



CELEBRATING CASCWA'S EIGHTY ONE YEARS OF ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN

We never quit only going stronger

CASCWA 2022 STATE STATE CONFERENCE MAY 11TH –13TH!

85TH ANNUAL CASCWA STATE CONFERENCE

Education Equity & Empowerment

MAY 11-13, 2022 | IN-PERSON | LAKE TAHOE
MAY 12, 2022 | ONLINE | VIRTUAL EVENT



MARK YOUR CALENDARS
REGISTRATION OPENS
OCTOBER, 2021

Go to CASCWA.wildapricot.org to register



In this September 2021 edition, you will find:

Information on our 2022 CASCWA State Conference at Palisades Tahoe; Flyer for Delta Sierras “Best Practices for Successful School Site Attendance Meetings; Q & A with CDE’s David Kopperud; San Joaquin’s Special Recognition to Sharma Uma; Information on 2022 Model SARB Program; Information on San Joaquin’s “Building a Community of Learning Forward Workshop”; LACOE’s PBIS Workshops, SIA’s Achievement Initiative; S4 Up Coming Workshops; and Jeni Mendel’s Website Pages!

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



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

CASCWA State President's Message

Melissa Parrett, Nevada County Superintendent of Schools

mparrett@nevco.org

Welcome CASCWA members and friends to our website. My name is Melissa Parrett and I am honored to be this year's State President. I am from the Delta-Sierra Section of CASCWA, in which I have served as Section President for the past two years. My first experience with CASCWA was in 2008 at the State Conference in Long Beach. Over time, I have benefitted greatly from the knowledge gained through connections formed through this organization as well as the precious friendships formed.

CASCWA continues its long tradition of serving as a support and resource to those in the fields of child welfare and attendance. We strive to highlight best practices, disseminate information and provide greatly needed technical assistance. Through our website (<https://cascwa.wildapricot.org/>) and Intercom newsletter, CASCWA is able to provide up-to-date legislative information, resource links and recommendations for useful published materials. You will also find a direct link to the CDE which contains the State SARB Handbook, updates from our State Superintendent and links to other important links to resources. Each of the 4 regional sections of CASCWA provide networking opportunities and ongoing trainings both in-person and via digital platforms. Additionally, our regional sections work toward provision of scholarships for youth that have experienced hardships during their academic careers. To learn more about each section, please explore the "Executive Boards" tab at the top of our webpage.



Last year, our Southern section hosted an incredibly successful, highly attended virtual State Conference. This year, the Delta-Sierra section is hard at work preparing a spectacular in-person State Conference opportunity. More information to follow. We look forward to seeing you at Olympic Village (Squaw Valley) in May!

We invite 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 85-year-old organization of truly dedicated people, help us to help all those who work with youth!

Sincerely,

Melissa Parrett

CASCWA State President

BAY Section

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



Bay Section's President's Message:

Dear CASCWA Members and Friends,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 School Year! It is great to see in person instruction happening in our schools. Yet I am sure everyone agrees that this has been the most challenging year in decades. Schools and districts face many changes this year as we work hard to make schools safe and supportive places to learn. The Bay Section Board also has changes for 2021-2022 and we stand ready to support members to have a successful school year. I am sorry to share that I am stepping down as section President and appointed, with support of the Bay Section Board, Evelyn Ocasio to act as President for the remainder of the term. I look forward to supporting the Bay section to the best of my ability as a member at large. Evelyn and I are jointly writing this message to assure section members that our Executive Board will continue to provide meaningful collaboration, training and community as we all take on this challenging year together.

Education is more complex than ever with the range of teaching and learning requirements needed this year to engage our students. The role of Child Welfare and Attendance is critical in creating climates and cultures where students, staff, and families feel safe, supported, and ready to learn. Being an active member of CASCWA, attending workshops and conferences, sharing your experience and expertise is so important for us to become the vibrant professional learning community necessary for schools to thrive. We are stronger together!

Last spring we awarded CASCWA scholarships to 10 extremely deserving students to help support their college aspirations. The Bay Section is so proud to recognize and honor these special students who overcame a range of challenges. These students benefited from the support of school counselors, community agencies, child welfare and attendance workers and others. Please Join us in congratulating the following students: Yessensia Sanchez Reyes, Angel Garcia Lopez, Alrene Cisneros, Kalani Dunn, Anghela Martinez, Ilice Perez, Consuelo Vidal-Perez, Edgar Garcia-Rodriguez, Anisa Velasco, and Arissa Rafael. These students represent Clear Lake, Hayward, Oakley, Pittsburg, Royal Oaks, and Watsonville. Bay Section Congratulates our Scholarship Winners!

BAY Section (Continued)

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

We are very pleased to present our fellow board members Celeste Pracale Vice President, Ligia Mancia Secretary, Andrew Kevy Treasurer, and Members at Large Akilah Byrd, Cynthia Brice, Carolina Macias and Dr. Dishawn Givens . We are honored and very excited to be working with such a strong and talented group of people this year!

Bay section members, be on the lookout for a survey and a save the date flyer coming shortly to promote our fall workshop.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Ocasio

CASCWA Bay Section President
Hayward Unified School District



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Sherman Garnett, Allen Dosty and Dan Martin is the team that puts together our legislative updates. Many of the bills signed by the governor are in the months of September and

Southern Section's Up Coming "Free" Workshop

Mark your calendar for Friday, November 5th from 8:30 to 11:30. Southern Section is meeting on September 30 to finalize the plans for a free zoom workshop to all CASCWA Members and Friends.

Last year, Southern Section held a free workshop for child advocates across the state and it was a huge success with over 850 registrations.

The executive board is focusing on important topics in student services that will relate to your everyday business. Following their meeting, they will be putting together a flyer for the event with specific details of what to expect. Once this is in place we will build the database, send out an update and begin the registration process! *WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH!*

Delta Sierra Section

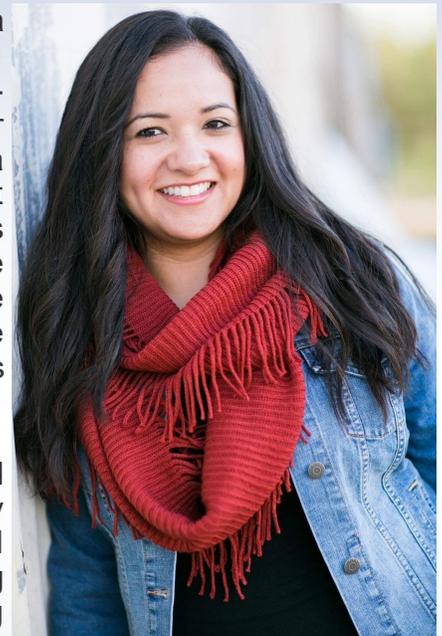
Please visit the CASCWA Delta Sierra Section Website at:
<http://cascwa.org/about-us/delta-sierra/>

CASCWA Delta Sierra President's Message Virginia Burns, Sutter County of Schools

virginiab@sutter.k12.ca.us

Dear Fellow and Potential CASCWA members,

I am humbled to be able to address our small, but mighty Delta-Sierra Section (DSS) community. Not only am I honored to serve as your 21-22 Section President, but I also hope to provide you with some inspiration, hope, and a message of resiliency. No one would have ever thought that we would find ourselves more than 18 months into a Global Pandemic with still so many uncertainties. Uncertainties that bring about fear, anxiety, and the aftermath of a shut-down that has magnified the need for Child Welfare and Attendance support more than ever. Although this may sound overwhelming, I knew the entire time that I was not in this alone. This is the exact reason that I have prioritized my CASCWA membership; so I don't ever have to do this work alone.



Since beginning in this field in 2007, CASCWA has always been, and continues to be necessary to increasing my knowledge and capacity in the field of Child Welfare and Attendance. Over the last 18 months, I have heard more stories of school staff conducting home visits, being creative with student engagement, and prioritizing school belonging and connectedness. For us CASCWA Members, this is nothing new, but we were seen, heard and have felt valued more than ever before. Whether it be a direct connection with members of State SARB, access to the wonderful Professional Development opportunities that have kept me updated with latest trends in the field, or making those personal connections with others that are now just an email or phone call away, I know I have support.

Now, more than ever, we have seen the value of self-care and personal connection. We, as social beings, need to feel a sense of belonging and connectedness even as professionals. We need to feel supported and put ourselves first so that we may care for others; our staff and students. We must, now, more than ever find and strengthen our village because we are stronger together. This is my reason for being a CASCWA member, my village. I challenge you to join CASCWA, our village, this year as we grow stronger together on our mission to support our students.

Sincerely,

Virginia Burns, Delta-Sierra Section President
Sutter County Superintendent of Schools
Program Coordinator, Student Support and Outreach

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,

It's already the middle of September. The crackle and pop of July 4th fireworks is over, it's sizzling hot in the Central Valley and hopefully this year's fire season will soon be over. Be sure to breath in-and-out, using the good mindfulness techniques we've learned! Yes, time is flying by quickly.

With the worst of the pandemic behind us, our schools are buzzing with students who are attending in-person and eager to be with their friends and back to classroom learning. Like them, and like many of us, we're drained from coming through a year like none other. But I can say this: "We made it!" All of us, students, families, teachers, and every one of us at the district. I hope you're hearing the Rocky theme song in your head because I sure am!

We have our work cut out for us since our schools have reopened. Our students, especially those who struggle the most with attendance, need our compassion and support more than ever. I'm honored to serve as the San Joaquin board president and to uphold our tradition of bringing high-quality, timely professional support through workshops, trainings, and updates through email to help us tackle whatever it takes for our students to succeed.

As in past year's it's time to announce this year's students who received the Anthony Brucia Success Awards. These awards go to high school seniors who faced academic and personal struggles but, despite adversity, and with help from local supports, showed good character and a strong commitment to improve their future outcomes. This is at the heart of the San Joaquin CASCWA and the award is named after a student who found success. The awards are \$1,000 scholarships to enroll in school after graduating. Over the years we've awarded 25 scholarships. This year's 2021 award recipients are (drum roll, please!):

Wendy Xiong

Redwood High School, Visalia, CA

Serena Beisel

Clovis North High School, Clovis, CA

Danitza Fe Velazquez

Parlier High School, Parlier, CA

Joshua Peterson

Kingsburg High School, Kingsburg, CA

I can't say it enough times or loud enough, thank you for all you do! After more than a year of staring at a computer screen, I look forward to seeing you in-person at some point soon.

All the best, Praxades Torres III

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

CASCWA Southern Section President's Message

Vicente Bravo

Da Vinci Schools

vbravo@davincischools.org



Greetings CASCWA Members and Friends,

With the 2021-22 school year well under way, I would like to welcome you all back as we undertake the challenges that our current situation still holds for us in the wide, wide world of education. As such, I wanted to take this time to focus on some of the “silver linings” and highlights that CASCWA Southern Section had and is continuing to promote.

First of all, I am very fortunate to take the reins as President this year after Rick Riegel did an amazing job working with our Board to produce a wonderfully successful virtual state conference using all the best tools available. Moving forward, we are already finalizing plans for our Fall Workshop, to be held on Friday, November 5th, to bring you helpful insight and practical strategies for our school site colleagues to use with all our students. The workshop, “Maximizing Learning Opportunities Through a Focus on SEL” will feature experts in our field and the voices of our students as they share their

perspectives and viewpoints. Save the date and keep an eye out for more information in the next edition of The Intercom!

Second, in these trying times we have been given the opportunity to demonstrate the value and importance of the work we do like never before. From deciphering the new Independent Study Program to addressing the social emotional needs of our returning students, all of you have a pivotal role in supporting the academic success of our students. Our work with foster, homeless, adjudicated, military and other students who face daily challenges in the pursuit of their education, has never been more needed. The collective skills and experience that you all bring to your work day in and day out will be a key part of the formula on the road to a new level of normalcy for our students.

Lastly, I wanted to share that despite everything that has happened and is continuing to develop around us, in our communities and around the world, I have been re-energized and infused with great hope as I’ve watched our students forge onward despite all that they have had to face. Resilience. Now more than ever, this key trait is one that is shining brightly with many of our students and staff making the best of a situation that continues to pose new and evolving challenges. But, thanks to the resilience being demonstrated every day by all of you too, I see a huge “silver lining” enveloping and protecting our students everywhere.

Be well and be safe,

Vicente Bravo

President, CASCWA Southern Section

Da Vinci Schools (Wiseburn USD)

Chief Administrative Officer/Assistant Superintendent – Operations, Equity & Compliance

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IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL!



2022 CASCWA STATE CONFERENCE HOSTED BY CASCWA'S DELTA SIERRA SECTION

CASCWA's Delta Section is in the process of finalizing the details for the 2022 CASCWA State Conference and hope to begin the registration process within a short period of time.

The conference will begin on May 11th and conclude on May 13th. Their current plans include an in-person conference, which will be a half day on May 11th, full day on May 12th and half day on May 13th.

The plans also includes a full day on-line virtual event for May 12th.

We anticipate that the tentative details of the event will be released soon. That should include the location, cost, and registration information. We will also be excited to hear the plans for coordinating the "in person" and "virtual" event.

Once we receive their next update, we will post the information on our website and send it out to all of our members and friends in an update.

We commend the Delta Sierra's executive board for their hard work and we look forward to seeing in person or virtually at this year's state conference!



Delta-Sierra Section

CASCWA

California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance

BEST PRACTICES FOR SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL SITE ATTENDANCE MEETINGS

Who Should Attend:

- Site Administrators
- Attendance Clerks
- School Counselors
- School Social Workers
- School Attendance Review Team (SART) Members

OCTOBER 26, 2021
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

COST- \$50.00



Virtual Training



OUR PRESENTERS:



Sheri Hanni

Coordinator, Student
Attendance and Engagement
Butte County Office of
Education



Amir Alavi

Director of Chronic
Absenteeism Reduction,
Riverside County
Office of Education

Contact Us

lisa.sanchez@wjusd.org
melina.medina@wjusd.org

Register Here- <https://cascwa.wildapricot.org/event-4499359>

School site attendance meetings provide one of the best opportunities to reduce chronic absenteeism through partnering with families to identify and address the specific barriers to attendance. School sites can create a partnership with families by approaching these meetings through a restorative lens. This interactive workshop will explore some best practices for school site, often called SART, attendance meetings. We hope you can join us!

HOT TOPICS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS!

David Kopperud
Education Programs Consultant
Education Options Office
California Department of Education



At the beginning of every school year there are always a large number of educational issues being echoed on the internet. The editors of the Intercom decided to seek information from David Kopperud of CDE. We sincerely hope that the information provided below will be useful to you and others in the fields of student services:

There was a significant amount of conversation at the last State CASCWA meeting in regards to 2021-22 Independent Study Programs. The conversation took many directions. What would you like to tell our members about current independent study issues and where are some of the website where they can go to for clarification?

Independent study rules have been changing as the need for independent study has changed with the Delta variant. The best web site to keep track of the changes and answer your questions is [Frequently Asked Questions - Independent Study \(CA Dept of Education\)](#) Program questions for independent study may be directed to independentstudy@cde.ca.gov, and apportionment questions may be directed to attendanceaccounting@cde.ca.gov

The 2020-2021 Model SARBs all adapted to the challenges of distance learning with creativity and true concern for students. The focus was not only on keeping students engaged in school but also linking them and their families to all necessary services during the Pandemic, including mental health services. I strongly encourage everyone to view the presentations of the Model SARB chairpersons at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-1qHMRExIB2qAPnTqMuJwfjbrgVoC7Ug/view?ts=60e8a6b8>

The "Model SARB Recognition Program" has truly made a positive impact on students throughout the State of California." Please share with our members a few of the strengths that you saw with the 2021 recipient districts and give us a few of your thoughts looking forward to the 2021-22 recognition program.

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HOT TOPICS - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS! Continued

Please share with our members a few of the current topics being discussed at the State SARB meetings.

The State SARB has been discussing a state attendance plan which has been approved by State Superintendent Tony Thurmond and is designed to reduce the increasing chronic absenteeism rates in the state. State Superintendent Thurmond supported the expansion of the duties and services of supervisors of attendance when he was a legislator and wants to further expand those duties now that he is State Superintendent. The new duties would include verifying exit codes before they are reported to CALPADS and ensuring the transition of unsuccessful independent study students to in-person attendance. He would also like to expand the county certification of supervisors of attendance to supervisors of attendance in districts with an average daily attendance of less than 1,000 students. In addition, the State Superintendent supports the State SARB recommendation that charter schools should enforce the compulsory attendance laws as other public schools do. The State Superintendent also supports a State SARB recommendation to submit and post an Annual Report on Dropouts in California. The report will be usable by schools, school districts, policymakers, researchers, parents, and the public for the purpose of identifying and understanding the trends in chronic absenteeism and dropout rates which have been exacerbated by the Pandemic.



The California Department of Education has an incredible website with great resources. Please share with our new CASCWA members a few specific pages that you believe would be important to them as they are starting out their careers.

The CDE has several web pages that should be very helpful to CASCWA members. The first web page is the CDE's web page for Child Welfare and Attendance at [Child Welfare & Attendance - Attendance Improvement \(CA Dept of Education\)](#) This website provides resources for CWA professionals and describes the expanded duties of supervisors of attendance. The second web page is [School Attendance Improvement Strategies - Child Welfare & Attendance \(CA Dept of Education\)](#) and answers Frequently Asked Questions for professionals who are charged with improving school attendance.

The third web page is the CDE's truancy web page which lists all the compulsory attendance laws at [Truancy - Attendance Improvement \(CA Dept of Education\)](#) The fourth web page is for the Model SARB Recognition Program at [Model SARB Recognition Program - School Attendance Review Boards \(CA Dept of Education\)](#)

HOT TOPICS - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS! Continued

Truancy - Attendance Improvement (CA Dept of Education)

Definition of a Truant. The California Legislature defined a truant in very precise language. In summary, it states that a student missing more than 30 minutes of instruction without an excuse three times during the school year must be classified as a truant and reported to the proper school authority.

School Attendance Improvement Strategies - Child Welfare & Attendance (CA Dept of Education)

Selected school attendance practices identified as having a positive effect in encouraging students to regularly attend school.

Child Welfare & Attendance - Attendance Improvement (CA Dept of Education)

Child Welfare and Attendance is a specialized student support service that covers compliance with compulsory education laws, student admission and enrollment procedures, student discipline procedures, transfers to alternative programs, and school climate and safety.

There was a eye opening discussion between you and Sherman Garnett at the recent CAS-CWA State Conference regarding words usage. There are several words that us old timers tend to use that are now considered as no no for compliance, grants or reports. Please share with our members a few of the word changes that we need to make for future documents.

One of the big changes in California educational language is the elimination of the word "distance learning." We are offering "independent study" now in place of distance learning for students who are not attending in-person. Also, the excused absence for quarantine used to be very rare. Now it is common.

What else would you like to share with our membership?

I want to express my great respect and admiration of all those serving on the State SARB and in Child Welfare and Attendance. The last two school years have been the most challenging years I have seen for those who are dedicated to keeping students engaged in school. CASCWA has been there to support all of us during this time with leadership and expertise!

SAN JOAQUIN SECTION RECOGNIZES SHARMA UMA FOR HER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS

It is with great pleasure that we recognize Mrs. Sharma Uma for her outstanding dedication and support to our San Joaquin Section Board. Mrs. Uma has taken great interest in changing the lives of students in Stanislaus County and began a source of positive mentorship. As part of the Stanislaus County SARB she helps provide services to curb chronic absenteeism in local school districts through a multi-agency approach.



Mrs. Uma was an integral part of putting on the Stanislaus County Office of Education and San Joaquin CASCWA 11th Annual SCOE Workshop – “Building a Community of Learning Forward”. Her passion is to support students, families and her colleagues by creating a network of professional support.

Mrs. Uma goes above and beyond and makes great efforts to promote the importance of school attendance and offer families much needed support. Mrs. Uma works closely with community members and site/county administration to make school attendance one of their counties top priorities.



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The editors of the Intercom recently asked all of the section presidents to bring forth one of their executive board members to be recognized for outstanding service. As usual, San Joaquin’s president, Praxades Torres, was the first to submit a recognition. Sharma is an excellent choice and we thank Sharma for all her accomplishments! We look forward to more recognitions in future editions!

CDE'S Model SARB Recognition Program 2021-22
Jennifer Gomeztrejo
Student Support Services Solutions, Inc.



Model SARB Recognition Program 2021-22

The Model School Attendance Review Board (SARB) Recognition Program, which is sponsored by the California Department of Education (CDE), in cooperation with the California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance (CASCWA), identifies and recognizes multi-tiered school attendance improvement programs at the district and county level. Outstanding programs chosen for the Model SARB Award serve as models for other local or county SARBs in California that are using a multi-tiered system of support to reduce chronic absenteeism rates and dropout rates and improve overall attendance rates.

The Model SARB Application is in the process of being revised to reflect the current climate and context regarding attendance. To help ensure that local educational agencies (LEAs) are aware of the revisions to the application, a Model SARB Application workshop will be conducted virtually in November 2021. The workshop will specifically address each content area, clarify the scoring process, and identify the successful practices already being implemented by the potential applicants. More information regarding the date and time of the Model SARB Application workshop will be available soon.

11th Annual SCOE CASCWA Workshop "Building A Community of Learning Forward" CASCWA - SAN JOAQUIN SECTION & STANISLAUS COE



Stanislaus County Office of Education and San Joaquin CASCWA hosted their Annual 2 day workshop this September in Modesto. This was the very first in-person training offered during the pandemic and what a great feeling it was to see everyone. President of CASCWA San Joaquin, Praxades Torres, welcomed everyone.

Stanislaus County SARB provides services to curb chronic absenteeism in local school districts through a multi-agency approach. The following leaders were present to address the attendees at the opening of the event: Superintendent of Schools Scott Kuykendall, Sheriff Jeff Dirkse, District Attorney Birgit Fladager, and Judge Ruben Villalobos. CASCWA team put together a great program agenda including topics to provide attendees with a Completion of Certificate in Attendance Supervision Ed Code 48240.

The following topics were presented:

- 1. **Self Care as a Revolutionary Act:** Creation of the best Version of Yourself – Mindfulness session with Stanislaus County Office of Ed After School Program Coordinator Danielle Jones
- 2. **Trauma and re-engagement of students on campus:** Suggested Strategies for returning to school on campus for both student and teacher by CSUS Lecturer Master Lead of Social Work Program and Peer Project Coordinator Jennifer Johnson
- 3. **To Face Mask or Not to Face Mask:** Re-engagement through transition, Stanislaus County Office of Education Homeless Education Services Coordinator Fred Berry
- 4. **Creating a Culture of Achievement:** Starting with Creating a Culture of Showing Up: Student Innovations Achievement by Jessica Rogers and Firebaugh School District – Terry Anderson

- **5. All Hands on Deck: Attendance:** To Explore How Attendance Teams can greatly reduce Chronic Absenteeism by Riverside County Office of Education, Director of Chronic Absenteeism Reduction, Pupil and Administrative Services – Amir Alavi M. A. J. D.
- **6. Entering and Exiting Students at the School Site:** Attendance Taking Procedures/Independent Study during the pandemic! Sherman Garnett/Sherman Garnett and Associates
The 2 day event was an overall success with many takeaways for those who were new to addressing student attendance at their school sites.

We thank the Stanislaus County Prevention Program Staff and the CASCWA San Joaquin team for collaborating to provide the best training during this challenging times when students need us the most.



THANK YOU SAN JOAQUIN SECTION

On behalf of the staff of the Intercom and all the webmasters, we wish to the leadership of the San Joaquin Section for starting off the 2021-22 school year with this excellent and important workshop! The topics were relevant and the presenters were excellent.

On a personal note, we wish to thank Praxades Torres and the entire San Joaquin Section for their commitment to our CASCWA members and friends.

Their workshops and other activities are relevant to today's challenges in the world of child protective services!

Keep up the great work!



Positive Behavior and Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Unit
Division of Student Support Services - Los Angeles County Office of Education
Serving Students – Supporting Communities – Leading Educators
(562)922-6789 e-mail: pbis@lacoed.edu

<https://www.lacoed.edu/Student-Services/Positive-Behavior-Interventions-and-Supports-PBIS>

We recently received the email information below from LACOE's Tom Steele (Steele_Tom" <Steele_Tom@lacoed.edu>. LACOE's PBIS division is conducting several workshops that are of relevance to all school districts and we wanted to pass the October workshops on to all of our members and friends.

Most of our trainings, including those listed above, can be provided as custom events. To discuss your school or district group(s) training needs, please e-mail Melissa Neal at neal_melissa@lacoed.edu to schedule a time to talk, we are here to help! If you are in a county that provides implementation training, we will help you contact your provider.

October class offerings:

The following classes available at a cost of only \$25 per person, to confirm registration, payment is due one week prior to the class:

General Awareness of Restorative Practices (RP): When unacceptable behavior is exhibited, many are affected. RP offers an opportunity to have a meaningful dialogue, providing healing and restore the community.

October 29th must register and pay for course by October 21st
9-11 a.m. <http://lacoed.k12oms.org/2034-198588>

Enhancing Equity by Understanding Implicit Bias: Unconscious associations can affect our understanding, actions, and decisions. This class is about building culturally responsive schools and classrooms that promote tolerance through understanding and healing.

October 15th must register and pay for course by October 7th
9-11 a.m. <http://lacoed.k12oms.org/2034-198577>

Trauma Informed Schools: Many events have exposed children and adults to trauma, which can cause anxiety, depression, and PTSD. Participants learn how to help those affected as well as important aspects for self-care for staff.

October 15th must register and pay for course by October 7th
1-3 p.m. <http://lacoed.k12oms.org/2034-198578>

October 29th must register and pay for course by October 21st
1-3 p.m. <http://lacoed.k12oms.org/2034-198590>



**The best way to
support our students
moving forward...**

The Achievement InitiativeSM

POWERED BY *Attention2Attendance*[®]

Award-winning software & Service
Attendance Awareness Month Support—all year long!



Built to deliver results: K-12 districts turn to The Achievement Initiative during attendance crisis

CIOReview Magazine, September 2021

Finding missing kids puts School Innovations & Achievement (SI&A) at the top of our top 10 list. With their expertise in attendance improvement, and their immediate and effective response to COVID-19 school closures, SI&A sent a clear signal to K-12 educators that they can deliver results.

“The key to our success at closing the achievement gap and improving attendance is our ability to effectively communicate with parents and better connect parents with their schools,” SI&A’s Chief Executive Officer Jeff Williams explains. “Our attendance and conferencing management software is architected for customization—with every implementation of The Achievement Initiative, we adapt to individual school district needs, processes, or state Ed. Code requirements. When school closures literally unplugged millions of students from their schools, we gave immediate support to reconnect and engage with families who were suddenly isolated by the digital divide.”

From the moment schools closed, educators sounded the alarm that our country is facing an attendance crisis unlike anything seen before: The distressing rise in chronic absenteeism is a predictor of future dropouts and declining third grade reading proficiency, along with the substantial decline in traditional public school enrollment is an indicator of missing kids.

While educators and policy makers clamored to find norms to fit the masses, The Achievement Initiative responded with speed and efficiency—with its market-leading software solution built on the foundational principles of agility and data integrity—to meet the challenges

the pandemic presented.

“Historically, our district partners have outperformed non-clients,” Williams added.



In a data report based on 330,000 students in school years 2020-21, requested by the California Department of Education, although SI&A found their district partners saw an uptick in absences, non-district partners could see a 220 percent rate of increase across the country.

“Fortunately, we have spent the last 15 years perfecting how to implement a plan that gets results,” Williams said. “We improve attendance and student achievement.”

SI&A has been in this space for more than a decade, earning a reputation as an industry leader, premier partner with patented technology, proven processes and a lengthy track record of results.

In a data report that includes 21 diverse school districts over a 7-year period with The Achievement Initiative, overall graduation rates increased, surpassing the national average—with the largest gains for African American and Hispanic or Latino students.

Equity has been and continues to be at the core of SI&A’s mission in technology

solutions. Their process is designed for local control with district oversight—the optimal continuous improvement design. Process and clean data are the key. Their system can be implemented in as little as two to four weeks. The result is consistency in coding, application and best practices; all essential for equity.

The Achievement Initiative removes the burdens of tracking, data scrubbing, printing, mailing, data analysis, and reporting from student outreach and IT departments. With Attention2Attendance (A2A) as its powerful data-driven foundation, it’s the technology and software districts need to collect, organize, and analyze attendance data into meaningful and actionable results. This systematic process allows administrators to spend more effective face-to-face time with families.

“Our program and service are unique, and more importantly effective,” Williams continued. “Our objective has always been—using our competencies in K-12 attendance, organizational effectiveness, continuous improvement, communications, and software development—to produce results.

At worst, our program is revenue neutral, but more likely, revenue positive. Our partners appreciate that we get more kids back in school. Educators must focus on everything else; we have spent 15 years perfecting one focus: Attendance.”

As one of the 10 Hottest K-12 Solution Providers in 2021: The Achievement Initiative should be part of every district’s plan to maximize learning through creating a culture of achievement starting by creating a culture of showing up.

[Learn more at: TheAchievementInitiative.com](https://TheAchievementInitiative.com)

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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 their upcoming workshops, please visit their website at <http://s4edconsultants.org/calendar.html>.



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Student Support Services Solutions, Inc.

California Laws Relating to Minors 2020

The "Red Book" is an essential reference guide for schoolsite 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

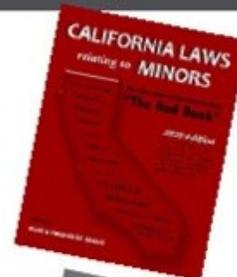
This guide features easy-to-read guidelines and checklists, 31 sample forms and notices, and all pertinent codes and regulations related to the maintenance, disclosure, amendment, transfer, and destruction of student records. Includes guidance on records specifically related to school enrollment, health,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



S₄workshops



Student Records

9/16/21 – Ventura COE
9/23/21 – San Diego
3/5/21 – Kern CSS

Legislative Update

1/14/22 – San Diego COE
1/24/22 – Kern CSS
2/3/22 – Ventura COE

Section 504

11/4/21 – San Diego COE

Student Records

9/16/21 – Ventura COE
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Legislative Update

1/14/22 – San Diego COE
1/24/22 – Kern CSS
2/3/22 – Ventura COE

Section 504

11/4/21 – San Diego COE

Registration information is available at:
<https://www.s4edconsultants.org/calendar.html>



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 Past 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 web-sites useful!

***From Victor Thompsen, LACOE, Retired: We would like to invite you to the 20th Anniversary NPIEN Education Conference, to be held virtually on Zoom/Facebook on Saturday October 23, 2021. There is no cost for this virtual event.**

<https://www.npien.com/news-events/upcoming-events/194-register-today-for-the-20th-anniversary-annual-education-conference>

Military One Source: Signs of Child Abuse

[Recognizing Signs of Child Abuse & Neglect - Military OneSource](#)

Let's Talk Cannabis - How does smoking weed affect work in school?

[Let's Talk Cannabis - How does smoking weed affect work in school? - YouTube](#)

Let's Talk Cannabis - Will smoking weed damage my lungs?

[Let's Talk Cannabis - Will smoking weed damage my lungs? - YouTube](#)

How Recreational Marijuana Affects California Schools

[How Recreational Marijuana Affects California Schools - YouTube](#)

High school ethnic studies bill approved by California Legislature

[Bill Text - AB-101 Pupil instruction: high school graduation requirements: ethnic studies. \(ca.gov\)](#)

Education Week: We Should Be Concerned About the Mental Health of Principals

[We Should Be Concerned About the Mental Health of Principals \(Opinion\) \(edweek.org\)](#)

AASA: Leading for Equity: What Have We Learned?

[Strategies2018Final.pdf \(aasa.org\)](#)

More than funny | Michael Jr. | TEDxUniversityofNevada

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=twSvd5bQLDw>

How Do I Deal With Difficult Parents?

[How Do I Deal With Difficult Parents? - YouTube](#)

Growth Model — Explanation and resources for the student-level growth model.

[Growth Model - Accountability \(CA Dept of Education\)](#)

Investing in Student Wellness in California

[Investing in Student Wellness in California • Council for a Strong America \(strongnation.org\)](#)

Jeni Mendel's "Website" Pages Continued

Keeping Our Schools Safe – A Plan for Preventing Mass Shooting and Ending All Gun Violence in American Schools / Everytown Research & Policy / Research & Policy

[Keeping Our Schools Safe: A Plan for Preventing Mass Shootings and Ending All Gun Violence in American Schools | Everytown Research & Policy | Everytown Research & Policy](#)

Gun Violence Prevention - Students need safe environments to learn, live, and grow.

[Gun Violence Prevention | NEA](#)

[NEA School Crisis Guide 2018.pdf](#)

Marijuana: Download the Facts - Printables & Lessons

[Marijuana: Download the Facts - Printables & Lessons | Scholastic: Nida](#)

Parenting Children Who Have Been Exposed to Methamphetamine A Brief Guide for Adoptive, Guardianship, and Foster Parent

[Microsoft Word - Parenting Children Who Have Been Exposed To Methamphetamine \(ohsu.edu\)](#)

UC Santa Barbara: Keys to Academic Success

[Keys to Academic Success – Help \(zendesk.com\)](#)

How slow thinking can help at-risk youth

[How slow thinking can help at-risk youth - YouTube](#)

How to avoid death By PowerPoint | David JP Phillips

[How to avoid death By PowerPoint | David JP Phillips | TEDxStockholmSalon - YouTube](#)

Great leadership comes down to only two rules | Peter Anderton | TEDxDerby

[Great leadership comes down to only two rules | Peter Anderton | TEDxDerby - YouTube](#)

10 SKILLS That Are HARD to Learn, BUT Will Pay Off FOREVER!

[10 SKILLS That Are HARD to Learn, BUT Will Pay Off FOREVER! - YouTube](#)

How to Start a Speech

[How to Start a Speech - YouTube](#)

Try Not To Cry Laughing At These Ridiculous Absence Notes

[Try Not To Cry Laughing At These Ridiculous Absence Notes \(ninjournalist.com\)](#)

Things Students Do That Drive Teachers Crazy

[Things Students Do That Drive Teachers Crazy - YouTube](#)

If Public School Was An Airline

[If Public School Was An Airline - YouTube](#)

AB-100 Drinking water: endpoint devices: lead content.

[Bill Text - AB-100 Drinking water: endpoint devices: lead content. \(ca.gov\)](#)

Editors Comments

We truly appreciate the website contributions we receive from Jeni Mendel. She is a special child advocate and has received statewide recognition for her work with the most challenging at risk students, especially in the arena of substance abuse. She just sent this DOJ alert and wanted it passed on to you!



DEA Issues Public Safety Alert on Sharp Increase in Fake Prescription Pills Containing Fentanyl and Meth

DEA Warns that International and Domestic Criminal Drug Networks are Flooding the United States with Lethal Counterfeit Pills

WASHINGTON, DC – Today 9/27/2021, the Drug Enforcement Administration issued a Public Safety Alert warning Americans of the alarming increase in the lethality and availability of fake prescription pills containing fentanyl and methamphetamine. DEA's Public Safety Alert, the first in six years, seeks to raise public awareness of a significant nationwide surge in counterfeit pills that are mass-produced by criminal drug networks in labs, deceptively marketed as legitimate prescription pills, and are killing unsuspecting Americans at an unprecedented rate.

These counterfeit pills have been seized by DEA in every U.S. state in unprecedented quantities. More than 9.5 million counterfeit pills were seized so far this year, which is more than the last two years combined. DEA laboratory testing reveals a dramatic rise in the number of counterfeit pills containing at least two milligrams of fentanyl, which is considered a lethal dose. A deadly dose of fentanyl is small enough to fit on the tip of a pencil.

Counterfeit pills are illegally manufactured by criminal drug networks and are made to look like real prescription opioid medications such as oxycodone (Oxycontin®, Percocet®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), and alprazolam (Xanax®); or stimulants like amphetamines (Adderall®). Fake prescription pills are widely accessible and often sold on social media and e-commerce platforms – making them available to anyone with a smartphone, including minors.

“The United States is facing an unprecedented crisis of overdose deaths fueled by illegally manufactured fentanyl and methamphetamine,” said Anne Milgram, Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration. “Counterfeit pills that contain these dangerous and extremely addictive drugs are more lethal and more accessible than ever before. In fact, DEA lab analyses reveal that two out of every five fake pills with fentanyl contain a potentially lethal dose. DEA is focusing resources on taking down the violent drug traffickers causing the greatest harm and posing the greatest threat to the safety and health of Americans.

Today, we are alerting the public to this danger so that people have the information they need to protect themselves and their children.”

The vast majority of counterfeit pills brought into the United States are produced in Mexico, and China is supplying chemicals for the manufacturing of fentanyl in Mexico.

The drug overdose crisis in the United States is a serious public safety threat with rates currently reaching the highest level in history. Drug traffickers are using fake pills to exploit the opioid crisis and prescription drug misuse in the United States, bringing overdose deaths and violence to American communities. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 93,000 people died of a drug overdose in the United States last year. Fentanyl, the synthetic opioid most commonly found in counterfeit pills, is the primary driver of this alarming increase in overdose deaths. Drug poisonings involving methamphetamine, increasingly found to be pressed into counterfeit pills, also continue to rise as illegal pills containing methamphetamine become more widespread.

Drug trafficking is also inextricably linked to violence. This year alone, DEA seized more than 2700 firearms in connection with drug trafficking investigations – a 30 percent increase since 2019. DEA remains steadfast in its mission to protect our communities, enforce U.S. drug laws, and bring to justice the foreign and domestic criminals sourcing, producing, and distributing illicit drugs, including counterfeit pills.

This alert does **not** apply to legitimate pharmaceutical medications prescribed by medical professionals and dispensed by licensed pharmacists. The legitimate prescription supply chain is not impacted. Anyone filling a prescription at a licensed pharmacy can be confident that the medications they receive are safe when taken as directed by a medical professional.

The issuance of today’s Public Safety Alert coincides with the launch of DEA’s One Pill Can Kill Public Awareness Campaign to educate the public of the dangers of counterfeit pills. DEA urges all Americans to be vigilant and aware of the dangers of counterfeit pills, and to take only medications prescribed by a medical professional and dispensed by a licensed pharmacist. DEA warns that pills purchased outside of a licensed pharmacy are illegal, dangerous, and potentially lethal. For more information, visit <https://www.dea.gov/onepill> or scan the QR code below.

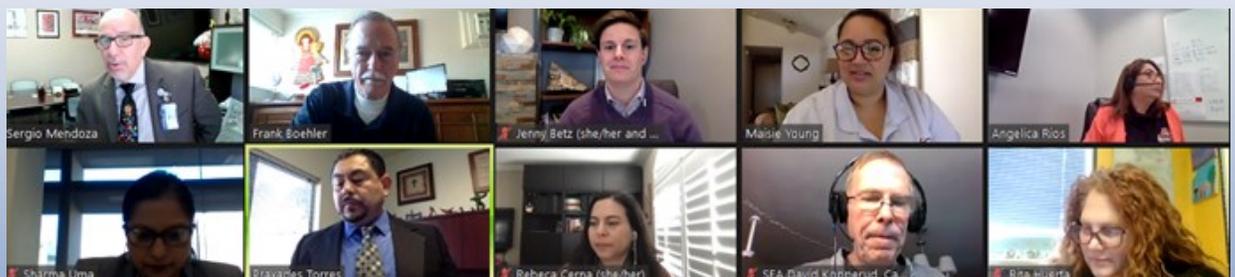
Facts About Fentanyl

- Fentanyl can lead to addiction.
- Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids are the most common drugs involved in overdose deaths.
- Illegal fentanyl is being mixed with other drugs, such as cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and MDMA. This is especially dangerous because people are often unaware that fentanyl has been added.
- Fentanyl works by binding to the body’s opioid receptors, which are found in areas of the brain that control pain and emotions.
- Its effects include extreme happiness, drowsiness, nausea, confusion, constipation, sedation, tolerance, addiction, respiratory depression and arrest, unconsciousness, coma, and death.
- The high potency of fentanyl greatly increases risk of overdose, especially if a person who uses drugs is unaware that a powder or pill contains it. They can underestimate the dose of opioids they are taking, resulting in overdose.
- Naloxone is a medicine that can be given to a person to reverse a fentanyl overdose. Multiple naloxone doses might be necessary because of fentanyl’s potency.

Source: [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#); National Institutes of Health; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

2021-22 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.