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CASCWA 2024 STATE CONFERENCE April 24th – 26th!





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In this September 2022 edition, you will find:

Information on our 2022 CASCWA State Conference at Palisades, Tahoe; Registration link to the "Virtual" One Day State Conference; California declining enrollment information; CASCWA State & Section President's Messages; 2022 CDE State Model SARB award recipients; April Legislative Update; Information from School Innovation and Achievement; Interview with CASCWA's Kevin Torosian; S4 2022 California Laws Relating to Minors; and two pages of Jeni Mendel's Website Pages!

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

CASCWA State President's Message

Kevin Torosian Central School District (Retired)

Cascwakev1211@gmail.com



Dear CASCWA Members and Friends,

CASCWA continues to support everyone in the fields of student services. We are living in challenging times and hope that your 2023-24 school year is off to a great start.

Let's talk about the recent 2023 CASCWA State Conference in Fresno for a minute. With close to 85 breakout sessions to choose from, great keynote speakers, and the opportunity to network, learn from experts, see students and adults recognized for their contributions and accomplishments, and the opportunity to socialize with fellow educators from throughout the state, the host San Joaquin section and section president Sharm Uma should be congratulated for hosting another outstanding event.

To the close to 600 attendees, thank you for being there and I hope the conference was everything you hoped it would be, particularly for those who were attending for the first time. And

may I remind you all that with your conference registrations you received a one-year membership in CASCWA, so please contact your section President to see how you too can become more involved in this amazing organization. You can find all of the section President names and contact information in this edition of Intercom and the CASCWA website. Believe me, they are waiting to hear from you.

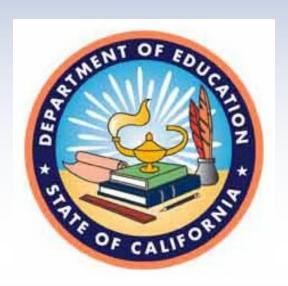
And it is not too early to register and make hotel reservation for the 2024 CASCWA State Conference hosted by the Bay Section in Monterey, CA at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, April 24-26, 2024. You will be able to find conference and hotel registration information in this edition of the Intercom as well as on the CASCWA website.

We were so pleased to see so many hands raised in response to the question at the conference luncheon on Thursday inquiring about how many of you were attending your first CASCWA State Conference. And in speaking with several of you, I heard comments about how encouraging it was for you to meet and share with people who shared similar concerns and viewpoints regarding the issues affecting the care and welfare of our students and families. This organization is really unlike any other in that it really is like belonging to a large family, where there are those always willing to share, assist, and collaborate when you need someone to turn to for knowledge, advice, and support.

CASCWA State President's Message (Continued)

In closing, please give serious consideration to becoming more involved in your section and become a part of the next wave of educators that carries CASCWA into the future. It may lead you to one day assume a leadership role, whether intended or not (lol), and maybe even to becoming the state president. But take it from me, what it will do is allow you to not only enhance your opportunity for professional growth, but meet and develop friendships with some truly remarkable people. Have a great school year.

Dr. Kevin Torosian President, CASCWA State Executive Board



CASCWA's WELCOMES FELICIA THOMAS-HILL TO HER NEW POSITION AT THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

All levels of CASCWA are elated to learn that Felicia Thomas-Hill has taken an important position at CDE. Felicia has a strong background in education and we look forward to working together for the students of California!

Felicia will be in a position similar to that of David Kopperud, who is now retired. We extend a warm welcome to Felicia and hope to highlight her in the next edition of the Intercom.

We received the following email message from Felicia and want to share it with all our members and friends;

"I want to thank you and the members of the California Association of Supervisors for Child Welfare and Attendance (CASCWA) for the warm welcome. While I am excited to work with your organization and welcome the opportunity to formally introduce myself to the other members, I am still in the process of transitioning into my new role."

Welcome Felicia!

CASCWA's Bay Section President's Message

Evelyn Ocasion Hayward USD (Retired)

ocasioeve2@gmail.com

Dear Bay Section Members and Friends,

Whichever adventures you enjoyed during this beautiful summer, I hope you created a unique story to share with your family, friends and colleagues!



As the 2023-24 Bay Section President, I am eager to share that we are ready to embrace new quests for this school year. With the success of the CASCWA 86th Annual State Conference that took place in Fresno CA, I am happy to say that the Bay Section will rise to the reputation of providing another successful conference for 2024!

The Bay Section is honored to host the 2024 CASCWA State Conference in the Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel and Spa in Monterey, CA on April 24 - 26, 2024. It is an exciting venture, one we continue to learn from, and one that I am confident will be a success. Please visit the link below to see the location and secure your hotel accommodations.

<u>Learn more about the Hyatt Regency Monterey!</u>

Hyatt Regency Monterey Reservations Click Here!

During this valuable conference a combination of skills with the knowledge-base in education and various services will be developed to help you resolve complicated situations involving compliance with compulsory education laws. Student admission and enrollment procedures, student discipline procedures, transfers to alternative programs, school climate and safety concerns, and programs for high-risk youth are some areas specifically addressed. Conference attendees will learn valuable information that will help them increase their school/district attendance, support all students' rights, and potentially save their school/district from costly lawsuits and extensive attorney fees. In addition, every year each section distributes numerous scholarships to assist students to pursue the next level of their education. Something the organization takes great pride in supporting and carrying on with.

However, we cannot do it without the support of our friends and colleagues. Therefore, we are currently looking for Exhibitors, Sponsors and Presenters as we prepare for this empowering conference. The conference registration link will be posted shortly on the CASCWA homepage and the Bay Section website CASCWA - Bay

For additional information, please contact me directly at ocasioeve2@gmail.com

Kind regards,

Evelyn Ocasio, Bay Section President

CASCWA's Delta Section President's Message

David Kopperud California Department of Education (Retired)

davidkopperud53@gmail.com



Dear CASCWA members and friends,

I want welcome each and every one of you to the 2023-24 school year!

I want to convey to all of our members the great news that the "Model SARB Program" is back! I encourage all CASCWA members to participate in this special recognition program. The next State SARB meeting will be held on October 19, 2023. Jennifer Gomeztrejo has been doing a great job of representing CASCWA and preparing the next Model SARB application process.

Our Delta Sierra Section is in the process of putting together plans for the school year. We are planning to do a Zoom meeting for restorative SARB practices. We will be using a video already developed by the Model SARB in Menifee Un-

ion School District. CDE's, Dan Sackheim, and I saw the video presented by Don Carney from Marin County at the Board retreat of the California Association of Youth Courts (CAYC) in Sacramento on August 18 and 19. Restorative practices can be used in both the SARB process and the youth court process. Youth courts can work in conjunction with SARBs to increase the holding power of the public schools with youth. Mikki Cichocki who facilitated the San Bernardino City Unified School District Restorative Youth Court discussed the possibility of doing a workshop for the next CASCWA State Conference in Monterey. We hope to deliver program event to our members and friends throughout the school year!

We will keep you informed of our activities when plans are finalized.

I hope to see you next April in Monterey!

Sincerely,

David Kopperud
Delta Section President
davidkopperud53@gmail.com

CASCWA's San Joaquin Section President's Message

Sharma Uma Stanislaus County Office of Education

suma@stancoe.org



On behalf of the San Joaquin Section I would like to personally invite you to attend the 86th Annual CASCWA State Conference.

We at the San Joaquin Section are proud to host this year's conference at the Double Tree by Hilton and Conference Center in Fresno. This pandemic has allowed us to pivot our focus on how we address student attendance and as we strive for higher student achievement, our theme of "Success is the Standard" is covered in the seven strands which encompasses the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support and Equity for all subgroups: Equity & Culturally Competent Practices, Chronic Absenteeism & Model SARB, Student Services Laws & Regulations Gang & Drug Identification Training, Climate Alternatives to Suspension Universal Design for Learning & Social

Emotional Learning, Law Enforcement Strand Trauma Informed Practices & Safe School Plan, Truancy, and Foster, Homeless & Identified Subgroups.

CASCWA State Conference is the one and only professional development organization that provides learning opportunities across a wide range of student services topics including truancy and chronic absenteeism. For those of you handling professional developments roles in your districts and school sites, must look at student attendance from the MTSS lens to ensure that "All" your students are attending and with the right services and supports they will be successful.

Our breakout sessions will provide the most effective practices in addressing truancy interventions and chronic absenteeism interventions, the proven practices, reducing suspensions and expulsions, Tier I-III supports, competent cultural practices, and student services 101.

This training won't disappoint but meet the Education Code Sections 48240-48244 requirements for Child Welfare and Attendance Training.

In the latest edition of the Intercom, you will find specific information we are just sending out regarding our 2023 CASCWA State Conference!.

Sharma Uma

San Joaquin Section President
SARB Coordinator
Stanislaus County Office of Education
suma@stancoe.org
(209)480-0413
(209)238-1514

CASCWA's Southern Section President's Message

Don English San Bernardino County Office of Education

donald.english@sbcss.net

Dear Esteemed Members of the California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance.

I trust this message finds you all in good health and spirits. As we navigate the challenges of ensuring quality education and well-being for our students, I am deeply honored to address the dedicated members of the California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance.

Our shared commitment to the success and holistic development of each student underlines the importance of fostering a positive school climate. It is with this commitment in mind that I urge us to reconsider our approach to discipline and chronic absenteeism. While addressing behavioral issues and absenteeism is essential, let us explore innovative alternatives that align with our dedication to inclusivity, equity, and student growth.



In our pursuit of educational excellence, it is crucial to recognize that disciplinary actions can have profound effects on a student's emotional well-being and academic journey. The path to behavior correction should be paved with compassion and understanding, promoting a sense of accountability rather than fostering disengagement. Restorative justice practices have proven to be effective in creating meaningful dialogue, repairing relationships, and encouraging responsible behavior among students. Let us work collectively to incorporate these principles into our schools, nurturing environments where students thrive both academically and emotionally.

Chronic absenteeism remains a persistent challenge that affects the educational trajectories of many students. Recognizing that various factors contribute to absenteeism, I encourage us to adopt a multi-faceted approach. Let us invest in early intervention strategies that address the root causes of absenteeism, collaborating closely with families and communities. By establishing a strong support network, we can create tailored solutions that motivate students to attend school consistently.

As we contemplate these alternative means of discipline and absenteeism intervention, let us remain dedicated to our core mission of fostering an inclusive, supportive, and nurturing educational environment. Our collective efforts have the potential to transform the lives of countless students, empowering them to embrace their education and futures with renewed enthusiasm.

I invite each one of you to share your insights, experiences, and ideas as we embark on this journey of reimagining discipline and addressing absenteeism. Your active participation and contributions are the bedrock of our association's strength. The importance of your membership cannot be overstated, as it signifies a commitment to the advancement of education and the well-being of our students.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to the well-being of California's students. I look forward to our continued collaboration and the positive change that we can bring forth.

Warm regards,

Don English,
President, CASCWA Southern Section
donald.english@sbcss.net



Southern Section's Fall Workshop

October 25, 2023 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Double Tree Hotel in Buena Park





Workshop Information

Your world in student services is filled with phone calls, emails, meetings, new laws to implement, and other duties as assigned. You face exceptional challenges and need to have the information necessary to face today's challenges and be on firm ground.

Southern Section will be holding their annual fall workshop on October 25th at the Double Tree Hotel in Buena Park. The goal of the workshop is to deliver up-to-date important information on today's CWA "Hot Topics" that will help all in the fields of student services. This will be great time for your "Q & A's."

Confirmed Speakers are Chris Keeler from Fagen, Friedman and Fulfrost, Dr. Kelly Barnes, Associate General Counsel I, Los Angeles Unified School District, and Mike Ilic, Retired, Student Services Director, Corona-Norco Unified School District. Each are experts in the fields of CWA. Details on their presentations will soon be released in an email and posted on our website. Also, Erik Elorriaga from SI&A has agreed to host a table at the workshop.

This will be an "in person" event. Cost is \$100 per person. Registration is active. Payment can be made through AffiniPay, check or district purchase order. For questions, please contact Frank Boehler at frank_boehler@roadrunner.com.

"Click here to Register"

San Joaquin CASCWA & Kern High School District



Winter Conference

December 12, 2023

at the Career Technical Education Center

7301 Old River Road

Bakersfield, CA 93311

Topics Include:

Why Attendance Matters

McKinney Vento & Truancy Connection

Law Enforcement Truancy Support

A Dive into Attendance Data - State of

Attendance!

Legislative Updates

County Truancy Resources

Registration Information will soon be posted

at: www.cascwa.wildapricot.org

CASCWA's Interviews Jennifer Gomeztrejo CASCWA's Representative to CDE's State SARB Board

One of the most important programs to reduce truancy and to improve school attendance is the California Department of Education's Model School Attendance Review Board SARB) annual Awards. Due to circumstances, there were no awards presented for the 2022-23 school year. We are all elated that the program is back and will be a highlight of the 2023-24 school year. We encourage all of our members to participate in this program and to bring to light the great efforts in your district. As we learn more information we will provide you with the important information.

Jennifer Gomeztrejo represents CASCWA at all of the State SARB Meetings. Jennifer is solid and has a strong background in student services. She is a hard worker and worked closely with CDE's David Kopperud for the past several years to make the program a reality. It is proper, that with the return of the program, we interview Jennifer, who has been a long standing member of CASCWA and a key member of our State and Southern Section Executive Boards.



Jennifer, you are currently a partner at Student Support Solutions, Inc. Please tell us a little bit about your early path starting in education to your current position.

Upon completion of the UCLA Teacher Education Program, I began my career in the Centinela Valley Union High School District as a high school social studies teacher and facilitator of a program that served "at-promise" students, many of whom had interactions with the juvenile justice system. I transitioned from the classroom to the position of activities director and then served as a school site administrator overseeing curriculum and instruction, special programs, counseling, and assessment for approximately nine years. In the role of Consultant II in the Divi-

sion of Student Services of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), I provided guidance and technical support to 80 school districts as the County SARB and interdistrict permit appeal coordinator. Approximately eight years ago, Maria Hwang de Bravo and I co-founded Student Support Services Solutions (S4), an educational consulting group that provides coaching, training and technical support to school districts, parents, students, and community members as it relates to the California Education Code and other laws affecting student services and school administration. I proudly serve as a member of the State School Attendance Review Board (SARB), as the SARB representative for both the State CASCWA Board and Southern Section CASCWA Board, and as a member of ACSA's Education Options Council.

The State SARB Board is made up of key educational leaders from throughout the state. Please tell us a little bit about the agencies they represent and the interactions that occur.

State SARB, established by EC Section 48325, meets quarterly to provide policy coordination and personnel training to divert students with serious attendance and behavior problems from the juvenile justice system and to reduce the number of dropouts in the state public education system. State SARB members represent a variety of agencies and organizations including school districts, county offices of education, parent groups, community-based organizations, mental and behavioral health, health care, law enforcement, county welfare, and state organizations having an interest in youth with school attendance or behavioral problems. State SARB members work collaboratively together to make annual recommendations to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

CASCWA's Interviews Jennifer Gomeztrejo (continued)



Years ago, there was a wonderful educator at LACOE named Shirly Abrahms. She was instrumental in the establishment of State SARB. Then came David Kopperud who has been the champion for decades in improving attendance and addressing chronic truancy throughout California. Prior to his retirement, you worked closely with David. Please tell us your earliest memories of working with David and how you will best remember his efforts at CDF

As soon as I assumed the role of County SARB Coordinator at LACOE, I reached out to David Kopperud to introduce myself and learn more about his role at the California Department of Education (CDE). David was deeply knowl-

edgeable about CWA/Student Services and was able to answer any question I posed, no matter how simple or complicated. David was always welcoming and inclusive, inviting me to become a State SARB member and connecting me to various committees and organizations across the state. I was fortunate enough to collaborate with him on a SARB Training Curriculum and to co-facilitate workshops with him at various county offices and conferences. Additionally, we worked together to revise the Model SARB Recognition Program and promoted it across the state via regional Model SARB Application Workshops. As the State SARB Chairperson, David was (and still is) passionate about the Model SARB Recognition Program because of its recognition of LEAs for their work in developing a comprehensive, multi-tiered approach to improving attendance driven by data with the goal of engaging students and families in school. The Model SARB Recognition Program is truly his legacy and I am so happy to share that the program will be returning for the 2023-24 school year!

Once David retired, there was a brief one-year void in the "Model SARB Recognition Program. Many in our fields view this recognition program to be the most important strategy/effort to improve everyday school attendance in California. It certainly is an accomplishment and serves as a model for districts throughout the state to follow. Please tell us what you have learned about the return of the program and to whom we can say "Thank you."

The Model SARB Recognition Program was "paused" for the 2022-23 school year; State SARB members strongly advocated for its return and the CDE committed to re-launching the program for the 2023-24 school year. A subcommittee of the State SARB Board met regularly with Deputy Superintendent Steve Zimmer and CDE staff over Spring and Summer 2023 to discuss and revise the Model SARB application. The revised application will be released in late October/early November 2023 and will be due to CDE in January 2024. To provide LEAs with support and assistance in the successful completion of the application, Model SARB application webinars will be hosted by CDE and facilitated by me (dates of the webinars TBD). Model SARB Awardees will be recognized during the CASCWA State Conference in Monterey, CA in April 2024.

You and David were part of a team that made presentations throughout the state. Should we anticipate information on future workshops being released.

CASCWA's Interviews Jennifer Gomeztrejo (continued)

I had the honor and privilege of conducting a number of presentations across the state with David Kopperud over the years. As previously mentioned, I will continue to collaborate with CDE staff to facilitate the Model SARB Application Workshop webinars this fall.

Student Support Services Solutions (S4) provides trainings on a number of different topics related to CWA/Student Services (e.g., enrollment, records, custody, residency, attendance, discipline, homeless and foster youth, school safety, legislative updates). One area of focus for me is attendance, so I partner with county offices, school districts and charter schools to provide professional development on topics such as the Supervisors of Attendance training, MTSS for Attendance, Attendance Data Review and Analysis, Effective Interventions and Outreach Practices, and Developing a Comprehensive Attendance Action Plan. For dates and registration details on our upcoming trainings, please visit our website



at https://s4edconsultants.org/calendar.html or contact us through our website for customized trainings https://s4edconsultants.org/index.html.

Trainings by Topic Areas 2023-24

Student Services Boot Camp

September 6, 2023 - Kern CSOS September 14, 2023 - Ventura COE

School Attendance

September 15, 2023 - San Diego COE September 28, 2023 - Ventura COE October 4, 2023 - Kern CSOS

Student Records

September 21, 2023 - Ventura COE November 2, 2023 - San Diego COE March 13, 2024 - Kern CSOS

Student Discipline

October 13, 2023 - San Diego COE November 8, 2023 - Kern CSOS November 16, 2023 - Ventura COE

Section 504

December 1, 2023 - San Diego COE

School Safety Plan

February 14, 2024 - Kern CSOS

Legislative Update/ Annual Notification

January 11, 2024 - San Diego COE January 24, 2024 - Kern CSOS February 1, 2024 - Ventura COE



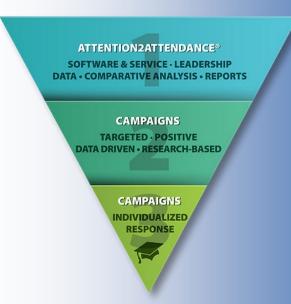
What else would you like to share with our members and friends?

A sincere "thank you" to our CASCWA members and all CWA/Student Services professionals across the state! Your advocacy and hard work on behalf of ALL students is recognized and truly appreciated!

Thank you Jennifer! Excellent interview and we look forward to hearing more about State SACRB and their 2023-24 accomplishments!



Unraveling the "WHY": Strategies to Address Chronic Absenteeism



At the end of August, School Innovation and Achievement held an excellent webinar for all CASCWA members and friends!

The webinar was outstanding and truly focused on the importance of data, interaction and the strength of effective communication!

Webinar's description: Across the nation, chronic absenteeism continues to remain elevated well above pre-pandemic levels. The issues behind student absenteeism are complex. It takes more than one touch-point with families to discover, support, and resolve the underlying challenges. The Sl&A webinar heard from a panel of education professionals. They shared their strategies to successfully get past the "what" and drive to the "why" behind student absenteeism.

The speakers included Scott Meyer, Director of Behavior Intervention & Student Services, Folsom-Cordova; Phil Ortega, Attendance and Student Services Supervisor, Retired, Executive Director/Founder LIFE Art; and Dr. Kara Stern, Head of Education Solutions, School Status. Erica Peterson was the moderator and we consider the entire webinar to be highly professional.

One of the features of Zoom is for attendees to submit questions! A review of the webinar's questions was an overwhelming number of requests to place the one-hour webinar on the website. Sl&A has sent CASCWA the link below and we encourage all our members and friends to view this important webinar:

https://vimeo.com/859963294/55da473e2d

SI&A WEBINAR PRESENTERS



Scott Meyer

Director of Behavior Intervention & Student Services, Folsom-Cordova

Scott has been an educator for 20 years in the Folsom Cordova Unified School District where he has served as a teacher, Assistant Principal, Child Welfare Coordinator and currently as the Director of Behavior Intervention & Student Services. In his current role, Mr. Meyer oversees a variety of areas including student discipline, expulsions, educa-

tional law, bullying prevention, character development, behavioral support & interventions, and attendance. Regardless of the capacity of working with students, Mr. Meyer is a firm believer in developing social & emotional skills and utilizing a "whole child" approach.

Phil Ortega

Attendance and Student Services Supervisor, retired; Executive Director/Founder LIFE Art

Phil Ortega began his education career as a Dean of Student and Disciplinarian at South Medford High School. He subsequently moved on to be a Regional Truancy Officer for the Southern Oregon Educational Service District before finally dedicating the past 16 years of his career as the Attendance and Student Services Supervisor for the Eagle Point School District, Jackson County 9. Mr. Ortega is also founder of LIFE Art Studio, a nonprofit, promoting bilingual youth creativity, communication skills, and academic success.



He also serves as Board Governor for AllCare Health. He is an active Youth Advocate at the Keep Encouraging Youth (KEY) project providing at-risk youth with programs promoting civility and violence prevention. Mr. Ortega is a recognized southern Oregon leader in the areas of youth conflict resolution,

culturally appropriate communication, and servant leadership.



Dr. Kara Stern Head of Education Solutions, SchoolStatus

Dr. Kara Stern has been working with teachers and schools for over 30 years as a teacher, principal, and non-profit leader. She earned her Ph.D in Teaching and Learning from NYU, and MA in School Leadership from Teachers College. She's on a mission to convince the world school communication should be considered part of instruction.





If you have ever attended a CASCWA State Conference, then you know that one of the greatest benefits gained at the conference is meeting new people and creating lasting professional relationships. This is especially true of the quality individuals in the vendor area!

At the 2023 CASCWA State Conference, many of us met Angie Ferguson, Executive Director, Drug Free Clubs of America, for the first time. We were extremely impressed with Angie and the organizations efforts being put forth throughout the United States promoting drug free youth.

Following the conference, many attendees asked for more information about "Drug Free Clubs of America." We asked Ms. Ferguson if we could interview her for the next edition of the Intercom. The following contains are questions and Angie's excellent responses!

California is learning more and more everyday about Drug Free Clubs of America. You ae a national organization. What would you like to share with our membership and friends about the organization?

We are so excited to be working in California! Our truly amazing partners at SafeLaunch and Millennium Health brought us to the area, and I am so excited for the California communities to experience the way in which a new Drug Free Clubs chapter brings positivity to everyone involved. These partners are California natives who are extremely motivated to make sure that the area's new DFCA chapters have complete success. SafeLaunch has even been extremely generous in putting together a funding strategy to help California schools with the cost of, well, launching! We are all so thrilled for what's coming next.

Drug Free Clubs of America's Angie Ferguson's Interview (continued)

Your website contains a large amount of positive information, printable material and key findings from dataBloom. Whether a young person is deeply involved in substance abuse or just at the verge of going in the wrong direction, where, on your website, would you direct their parents to connect with first and why?

I am glad you had a chance to look at those evaluations. Honestly, it was rather terrifying to throw the doors open and invite neutral third party researchers to analyze the outcomes from that past 15 years of work. But now, with the validation of our strategy's behavioral theory by researchers Jaquez & Vaughn, as well as our outcomes by dataBloom, I am so glad that we took the leap of faith.



Regarding the subject of a young person who is already involved with substance use, we have some great info on that in our "In the 'No" blog on our website which has articles and strategies for parents and teens to handle drug situations. There is also a guide that can be downloaded with tips to talk to your teen about drugs.

Most importantly I will point out that DFCA parents have access to a substance use professional out of St. Elizabeth Healthcare in northern Kentucky completely free of charge. This partnership is in place because schools do not get our test results so when we have a scenario like the one you described, parents have a

wonderful resource in place as a guiding light. Dave Welscher is a licensed professional whose time is donated to DFCA. It is not a referral or counseling and nothing is documented or revealed to the school. It's a helpful source of educated insights for parents in this vulnerable moment.

Drug Free Clubs of America has an incredible website with a positive message. Please share a few thoughts on "Take 5" and why it has decreased the likelihood of teen drug abuse up to 50%!

Take 5 brings the parents into the effort. There are rarely opportunities to hear or read anything hopeful on the topic of substance use, so we stay focused on keeping our messages positive. Thank you for noticing! Take 5 is in place to support the parent/child dynamic and like our other strategies, it is rooted in science. There is a body of research proving that if a parent and child have ongoing conversations about substances, the child is about half as likely to ever face addiction. That's a profound finding that we had to reinforce.

Parents receive prompts several times throughout the year tipping them off about a club activity or event. This perfectly sets the stage for them to have a quick chat on this subject. They are ideal moments tied to events that are happening in the child's life so the conversation comes out in a positive way instead of the teen feeling accused or distrusted. By building up that positive dynamic between a parent and a child, the dialogues are more likely to continue, which intern decreases the likelihood of addiction.

Substance abuse is a major crisis throughout America. It is ruining the future for many. Chemical testing is accurate and inexpensive. Please share with our members and friends the importance of chemical testing and gathering truthful, honest data for parents!

Drug Free Clubs of America's Angie Ferguson's Interview (continued)



Great question. Testing has been around for a long time and has made many advances. Among those advances is the unique way in which DFCA applies the benefits of testing not as a "gotcha" strategy, but rather as a safety net for teens in high pressure situations involving substances. The possibility of a test becomes their logical "out" from these challenging scenarios by saying, "I can't, I get tested".

Since the Drug Free Clubs of America test results are not released to the school, DFCA schools get to focus on positive reinforcement rather than punishments. Because of this unique approach to testing, research has shown that DFCA teens have a plan they have reported relying on to stay drug free, schools have shown a more positive school culture, and parents have peace of mind knowing that their child is protected.

Your website lists Six Steps to Starting a Drugs Free Club of America Chapter? What would you like to tell any educator who is interested in starting a new chapter?

For the last 18 years we have been focused on perfecting the launch and operation successful DFCA chapters. So much so that one member of our staff actually launched 8 clubs as a volunteer in his own community before joining our team to guide others.

We have spent thousands of hours developing tools to lead you to success. There's an online academy so you can train at your convenience, a dashboard of tools for one-click completion of your key tasks, and a mobile app for your members so they always have their digital ID and a map of the participating businesses in their community. But we know technology cannot solve everything so the partners and our staff have got your back. Our team is small but mighty and always here to answer any questions.



What else would you like to share with our members and friends?



Perhaps the best thing I can share is my personal perspective on the importance of a program like this. Educators, parents, and the teens themselves work tirelessly to create the building blocks of a successful future. Drug use threatens every promise that is brought by putting in all of that hard work. If your school culture could use an uplifting positive influence, if you feel your school's approach to drug use prevention could be improved, and if you are motivated to protect our youth from this primary threat to their future potential, please take some time to get to know Drug Free Clubs Of America.

Thank you Angie for giving us your personal insight into "Drug Free Clubs of America!

We encourage all of our members and friends to visit your website at:

Committed to Building A Drug Free Youth | Drug Free Clubs

If you would like to follow up the interview and contact Ms. Ferguson directly, her email is: angief@drugfreeclubs.com

SKA | The Achievement Initiative^{**}

Promote Student Success. Create a Culture of Showing Up.



Improve attendance



Shift attendance messaging from punitive to proactive



Streamline & centralize attendance processes



Close Achievement Gaps & Prevent Chronic Absenteeism

Track, manage, and improve student attendance while reducing staff time spent on attendance management by 75%. SI&A puts the power of data in the hands of administrators and educators, promoting trust and engaging families in productive conversations that positively impact student achievement.

- · User-friendly software: Intuitive dashboards, SIS integrations, and customizable reporting help schools make data-informed decisions to engage all families.
- Expert support: A dedicated Service Team of experienced attendance consultants provide results-driven guidance for district and school staff.
- Customized outreach: Positive mailings throughout the year build trust by engaging parents and students with messaging that encourages and celebrates the significance of consistent attendance.

Learn more about how we can work together to improve student outcomes!











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CASCWA's San Joaquin's 2023 Annual Attendance Certification and Mental Health Training





As we take pride in our professional developments offered to all our sections of the state, we would like to thank everyone for participating in the 13th Annual SCOE/CASCWA 2 Day Conference held at the Martin Petersen Event Center in Modesto, CA. SCOE Operations staff do an amazing job setting up the venue for our event for which I would like to thank all the staff of SCOE who literally work together to make the 2 days a great experience for all those who travel a distance to attend the student attendance training.

Superintendent Scott Kuykendall along with other elected officials, Sheriff Jeff Dirkse, District Attorney, Jeff Laugero, and Honorable Judge Ruben Villalobos all from Stanislaus County kicked off the event.

Attendance is a serious issue and Superintendent Kuykendall shared his new Campaign on Everyday Counts designed to increase school attendance! It is timely for the September Attendance Awareness Month!

Stanislaus County Board Member Kim Rose and SARB Panel Members who serve on the County SARB all participated and assisted our team at the training. I am thankful to all who in some way have contributed to us.







CASCWA's San Joaquin's 2023 Annual Attendance Certification and Mental Health Training (Continued)

Presenters shared their expertise and best practices:

Dallas Plaa, Director of Prevention Programs, Danielle Jones/After School Coordinator, Carrie Albert/ Assistant Superintendent, Araceli Vigil/Mental Health Coordinator, Amy Neumann/ Deputy DA, Jennifer

Baker/MTSS Coordinator, Deputy J Bauman & Deputy D Willey, Tricia Kelly/Dir. Special Education, Joshua Day/Program Specialist, Diane Rose/Sierra Vista, Kym Barber/Youth Mental Health Coordinator, NAMI Stanislaus Representatives, Ann Salvi & Debra May/BHRS Program Coordinators and Frederick Berry/Homeless Education Services all of whom from Stanislaus County contributed in the success of the 2 day Student Attendance Certification & Mental Health Training.

Merced County Representatives, Andrea Valtierra-Gongora and Alma Romo, Director Delhi Unified shared their best practices of SAFE Parent Class and Attendance Strategies.



Dr. David Diehl from Selma Unified School District shared the new trends in drugs in teens – Dealing with Drugs: Awareness, Recognition and Prevention.



Bryan Campoy from Kern High School District discussed "What Has Changed in Attendance Outreach Over the Years!

There were at least 150 registrants signed up for the conference and at least 125 participated.

A huge shout out to the San Joaquin Section team and to my friends: Praxades Torres from Parlier Unified, Johnny Gonzales, Sanger Unified, Sergio Mendoza – recently retired from Burton High School District, Patricia Clark, Stockton Unified and Carrie Albert from Sylvan Schools.

We are yet planning another professional development where other school attendance liaisons from the Fresno County Schools and Kern County Schools can benefit from our trainings. Look forward to another informative opportunity at the Kern Career and Technical Institute Center in December. CAS-CWA wild apricot notifications will be forthcoming soon.

Sharma Uma

San Joaquin Section President

SAVE THE DATE

CASCWA's San Joaquin's Section will be holding a Winter Conference on December 12, 2013 in Bakersfield! Check out their flyer on next page!

CASCWA's Interviews Delta-Sierra's President David Kopperud

There has not been an edition of the Intercom in the past two decades without information from David Kopperud. David recently retired and his retirement was well received. The Intercom editors would like to say "Thank You" to David and to catch up on recent events. David is currently serving as CASCWA's Delta-Sierra Section's President. We had a chance to submit a few questions to David and we hope you enjoy his responses!

Please tell us about retirement and what you have been doing lately!

Retirement provides me time to spend with my wonderful wife as well as my four children and five grandchildren. Since I retired Mary Kate and I have toured both Israel and the Fiji islands. This month we are going to Italy! I know there is a shortage of qualified school personnel now, but I definitely recommend retirement to all my friends that have reached that age.



You provided leadership to all in the fields of student services for decades. What thoughts would you like to share to new CASCWA members who are just starting their careers?

I would highly recommend active participation in CASCWA to anyone involved in the field of child welfare and attendance. CASCWA provides expert support and networking in this challenging field at a time when so many of our students are chronically absent and on the margins of our educational system. I would also encourage anyone in the field of child welfare and attendance to participate in the quarterly State SARB meetings to make recommendations to the State Superintendent regarding attendance policies and laws. The next meeting is on October 19, 2023, and the meeting agenda and Zoom information is available on the CDE website

The multiple agencies that make up CDE's State SARB have truly made a difference throughout the State of California. What are a few of your most significant memories of your work with State SARB?

The State SARB owes its effectiveness to many State SARB members from outside agencies, county offices of education, and school districts throughout the state. The strongest outside partners with the State SARB have been Jennifer Gomeztrejo from Student Support Services Solutions, Inc.; Erica Peterson from School Innovations & Achievement; Sherman Garnett from Sherman Garnett and Associates; Ahmad Bahrami from Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health; and Hedy Chang and Cecilia Leong from Attendance Works. Jennifer has been invaluable in her contributions to the Model SARB Recognition Program. She has been a critical partner in designing the program and in implementing the training for applicants.

Erica Peterson has kept the State SARB informed about the critical trends in absenteeism based on sample districts throughout the state. She has ensured that the State SARB has data needed to review the latest problems in school attendance. Sherman Garnett has kept the State SARB updated on all the legislative proposals that impact child welfare and attendance and helped us understand how to comply with all state laws. Ahmad Bahrami has made sure we all understand the mental health services that are available to students and their families and how to access those services. Attendance Works has been an invaluable resource to public schools on why chronic absence matters and how schools can take action to reduce chronic absenteeism rates.

CASCWA's Interviews Delta-Sierra's President David Kopperud (continued)

The State SARB is also established to work very closely with county SARBs, and several county offices of education representatives have been exemplary: Marian Chiara from the Los Angeles County Office of Education, Brian P. Gonzales from the Kings County Office of Education, Sheri R. Hani from the Butte County Office of Education, Mike Lombardo from the Placer County Office of Education, Melissa Parrett from the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, Chaunise Powell from the Alameda County Office of Education, and Felicia Singleton from the San Diego County Office of Education.

Our key district partners have been Model SARB Chairperson Terry Anderson from Firebaugh-Las Deltas School District representing small districts, Model SARB Chairperson Bryan Campoy from Kern High School District representing large secondary districts, and Model SARB Chairperson Erin Simon representing large urban districts, and Mike Winters from Moorpark Unified School District.

We have gone one year without CDE's Model SARB Program. We understand that the program will be returning for 2024. In a recent phone call, you shared that you have some plans to put in place to help! What are your thoughts?

I am so glad that the CDE committed to continuing the Model SARB Recognition Program at the last State SARB meeting on July 20, 2023. With the continuing crisis in chronic absenteeism in the state, it is critical that the outstanding results-based state identify school attendance improvement programs that provide comprehensive services to highrisk youth with school attendance or school behavior problems. The ceremony in which CASCWA recognizes the Model SARBs in the state at the CASCWA State Conference was always a highlight of my year.

You are well known throughout the state. You have attended hundreds of meetings and events. You have been a major contributor to CASCWA. What are a few of your greatest memories at CDE and at CASCWA?

My greatest memories are working with all the great CASCWA professionals to keep students in school and to recognize outstanding attendance practices with our Model SARBs. Dan Sackheim has been my partner at the CDE and has helped me with the Model SARBs and all the projects related to helping students with school attendance or school behavior problems. Dan and I have been like brothers in promoting effective strategies to meet the needs of students and increase the holding power of the public schools.



SMA | The Achievement Initiative"



Addressing Chronic Absenteeism Requires An "All Hands On Deck" Approach

Positive, proactive communication with families can help educators address the root causes of chronic absenteeism.

Erica Peterson Director of Education and Engagement for School Innovations & Achievement, a division of SchoolStatus













IS YOUR DISTRICT IN COMPLIANCE? A QUESTION ASKED BY SHERMAN GARNETT

Sherman Garnett is CASCWA's legislative Representative! If you have ever attended one of Sherman's presentation, you know that he knows what he is talking about and that his questions are always relevant!

Sherman visits school sites throughout the state and constantly sees sites not in compliance. One example is AB—748 Pupil mental health: mental health assistance posters. The law was chaptered in 2022.

<u>Bill Text - AB-748 Pupil mental health: mental health assistance</u> posters. (ca.gov)

AB 748 aims to help students recognize signs of mental health decline, have a plan in the event of a mental health crisis, learn about positive coping strategies, and become informed about school site emotional and social resources by requiring schools to post informative mental health posters and materials.

As you begin to reflect on whether or not your district is in compliance with AB 748, Sherman quickly reminds you of other postings that are required!



Mandated Required Postings for all California School Campuses

- Homeless Education-Student and Parent Rights
- Bullying Reporting Information- Posted At all Schools including Faculty Lounges and ASB Rooms and Front Page of School District and School Site Web Site
- Sexual Harassment- Posted in All Locker Rooms and Restrooms- Grades 9-12
- AB 748 Mental Health Resources- Posted in all classrooms, Locker Rooms and Common Student Areas
- Policy regarding access to Feminine Hygiene Products in all female restrooms, single use restrooms and one male restroom (grades 6-12)
- Suicide Prevention Hotline number and Domestic Violence Hot line number. (Grades 6-12 only)

We need to follow up this page in a future edition of the Intercom when we can be more specific and state the codes mandating the posting information. Look for more information in our December edition!

CASCWA's San Joaquin's 2023 Annual Attendance Certification and Mental Health Training (Continued)



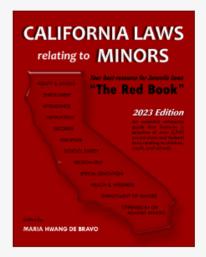
Dear CASCWA and Friends,

California Laws Relating to Minors (AKA the Red Book) continues to serve its purpose in ensuring that the state and federal laws needed to inform the policies and practices in areas under child welfare and attendance are easily accessible. The Red Book has expanded considerably in the last few years as more and more legislation has been enacted with the intent to address issues related to learning opportunities, equity and access, physical and mental health, and student safety. The hope is that the Red Book serves as a guide

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S4 Publications

To order, click the title of the publication or visit Legal Books Distributing. Please note that the 2023 Editions will be available in January, and there will be an increase in cost after maintaining the same price for 7 years.



California Laws Relating to Minors 2023 Edition

By Maria Hwang de Bravo

The "Red Book" is an essential reference guide for individuals who work with K-12 schools and juveniles. It is also utilized as a textbook in college and university programs. As the title reflects, this publication contains more than 2,340 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, Attendance, Discipline, Health & Wellness, Pupil 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.



enrollment and readmission of expelled students, data collection, discipline in charter schools, and school safety plans.

maintenance of discipline records, school

Student Discipline in California Schools

This 324-page guide features easy-to-read guidelines and checklists, 32 sample forms

and notices, and pertinent codes and regulations related to the suspension and expulsion process. Includes sections on the

Student Records in California Schools 2023 Edition

2023 Edition

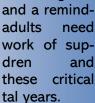
This 312-page guide features easy-to-read guidelines and checklists, 32 sample forms and notices, and pertinent codes and regulations related to the maintenance, disclosure, amendment, transfer, and destruction of student records. Includes guidance on records specifically related to school enrollment, health, students with disabilities, discipline, and more.



Legislative Update Guide: Student Support Services in California Schools 2022-2023

A compilation of over 85 newly enacted legislation related to student services. This year, impacted areas include early childhood education, physical and mental health, data collection and reporting, foster youth, firearms, and safety. Policy and notification requirements are highlighted to assist with revisions and updates to procedures and practices.





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, 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!

In this edition of the Intercom, we have chosen to focus on Jeni's strong commitment to combat substance abuse for all ages. Many of us receive constant emails from Jeni asking for the link to go out in our communications. These special pages are our way to say, "Thank you Jeni!"

STOP THE VOID—DEAD ON ARRIVAL Home - Stop The Void

WHAT IS FENTANYL?

Drug Fact Sheet: Fentanyl (dea.gov)

Drug Overdose Death Rates

https://drugabusestatistics.org/drug-overdose-deaths/

As NYC reels from fentanyl day care tragedy, child care overdoses are more common than we think https://nypost.com/2023/09/23/child-care-drug-overdoses-are-more-common-than-we-think

Access to Marijuana by Minors Via Online Dispensaries

https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2809613?guestAccessKey=7d5467a2-9bcc-402a-946e-

509712299904&utm_source=silverchair&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=article_alert-jamapediatrics&utm_content=olf&utm_term=092523&adv=004814900512

'Fentanyl nexus': Portland police's bike squad faces 'explosion' of open-air drug use https://www.foxnews.com/us/fentanyl-nexus-portland-polices-bike-squad-faces-explosion-open-air-drug-use

Advisory: Cannabidiol (CBD) Potential Harm, Side Effects, and Unknowns Advisory: Cannabidiol (CBD) Potential Harm, Side Effects, and Unknowns | SAMHSA

ls there a link between a public health crisis, developing brains, and cannabis? https://www.kktv.com/2023/01/04/local-non-profit-educating-parents-harm-cannabis-has-developing-brains/

Union Tribune Article - Opinion: The fentanyl seized in San Diego last year was enough to kill 1.4 billion people

Opinion: The fentanyl seized in San Diego last year was enough to kill 1.4 billion people - The San Diego Union-Tribune (sandiegouniontribune.com)

MPI Media FYI - Cannabis For Smart Consumers: What The Industry Does Not Want You To Know Cannabis for Smart Consumers: What the Industry Does Not Want You to Know. | American Council on Science and Health (acsh.org)

Jeni Mendel's "Website" Pages Continued-Fighting Substance Abuse

Fentanyl Town Hall - YouTube

Opinion: Cannabis 'Right to Know' Act Is Grounded in Community Health, Safety

Opinion: Cannabis 'Right to Know' Act Is Grounded in Community Health, Safety - Times of San Diego

Delta 8 Risk Page

5 Things to Know about Delta-8 Tetrahydrocannabinol – Delta-8 THC | FDA

The bags look like well-known chips or candies, but what's inside could harm children Copycat packaging of marijuana edibles poses risk to children, study says | CNN

Fentanyl is becoming more accessible to kids on social media, raising alarms for parents https://nypost.com/2022/01/13/fentanyl-is-becoming-more-accessible-to-kids-on-social-media-raising-alarms-for-parents/

Education on fentanyl, other drugs often optional in California schools, if offered at all https://edsource.org/2022/education-on-fentanyl-other-drugs-often-optional-in-schools-if-offered-at-all/679216

Jeni Mendel's "Website" Pages Continued

Black high school student suspended over hair after CROWN Act files lawsuit

Black high school student suspended over hair after CROWN Act files lawsuit (msn.com)

News anchors talk about California's new natural hair law -- CROWN Act (104) News anchors talk about California's new natural hair law -- CROWN Act - YouTube

Involves three elements to reinforce regular school attendance: prevention, early identification, and intervention.

Attendance Improvement - Learning Support (CA Dept of Education)

Model SARB Recognition Program

Model SARB Recognition Program - School Attendance Review Boards (CA Dept of Education)

School Attendance Improvement Strategies

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

Information and resources that define truancy and truancy penalties and other related information.

<u>Truancy - Attendance Improvement (CA Dept of Education)</u>

<u> California School News Report – Lynwood High School</u>

Lynwood Unified School District | California School News Report (caschoolnews.net)

California School News Report – A history of California's Public School System

A History of California's Public School System | California School News Report (caschoolnews.net)

Jeni Mendel's "Website" Pages Continued

Major Issues in Education: 20 Hot Topics (From Grade School to College)

Major Issues in Education: 20 Hot Topics (Covering Every Level) (trade-schools.net)

The 10 Education Issues Everybody Should Be Talking About

The 10 Education Issues Everybody Should Be Talking About (edweek.org)

Amber Alert

https://amberalert.ojp.gov/

School Success and Opportunity Act (Assembly Bill 1266) Frequently Asked Questions. https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/di/eo/fags.asp

California Code, Education Code - EDC § 35183

https://codes.findlaw.com/ca/education-code/edc-sect-35183/

STUDENT Is SUSPENDED For Dress Code, What Happens Next Is Shocking | Dhar Mann (104) STUDENT Is SUSPENDED For Dress Code, What Happens Next Is Shocking | Dhar Mann - YouTube

How California's teacher shortage is impacting special education

(104) How California's teacher shortage is impacting special education | To The Point - YouTube

Teachers say California's teacher shortage the worst in Sacramento

(104) Teachers say California's teacher shortage the worst in Sacramento - YouTube

State Guidance for New Laws on Discipline

State Guidance for New Laws on Discipline - Letters (CA Dept of Education)

California Enacts First-in-the-Nation Law to Eliminate Student Suspensions for Minor Misbehavior California Enacts First-in-the-Nation Law to Eliminate Student Suspensions for Minor Misbehavior ACLU of Northern CA (aclunc.org)

26 Ways To Start a Speech and Capture People's Attention

26 Ways To Start a Speech and Capture People's Attention | Indeed.com

Positive Phrases to Praise Students

65 positive ways to praise students (nativos.org)

44 Enlightening Teacher Facts

44 Fun Teacher Facts and Trivia | FactRetriever.com

The 10 Characteristics of a Good Leader

The 10 Characteristics and Qualities of a Good Leader | CCL

The Next Edition of the Intercom

There are several important Bills sitting on the Governor's desk to be signed. LACOE will be holding their annual legislative update early in December and we hope to get our next edition of the Intercom out by the first of the year!



2023-24 CASCWA State Executive Board		
Position	Name	Section
President	Dr. Kevin Torolsion	San Joaquin
Past President	Melissa Parrett	Delta Sierra
President Elect	Rick Riegel	Southern
Treasurer	Robin Gainey	San Joaquin
Secretary	Michelle Walsh	Southern
	Section Presidents	•
Bay Section President	Evelyn Ocasio	Bay
Delta-Sierra Section President	David Kopperud	Delta-Sierra
San Joaquin Section President	Sharma Uma	San Joaquin
Southern Section President	Don English	Southern
	Appointed Positions	
Legislative Representative	Sherman Garnett	Southern
CDE Representative	David Kopperud	Delta-Sierra
Board Advisor	Dennis Wiechmann	San Joaquin
Membership	Lisa Sanchez	Delta-Sierra
School Innovation & Achievement	Erica Peterson	Delta Sierra
Law Enforcement Representative	Brian Chandler	San Joaquin
State SARB	Jennifer Gomez Trejo	Southern
Website	Frank Boehler & Andrew Kevy	Southern/Bay
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@lacoe.edu or Frank Boehler at frank_boehler@roadrunner.com.