of Education (CDE) reaches out to School Innovations & Achievement (SI&A) for an early analysis on chronic absenteeism. With over 10 years' experience in K-12 attendance management, SI&A is a leading provider of data trends and data analytics. SI&A's early data reveals attendance taking practices must be modified.

Due to school closures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, distance learning has created a set of never-encountered challenges for K-12 school district leaders, including high rates of absenteeism and lack of participation resulting in lost learning time.

When the California State Superintendent wanted a preliminary view of chronic absenteeism, the California Department of Education (CDE) reached out to SI&A to provide an analysis of early chronic absenteeism. **"Monitoring which students attend or participate in class, whether school is in-person, virtual or a blend, offers the best data currently available during these first few weeks of school to show whether instruction is reaching and engaging students. Schools and community partners can use data, even with changes in the definition of attendance, to see which students and families need support to resolve attendance barriers before students fall too far behind," says Hedy Chang**, executive director, Attendance Works, a non-profit initiative dedicated to advancing student success and helping close equity gaps by reducing chronic absence. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing ten percent or more of the academic year for any reason.

With more than ten years in K-12 attendance management and over 2.5 million students in their data sample, SI&A is a leading provider of data and data analytics. District partners who utilize their multi-tiered system of supports for attendance, The Achievement Initiative, including their software and service, Attention2Attendance (A2A), historically outperform non-A2A clients by 8-12%.

The preliminary figures from SI&A's multi-district absenteeism report are alarming. The highest increases are occurring for (see chart):

- Elementary School District types with an estimated increase of more than 220%
- Grades 6-9 known as the "transition years"
- Grades 2-4 where reading skill acquisition is critical
- Minority students, disproportionately affected with an increase ranging from 132% to 193%

This digital divide translates into a huge number of missing students and real concerns over lost learning time and lack of student engagement. SI&A's report, "Preliminary Chronic Absence Patterns & Trends Analysis," is based on data from 343,000 students in 33 California school districts.

Grade	# of Districts	# of Students 2019	# of Students 2020	2019 Chronic Rate	2020 Chronic rate	A2A Rate of Increase	*Est. Non-A2A Rate of Increase
PK	13	2,625	1,841	9.9	8.2%	-17.5%	104.4%
TK	18	2,695	2,021	13.9%	14.3%	2.4%	89.5%
KG	27	23,440	20,707	12.0%	14.3%	18.4%	119.0%
1	27	22,519	22,077	9.2%	15.0%	62.7%	194.1%
2	27	22,852	21,997	7.7%	13.7%	78.9%	236.8%
3	27	23,617	22,553	7.1%	12.5%	78.0%	249.9%
4	27	23,159	23,223	6.9%	12.3%	78.8%	255.7%
5	27	22,909	22,912	7.1%	12.6%	77.7%	248.5%
6	27	24,913	22,494	7.6%	16.4%	116.1%	275.4%
7	27	24,894	23,927	9.8%	20.9%	112.5%	235.6%
8	28	26,686	24,317	10.1%	20.9%	107.0%	226.9%
9	22	35,676	36,009	10.9%	22.2%	103.9%	181.0%
10	22	34,714	34,261	15.1%	21.6%	43.1%	98.8%
11	22	33,425	33,314	16.0%	20.3%	27.2%	79.8%
12	22	32,312	32,173	18.0%	19.6%	9.3%	56.1%

SI&A's multi-tiered system of support for attendance, The Achievement Initiative, provides promising practices to identify and implement effective interventions to reengage "disconnected" students and families. Data informs action. SI&A's district partners have already improved intervention responses with uniform and consistent processes to track participation and daily class attendance to support student success.

Read full press release and learn more about SI&A's solution at www.sia-us.com

Chart provided by School Innovations & Achievement. Shows Attendance/Chronic Absenteeism in Distance Learning. Grade level analysis reveals the greatest increase in chronic absences in grades 6-9, where students experience important transitions and in grades 2-4, where reading proficiency is critical.

The Achievement InitiativeSM

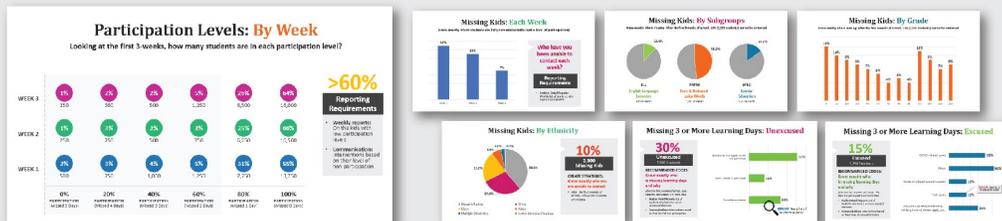
Under the Umbrella



Expanded Reporting Capabilities

SOFTWARE & SERVICE: ENHANCED FOR DISTANCE LEARNING

Tracking participation and levels of engagement does not have to be complicated or overwhelming. We have the right tools to make it easy, accurate and actionable.



Quick! Let's start before 2021.

Student Support Services Solutions, Inc.

www.s4edconsultants.org

Earlier in this edition of the Intercom, we pointed out that we have created a webpage in support of our sponsors and vendors at <http://cascwa.wildapricot.org/CASCWA-Sponsors-and-Vendors>.

For decades, CASCWA has been associated with the publication of "School Laws Relating to Minors, currently being authored by Maria Bravo, Student Support Services Solutions Inc. If you have interest in any of the following virtual workshops, please visit their website at <http://s4edconsultants.org/calendar.html>.

Attendance School Attendance: Systems & Accountability, San Diego County Office of Education -- January 12, 2021

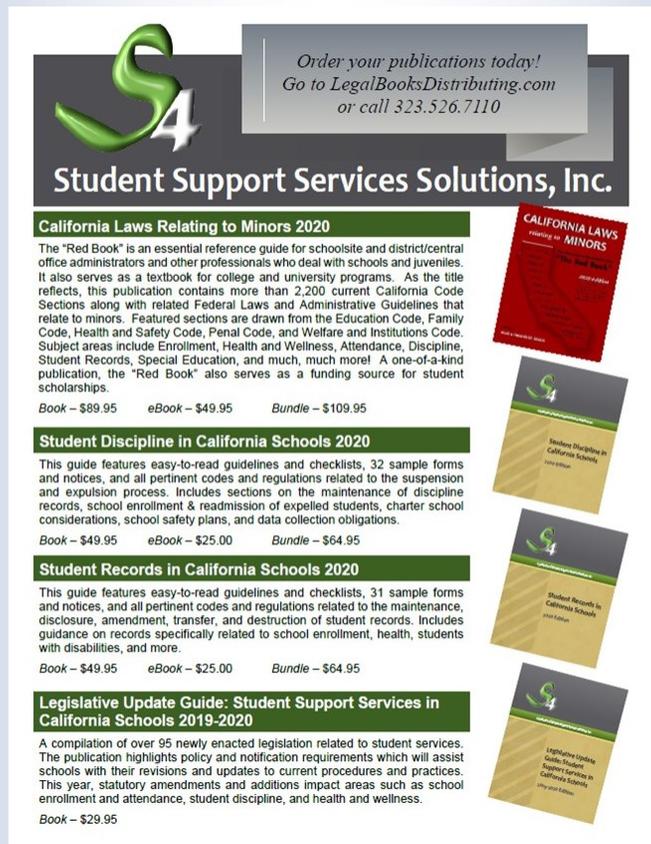
Records Student Records, Kern County Superintendent of Schools -- March 5, 2021

Legislation Legislative Update/Annual Notification, Kern County Superintendent of Schools -- January 25, 2021

Legislative Update/Annual Notification Ventura COE -- February 4, 2021

Section 504 San Diego County Office of Education -- February 2, 2021

Student Attendance & Chronic Absenteeism San Diego COE -- January 12, 2021



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Student Support Services Solutions, Inc.

California Laws Relating to Minors 2020

The "Red Book" is an essential reference guide for schoolists and district/central office administrators and other professionals who deal with schools and juveniles. It also serves as a textbook for college and university programs. As the title reflects, this publication contains more than 2,200 current California Code Sections along with related Federal Laws and Administrative Guidelines that relate to minors. Featured sections are drawn from the Education Code, Family Code, Health and Safety Code, Penal Code, and Welfare and Institutions Code. Subject areas include Enrollment, Health and Wellness, Attendance, Discipline, Student Records, Special Education, and much, much more! A one-of-a-kind publication, the "Red Book" also serves as a funding source for student scholarships.

Book – \$89.95 eBook – \$49.95 Bundle – \$109.95

Student Discipline in California Schools 2020

This guide features easy-to-read guidelines and checklists, 32 sample forms and notices, and all pertinent codes and regulations related to the suspension and expulsion process. Includes sections on the maintenance of discipline records, school enrollment & readmission of expelled students, charter school considerations, school safety plans, and data collection obligations.

Book – \$49.95 eBook – \$25.00 Bundle – \$64.95

Student Records in California Schools 2020

This guide features easy-to-read guidelines and checklists, 31 sample forms and notices, and all pertinent codes and regulations related to the maintenance, disclosure, amendment, transfer, and destruction of student records. Includes guidance on records specifically related to school enrollment, health, students with disabilities, and more.

Book – \$49.95 eBook – \$25.00 Bundle – \$64.95

Legislative Update Guide: Student Support Services in California Schools 2019-2020

A compilation of over 95 newly enacted legislation related to student services. The publication highlights policy and notification requirements which will assist schools with their revisions and updates to current procedures and practices. This year, statutory amendments and additions impact areas such as school enrollment and attendance, student discipline, and health and wellness.

Book – \$29.95

Jeni Mendel's "Website" Pages



Over the past several years, the editors of the CASCWA Intercom and Connection have received on-going emails from CASCWA's State President, Jeni Mendel, Sherman Garnett and several other executive board members. Below you will find specific links that the editors have chosen to pass on to our members. Please look over the following sites and see if they relate to your personal work load. Hopefully, you will find the websites useful!

Milken Institute School of Public Health: Equity vs. Equality: What's the difference?

<https://onlinepublichealth.gwu.edu/resources/equity-vs-equality/>

EdSource: Education and the coronavirus crisis: What's the latest?

<https://edsource.org/2020/latest-updates-on-education-and-the-coronavirus-crisis/635717>

Kajeet: Six challenges to distance during the covid-19 outbreak and tips to overcome them

<https://www.kajeet.net/6-challenges-to-distance-learning-during-the-covid-19-outbreak-and-tips-to-overcome-them/>

Hunt Institute: Overcoming the covid-slide in math

<https://hunt-institute.org/resources/2020/10/covid-19-policy-considerations-overcoming-the-covid-slide-in-math/>

CDE: Coronavirus response & school reopening guidance

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/coronavirus.asp>

Center for Disease Control & Prevention: Guidance for K-12 school administrators on the use of masks in schools

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/cloth-face-cover.html>

Edutopia: Helping students read emotions behind masks

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnEBCyMatQY&feature=emb_rel_end&ab_channel=Edutopia

Dr. Lee present: Can't touch this covid parody

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oeAN8Xxz0q4&ab_channel=QuentinLee

Great Schools: 15 rights parents have in public schools

<https://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/the-greatschools-bill-of-education-rights-for-public-school-parents/>

A doctor explains how to make the safest face mask

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6d3twpHwis&ab_channel=Dr.RyanSouthworth

Quarantine (is not quite over) Billy Jean Parody

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygdB-ZE0daY&ab_channel=TheHoldernessFamily

Jokes About The Pandemic To Make You Laugh

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqGLZB0kHPc>

2020-21 CASCWA State Executive Board

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Intercom Editors	Jennifer Kottke & Frank Boehler	Southern



The co-editors of the CASCWA Intercom are Jennifer Kottke & Frank Boehler. We hope that you have enjoyed this edition of the Intercom. If you have any suggestions for future articles or other comments, Please contact Jennifer Kottke at: Kottke_Jennifer@laoe.edu or Frank Boehler at frank_boehler@roadrunner.com.