



INTERCOM

CASCWA Interviews... Larry Aceves

Candidate for State Superintendent of Public Instruction 2010

The Intercom had the opportunity to “chat” with Larry Aceves concerning his views on issues of interest to CASCWA members as he campaigns for the election in 2010. Larry has over 30 years experience in serving California’s public schools, including serving as a district superintendent. Below are Larry’s responses to questions posed by the Intercom...



It seems that each time districts are faced with budget issues, personnel that address student support services are often cut or their responsibilities are combined with those in other unrelated areas. What is your commitment in ensuring that priority is balanced between academic programs and student support services?

As a lifelong educator, I’ve seen firsthand the importance that support services play in our children’s well-being and ability to learn. As a superintendent, I have worked with both the public and private sectors to set up support programs and facilities for students, such as a free medical and dental clinic for low-income children, preschool programs, parent and community center ESL programs and gang prevention training. With more of our public school students homeless, uninsured and at risk of dropping out than ever before, our school support services are increasingly more important.

Our children’s education doesn’t begin when the first school bell sounds in the morning, nor does it end when the last

bell rings in the afternoon. Highly-trained, well-utilized support service personnel who are integrated into the schools’ educational mission help our children come to school ready to learn and eliminate barriers to their success. As State Superintendent, I will be our schools #1 advocate for the adequate and equal funding our students need to succeed, including sufficient numbers of support personnel who are critical to our student’s success.

What is your position on truancy and the sending out of mandated truancy letters? Do you see the value in these letters in that they assist the districts’ efforts to increase attendance?

There is evidence that careful and constant monitoring of truancy, including truancy letters, yields positive results for students and their families as well as local education agencies.

Truancy can be a red flag that students are struggling with other problems such as poverty, violence, racism,

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drugs and apathy, so our response to truancy must target these social problems as well as instructional issues. Responding to issues early on with appropriate intervention services can remedy a situation before it gets worse.

It is no surprise that dropout rates remain high among many critical student populations, particularly those who do not benefit from the support truancy programs, social services, counselors and other support personnel provide.

There are a number of very good truancy programs – Attention-2-Attendance for instance – that offer administrative support and site-based monitoring.

Having an administrative monitoring system is only one part of the equation. Highly trained support personnel – in sufficient numbers – is also critical to intervention for troubled students. As Superintendent I made sure that our schools were vigilant about contacting parents early and often about absences of students. Even when I received complaints from parents about the letters, I reminded them that, although they were being responsible, some parents were not, and we had to assure parents that we gave all children the opportunity to be in school. Additionally, I worked closely with the court system and the probation department to put pressure on parents who were not being responsible. We did this to the point of sending official letters to parents of truant children requesting them to attend a meeting at the school district where an officer of the court explained the law and the consequences of not having their children in school.

What are your plans in resolving the Special Education student and the CAHSEE problem?

We knew when the exit exam was put in place that it did not meet the needs of the special education population and it is a shame that policymakers have not addressed this issue in a way that is educationally prudent. A very small number of students do not have the ability to pass the CAHSEE due to their disability. Passage of the CAHSEE for special education students should be addressed as part of the long-term and short-term goals established within the Individual Education Plan (IEP) for all special education students (as mandated and directed by federal law). IEP team members – such as teachers, special education personnel, parents, and principals – can determine if the child has the ability to

pass the test. If not, then the student should have the opportunity to pass an alternative test or receive a certificate of completion that is awarded in a positive manner.

What are your plans or projections on including Career Technical Education in the high school curriculum so that students that are not college bound have an alternative way to continue their post high school education in a field that is of interest to them and that meets their abilities and skills?

For every student who enters the ninth grade, only four will enter college, and only two of those will graduate. For our African American and Latino students, these statistics are even more startling. Any solution put forward to solve this problem will have to be a multi-faceted one. Preparing students for both college and work must be a priority, and Career Technical Education must be an important part of our overall strategy. California's Regional Occupational Centers and Programs are doing an outstanding job, and expanding successful career-building programs in our high schools must also be a priority.

As we look at the need to reform California's pre-K-adult education system, it is critical that academic rigor is maintained while relevance is enhanced. Our efforts to provide our children with future opportunities must include integrating elements of Career Technical Education into the core curriculum, promoting alternative educational options such as community apprenticeships, encouraging service learning projects, increasing foreign language options, and updating our decade-old content standards. I am aware that the newly revised and adopted Career Technical Education standards are some of the best in the country, but the rest of our content standards must be updated and streamlined so that districts and schools can concentrate on the Core Content Standards that we believe all students should learn.

We must also invest in schools in lower socio-economic areas where students are most at risk of dropping out. This includes implementing strong intervention programs and instructional materials that focus on bringing these children up to level. Adequate English language learner materials must be provided to schools that need them, and teachers have to be thoroughly inserviced on how to use them appropriately.☞

State President's Message: Joe Taylor

Sacramento County Office of Education



Greetings everyone and welcome to a new CASCWA school year. First, let me welcome our new CASCWA Intercom Editor Maria Bravo. Maria joins our CASCWA Executive Board from the Los Angeles County Office of Education. She brings an exciting can-do attitude to publishing the Intercom and we all look forward to her innovative ideas and energy.

A special thanks goes out to our outgoing editor Frank Boehler. Frank began publishing the Intercom in 2002, taking over from long-time editor William "Bill" Booth, a CASCWA legend. Over the next 6 years Frank modernized and expanded the scope of the Intercom to its present day format. In each issue, we all looked forward to a dynamic publication of the Intercom; especially, the "Conference Highlights" issues. Although retired now, Frank will still be a part of CASCWA as he has volunteered to continue with the publication of the "Connections" newsletter for the Southern Section of CASCWA. For his part as publisher of the Intercom and long-time service to CASCWA, including being a State President, Frank now joins the ranks of our CASCWA legends.

At our Annual State CASCWA Retreat held on August 10th and 11th at the beautiful Sierra Health Foundation in Sacramento, plans were made for the upcoming year. The Retreat serves as a strategic planning session where our members come together to look at our mission, and design goals and objectives for the upcoming year. This is our sixth year of doing the strategic planning and we have established a good framework to accomplish our mission as an organization. Areas of focus include: Organizational Structure, Legislation, Membership, Communication, Professional Development, and Promotion.

One target area for our Executive Board this year is to activate several of our established standing committees and to recruit CASCWA members to join from all of our four Sections. These include the Legislation Committee which is chaired by Debbie Morris, and the Membership Committee which is chaired by Tom Mangione. The goal also is to recruit new members to become active in CASCWA and to eventually join the ranks of our Section and State Executive Boards.

Budget cuts are impacting our Child Welfare and Attendance and Student Support Services programs all over the State. In addition to cutbacks in many areas, staff and administrators are being given additional assignments or "hats to wear" in our CWA and Student Support areas. CASCWA is a great resource for these folks who must hit the ground running and learn quickly. CASCWA will reach out to these individuals through all of our various Section and State workshops, trainings and conferences.

Each of our CASCWA Sections have scheduled events throughout the State to provide excellent opportunities for staff development. Delta Sierra Section has workshops set for September in Yolo County and October in Shasta County. Bay Section will have its Fall Workshop in December in the Bay Area. Southern Section has its Fall Workshop in early October in Palm Springs and other events throughout the year. San Joaquin Section is the host for the 2009-2010 State Conference in Fresno and they are already busy preparing for our 75th annual event. For more information about any of the upcoming Section or State CASCWA events, or information about participating in a committee, or becoming a member, look up the specifics on the CASCWA website at www.cascwa.org.

On behalf of our CASCWA State Board, I look forward to a challenging and exciting year... and remember, it's all about serving our students!

CASCWA State Executive Board 2009-2010



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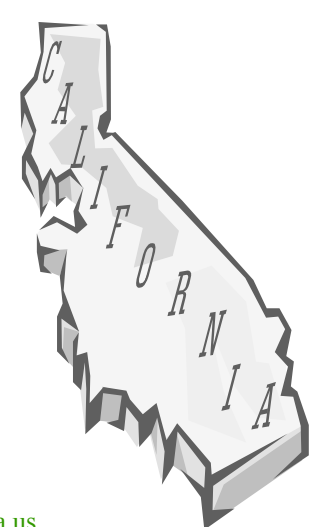
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Bay Area Section News

President's Message

Greetings from Bay Section!

Since last spring, the Bay Section Executive Board has met twice. The first meeting was focused on revision of our Section Bylaws and appointment of members-at-large. We are extremely pleased to have Leslie Rothwell and Jan Passama return to our Board. Bill Whitton has moved from Vice-President to President-elect to fill that vacancy. Robert Beltran has moved into Bay Section's Vice-President position. With the addition of Bill and Robert, Bay Section is making some progress with its goal of bringing new leadership to the Executive Board. Congratulations to all the new appointees!



ALAN DELSIMONE
Section President
Retired

Our second meeting focused on planning our Fall Workshop which will be held on November 20th at the CARR America facility in Pleasanton. Topics will include: bullying, gangs, school climate, attendance improvement, the new State SARB Handbook, and Legislative Update. There will also be an "open" Executive Board meeting to report out to our new members and seek their input.

Best wishes to all for a smooth and productive school opening.

SAVE THE DATE

Bay Section Fall Conference

November 20, 2009

9:00 A.M – 3:00 PM

CarrAmerica Conference Center
4400 Rosewood Dr.
Pleasanton CA 94588

adelsimone@wccusd.net

Meet Janet McMurray...

Janet McMurray was the recipient of Bay Section's Outstanding Service Award for 2009. She has served as Bay Section Secretary for four years. Janet has provided accurate, timely minutes, helped with programs, raffles, scholarship committee, and anything else that needed to be done.

After raising six children in the West Contra Costa Unified School District, Janet completed her B.A. degree at Cal State University, East Bay, and came to work as an Administrative Assistant in Student Services. She had full responsibility for the Transfer Office which processed applications from twenty NCLB Program Improvement schools and handled more than 3,000 applications annually. Janet also assisted with the expulsion process and helped the district to meet the requirements of a half-million dollar lawsuit settlement agreement.



Frank Valadez (Past-President) and Janet McMurray at the 2009 State Conference in South Lake Tahoe.

Delta-Sierra Section News

President's Message

"Hola" from Delta Sierra Section!

As President of the Delta Sierra Section, I would like to welcome you back for a fun and exciting 2009-2010 school year. During the summer, dedicated Delta Sierra members, like Joe Taylor and Tad Kitada, have been working on organizing a SARB Handbook training in Shasta County for October 8th. Members have also been working closely with homeless liaisons throughout our Section to provide workshops for school staff on services that can be offered to our homeless families. We are in the early planning stages of hosting a ***Drug Impairment Training for Educational Professionals (DITEP)*** for administrators, school nurses, law enforcement, and campus security staff.

We started the planning process for the 2010 Delta Sierra Section Spring Conference for May 14-16 in South Lake Tahoe (SAVE THE DATE). We will be contacting many of you to come present on your expertise.

Delta Sierra is on a mission to provide numerous staff development opportunities to our members. We hope that other section members also take advantage of the excellent workshops we will provide. For information about our staff development events, please contact me, or check our CASCWA website for updates.

HECTOR MOLINA

Section President

Woodland Joint USD

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Yolo Truancy Abatement Committee (YTAC)



YTAC was established in the Spring of 2008, a decision by the County's truancy stakeholders to form a group to assist school districts by sharing truancy intervention

practices and standardizing the process when the District Attorney became involved. The driving force for YTAC has been Yolo County District Attorney Jeff W. Reisig as he has been instrumental in dedicating district attorneys in his office to help the surrounding school districts in Yolo County.

The collaboration and involvement by the numerous stakeholders have been excellent. After attending state-wide trainings, Mediations were added to the truancy work done in Yolo County. They have proven to be very successful in combating truancy in the counties that use them. Mediations are similar to School Attendance Review Board (SARB) hearings, but rather than targeting one family at a time, groups of students and parents participate. While there is still the panel of resources (e.g., CPS, probation, nurses, principals, SROs, etc.), Mediations are led by a deputy DA.

As a result of YTAC and Mediations, Yolo County's first dedicated Truancy Court was instituted where older children and parents of younger children with Education Code violations (a precursor to 272 PC) are charged. Consequences include fines, community service in lieu of fines, suspension of driver's license, and/or loss of public assistance. Accordingly, our local school districts are reporting a dramatic increase in attendance since the inception of YTAC.

Vita Mandalla [Vita.Mandalla@yolocounty.org]

Woodland Joint Union School District: District Attorney Mediation Program

The District Attorney Mediation for the 2008-2009 School Year primarily focused on junior and senior high school students. This school year, DA Mediation is expanding the area of focus. The schools are identifying at-risk first graders who, along with their parents, will meet with the DA's Office and representatives from their schools. At-risk is defined as those first graders who have already missed a lot of kindergarten or whose older siblings have a history of truancy. Part of the purpose of the meeting will be to inform the parents of the truancy laws and the consequences for their children missing school. The other goal is to get the first graders to know we care about them and want to help them.

San Joaquin Section News



JAMES TATE
Section President
Clovis USD

President's Message

On behalf of the San Joaquin Section, I would like to personally welcome you back. I hope you all have had a chance to relax and enjoy some much needed vacation time. As CASCWA members, we have a great task ahead of us as we embark on commencing another school year during these hard economic times where districts throughout the State face mounting budgets cuts, with potential staff layoffs.

First and foremost, we are forging ahead with our plans for the CASCWA State Conference in Fresno, on May 5-7, 2010. I am excited about hosting and being a part of the 2009/2010 State Conference. As you are aware, this conference allows all members to develop a network that will assist them with solving job-related issues, as well as, provide continued lifelong learning in all areas of education. In addition, the conference will address critical components that surround many of today's issues.

The San Joaquin Section members are planning to meet monthly commencing in September. We look forward to working with the State President, Joe Taylor, as he labors to make the 2009/2010 school year rewarding for us all. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Los Banos Unified School District

Before and After School Program

Invites you to attend a

FREE four-hour in-service

"Effective Behavior: The Classroom Plan"

Presented by Jeff Sloan

September 12, 2009

8:00 - 12:00

News and Notes...

- ☛ David Cohen, formerly of Delta-Sierra Section and administrator for the Natomas Unified School District, is now the Consultant for Student Services & School Attendance under the leadership of Dr. Greg Bass, Director of Student Services in the Clovis Unified School District.
- ☛ The next San Joaquin Executive Board Meeting will be held on Friday, September 11, 2009 in Chowchilla at Putters from 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

SJS Tribute to Bill Stewart

I want to personally reminisce about former CASCWA member, the late Bill Stewart, who unfortunately, passed away last April. Bill was known by many of us as a former educator who touched the lives of many young people as a teacher, coach, administrator, and community leader. Bill loved people, especially young people. We are grateful for his service and dedication for his work in CASCWA. To his friends and family, Bill usually had a smile as he was a star among stars! He would routinely say, "I love you"! Remember, the true measure of love is based on how much you are willing to give of yourself, so that someone else may benefit. Bill not only taught others to make good decisions, he not only loved them, he respected them as well. Rest in Peace, our friend!

Southern Section News

President's Message

In my 34 years of service to public education in the State of California, I have witnessed many peaks and valleys in terms of service to our students, staff and community. We are undoubtedly at the deep end of the valley knowing that we will find creative ways to climb out with many lessons learned to better serve our constituents.

CWA personnel from across the state are there to assist you as you ascend out of the valley. Many of you that have received this Intercom may be reading this outstanding publication for the first time due to additional duties being assigned to you, being placed in a new position, etc. I can honestly state to you that CASCWA is there for you and ready to assist you in the performance of your duties. For example, visit our web site at www.cascwa.org and utilize our "Ask the Experts" section. CASCWA personnel are there for you.

In the Southern Section, I strongly encourage you to attend our upcoming Fall Conference entitled "*The ABC's of School Failure: Attendance, Bullying Climate.*" This three-day workshop to be held in Palm Springs, California (September 30 - October 2) will definitely assist you in combating these issues in your school district and community. Your Safe School, Title 1 and staff development funds are eligible financial resources to assist you with registration fees for the conference. Again, best wishes for the school year.



SHERMAN GARNETT
Section President
San Bernardino COE

Southern Section Activities

September 30 - October 2, 2009

Southern Section Fall Conference
*The ABC's of School Failure:
Attendance, Bullying, Climate*
Hotel Zoso, Palm Springs

December 4, 2009

Legislative Update
Los Angeles COE, Downey
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

February 5, 2010

Phil Kauble Legal Forum
*Teen Prostitution: School Attendance/
Health Issues*
San Diego COE, San Marcos Office
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

June 4, 2010

Scholarship Recognition Luncheon
Buena Park Holiday Inn
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

School Attendance Review Board Training DVD

The San Diego County Office of Education, in conjunction with Project Peace and Project Shield, produced a new School Attendance Review Board (SARB) Training DVD. This high quality DVD was a collaboration project between school districts, Probation Department, Law Enforcement, Support Services, the Superior Court Judge, and the Office of the District Attorney. San Diego's ITV filmed the process over a three-month period.

The forty-minute production illustrates the entire process beginning with a School Attendance Review Team (SART), continues with SARB, and concludes with three different court segments. It also features an introduction by San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie M. Dumanis. For convenience, a menu is provided on the DVD to allow a viewer to select an area of focus.

The DVD will be available at the CASCWA Southern Section Fall Conference in Palm Springs for a cost of \$10.00. For further information, contact Steve Fraire, San Diego County Office of Education at (619)733-8615 or sfraire@sdcoe.net.



California State SARB Handbook

The new State SARB Handbook can be downloaded at no cost or purchased through the San Bernardino County Office of Education at \$25 (postage not included, but does include a CD). To download or to order, visit the Administrative Services Division/Child Welfare and Attendance section of the website at www.sbcss.k12.ca.us.

Legal Tidbits: “Part Time Enrollment”

By Robert W. Jacobsen, Los Angeles County Office of Education

Recently, I was asked whether a parent who is home-schooling her child should be allowed access to two classes (*i.e.*, music and physical education) at a public middle school. Stated otherwise, can a public school enroll a student who does not plan on attending full time?

The school told the parent, “No,” and explained that if the parent enrolls the child in school, the child can then access all of the programs and services that the school has to offer. Administration is concerned because the parent has been very aggressive and has filed two complaints with the Office of Civil Rights regarding alleged discrimination against her family by the district. The district wants to make sure it is on solid ground.

Home schooling is not defined in the Education Code, though there are forms of home schooling in the

Education Code, including independent study and home and hospital instruction. The home schooling in this case was by private school affidavit, a practice recently upheld by a California appeals court.

As to part time or selective enrollment, Education Code 48200 governs compulsory education and provides, with regard to public schools, that students must enroll 'for the full time of the school day.' This language can be used to support the assertion that there is no part time public education. Stated otherwise, students cannot select some of the course offerings and not others.

That being said, public schools may offer classes to students in private schools when such classes are only available in the public school; such as Band. Acceptance can be based on available space and the school cannot recover ADA.

Pandemic H1N1 Flu

On August 7, 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued further guidance for schools regarding the pandemic H1N1 flu. Some of the key CDC recommendations include:

- *Stay home when sick:* Those with flu-like illness should stay home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines. A lingering cough may sometime occur, but should not be the sole reason to refuse readmission.
- *Separate ill students and staff:* Students and staff who appear to have flu-like illness should be sent to a room separate from others until they can be sent home. CDC recommends that they wear a surgical mask, if possible, and that those who care for ill students and staff wear protective gear such as a mask.
- *Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette:* The new recommendations emphasize the importance of the basic foundations of influenza prevention: stay home when sick, wash hands frequently with soap and water when possible, and cover noses and mouths with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or a shirt sleeve or elbow if no tissue is available).

The CDC and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have announced that a large scale pandemic H1N1 flu vaccination campaign is likely to be conducted this fall. Based on CDC estimates from vaccine manufacturers, the pandemic H1N1 flu vaccine may be ready for distribution in mid-October. Children and young adults ages 24 and younger will be a critical group for H1N1 vaccination because they have been, and will likely continue to be, disproportionately affected by pandemic H1N1 flu.

For more information, visit the following websites:

www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/

Guidance from CDC with Q&A section

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov

Up to date information, including the content shared above, and access resources that can be used to promote healthy habits in schools

www.laschooltoolkit.com

Online toolkit for schools with resources including posters, flyers and fact sheets to help prepare and respond to a public health emergency

www.laschoolhealth.com

Online preparedness training program for schools and communities

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE*Special to CASCWA**By Mark Standriff, Legislative Advocate, SI&A***A NEW PARTNERSHIP**

Welcome to the first edition of legislative updates from CASCWA's representatives at the Capitol! First, everyone at SI&A thanks you for the trust CASCWA has placed in us to represent the members of your organization in these challenging times. This monthly update is just one way we intend to keep you informed of the many developments in Sacramento. I hope you'll find these reports interesting and resourceful.

BUDGET BLUES

After a substantial amount of controversy and arm-twisting, the Governor signed the revised 2009-2010 budget at the end of July. The new budget calls for \$15.3 billion in cuts, with roughly 60% of those cuts coming at the expense of education K-14, and another \$9 billion in "one-time" solutions (accelerations, borrowing, shifts and a doozy of a deferral that pushes \$1.3 billion into the following fiscal year simply by moving the June 30, 2010 payroll to July 1st). It isn't surprising that, thanks to these accounting tricks and the state controller's prediction of a significant revenue shortage this year, most people think we are back to debating a budget problem as soon as this fall.

Here are the key points from the revised 2009-2010 budget:

- Proposition 98 was not suspended, and language was published in the budget package defining the "maintenance factor" that must be restored at about \$11 billion.
- Instructional Materials have a 5-year moratorium on state-required adoptions and purchases.
- Local school districts have been granted permission to cut 5 days off of the school year.
- The requirement for special education students to pass the high school exit exam has been suspended. (The original proposal was to suspend the CAHSEE requirement for all students.)
- The "District of Choice" authorization had its sunset extended.

The "good" news in California's ongoing budget dilemma is that there isn't much more that the State can cut from education without some serious financial repercussions. According to SI&A's discussions with a number of experts at the Department of Finance and the Legislative Analyst's Office, it's evident that the state's budget cuts have put them at the "minimum maintenance of effort limits" posted by the federal government for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. If education gets cut any more, California will likely fall below the MOE and the state will lose the second round of ARRA funding.

SPECIAL SESSION ON EDUCATION

Governor Schwarzenegger called another special session of the legislature to address education reforms intended to help make California competitive for federal "Race To The Top" funding. The session will run concurrently with the end of the regular session, but will allow members to move legislation faster than the traditional process. The Governor noted that completion of the application in a timely manner would require the series of bills he is proposing to be enacted by October.

The Governor is responding to federal concerns and proposes repealing California's charter school cap, authorizing open enrollment for students in the lowest-performing schools so they can attend any school in the state (and removing the cap on "districts of choice" so any student in the state can attend school in a participating district, similar to SB 680 which I will discuss later in this update), focusing efforts on the five percent of schools that consistently underperform, rewarding teachers who are consistently doing the toughest jobs, and the big one, eliminating the "data firewall" that prevents the state from connecting student test scores with teacher performance.

Considering that the legislature is also wrangling over the big issues of prison reform and water policy along with general end-of-year wrap-up of bills in its regular session, the goal of a September 11th exit is slipping away for state legislators.

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CALPADS KICKOFF

I attended the kickoff for the new California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) last month at the CDE. As you may know, the state is moving from several unconnected aggregate data collections to a longitudinal K-12 data system based on student and teacher-level data and, at this date, LEA administrators have already received their access codes. The plan is to roll out CALPADS in waves over the next year with the most important date being October 5, 2009, when student data input (enrollment, graduations, and dropouts) is slated to begin.

The CDE admits that CALPADS is “necessarily complicated” and will have a number of glitches and input problems to sort out—which is why IBM, the vendor of record for the CDE on this project, has agreed to provide manpower for the CALPADS Help Desk.

The benefits touted at the kickoff event may be of interest to CASCWA members since this new data system is designed to replace a number of reports such as CBEDS, Perkins, and SSID maintenance. CALPADS also hopes to improve attendance and dropout rates by allowing access between LEA’s to identify re-enrolled dropouts so that resources can be focused on tracking down real dropouts.

FALL PREVIEW

There are several legislative items to keep a close eye on over the next few months, none the least of which is the special Commission on the 21st Century Economy, which is set to report its findings on September 20th. The governor’s executive order over the summer mandated the bipartisan commission to re-examine and modernize California’s out-of-date revenue laws that contribute to feast-or-famine state budget cycles.

I have mentioned the “district of choice” (DOC) legislation in this update and it’s important to keep an eye on its success or failure. **SB 680** was co-authored by Senate Education Committee chair Gloria Romero and State Senator Bob Huff, and would expand the

existing DOC program statewide and allow new districts to recruit students without a reciprocity agreement. Under current law, no new school districts are allowed to become a “district of choice.” The bill has had its third reading on the floor and is getting significant resistance from a number of hostile amendments that have recently been proposed. The outlook on passage of SB 680 is not positive.

Another Romero bill, **SB 651** (co-sponsored by Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg) would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to submit to the governor and legislature an annual report of dropouts in California, and that the report would be available on the department’s web site. This bill has been put in the suspense file in Assembly Appropriations and may be taken up this week.

State Senator Romero is also in the middle of a very contentious campaign for the Superintendent of Public Instruction post in 2010. Romero is running against fellow state senator Tom Torlakson but the front runner, as far as fundraising is concerned, is former superintendent and ACSA president Larry Aceves. Other than the governor’s race, this race may turn out to be the one to watch in 2010.

CULTIVATING SUCCESS SUMMIT

Finally, let me invite you to a special summit on education called *Cultivating Success*, sponsored by SI&A and held September 17-18 in Sacramento. Listen to federal and state policy makers discuss what’s in store for 2009–10 and beyond, and get the latest information on ARRA from speakers like Jim Shelton, Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Education and state school board president Ted Mitchell.

I’m looking forward to a great year, representing CASCWA.

Best Regards,
Mark



Ask the Experts...

By Debbie Morris, Woodland Joint Union School District

Our office is in the process of updating the Caregiver Affidavit. It is my understanding that this form no longer needs to be updated every year. Where can I find legal information regarding this form?

The Caregiver Affidavit that is found under Family Code 6552 cannot be updated or substantially altered. The requirement for updating and resubmission of the affidavit annually was amended out of the law 3 or 4 years ago. However, it is recommended that districts still do an annual residency check for caregivers as is done for all residents.

Is there Ed Code that mandates what information has to be documented on the CUM folder? I don't mean what goes in the CUM folder. I am not sure if the CUM folders themselves have to be standard throughout the State, but the one we use has a total of 15 numbered sections. Is there any law that mandates what areas MUST be filled in?

What the cumulative folder should look like, as opposed to what goes in the folder, is dictated by local practice. Records law, as found in California Education Code (EC) sections 49060 *et seq* and some Title 5 from the California Code of Regulations (CCR), governs the documents that must be kept. The laws, however, do not address the form a cumulative folder should take; we are not aware of any standardization.

Our high school administration got a tip from a parent about a student who was dealing drugs. Administration and the School Resource Officer (SRO) called the student in and asked him if he was selling drugs at school; the student denied it. Search of the student resulted in finding a set of car keys. When asked if there was anything he should not have in the car, the student said he had "a little weed." There was in fact less than an ounce of marijuana, not packaged for sale, but in a container with small plastic baggies found in the car. The student was arrested for possession for sale. In the student's statement, he makes it very clear that there

was .5 ounces not bagged for sale. He has no previous suspensions for marijuana. Does this make an expulsion case?

The first offense of marijuana, less than an ounce, is specifically excluded from the EC 48915(a) series - mandatory recommendation for expulsion. It does not sound like you have enough evidence to support a sales charge, which eliminates the EC 48915(c) series - mandatory suspension and expulsion. So, you are left with your district procedures in addressing a first offense marijuana possession. In our District, the first offense, barring other major EC violations, requires a 5-day suspension and Danger Hearing. At the hearing, the student most likely would be allowed to return under a contract that includes counseling.

"Ask the Experts" is a valuable feature on the CASCWA website for members only. Questions are promptly answered with reference to current and applicable law by a team of educational experts. If requested, sample policies and procedures can be provided.

If a principal rescinds his decision to recommend expulsion on a student right before the expulsion hearing is to begin, the district moves forward with the hearing and the panel recommends not to expel, may the Board still decide to expel the student?

No. Under EC 48915, it is the principal or the superintendent that recommends expulsion. A principal's decision to rescind can be overruled by the superintendent or designee. However, under EC 48918(e), if a panel decides

not to recommend expulsion, the expulsion proceeding shall be terminated. The matter may not go to the board.

What section allows us to prevent a parent from coming on campus after causing a disturbance? I found the Penal Code that addresses "outsiders," but by definition of code, a parent is not an outsider.

We have filed restraining orders against some parents: one raised hell at the District Office, another made a threat against a community day school principal. EC 32210 suggests that Penal Code 626.7 does apply to parents and is the pertinent law to cite in preventing parents from coming back onto the campus for a temporary period of time.

To search specific codes and sections, visit California Law website at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html>.

California State Model SARB Recognition Program

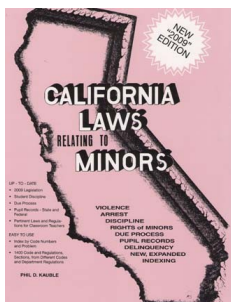
The Model School Attendance Review Board (SARB) Recognition Program identifies outstanding results-based school attendance improvement programs that provide comprehensive services to high-risk youth with school attendance or school behavior problems.

To consider a program as a potential Model SARB, each application will be evaluated by State SARB members to determine if the program meets the criteria in the following ten content areas:

1. SARB Chairperson Leadership
2. Population Served by SARB Program
3. Prevention, Early Identification, and Interventions Prior to SARB Referral
4. SARB Collaboration
5. Inventory of Community Resources
6. Goals and Objectives
7. Program Design & Content/Organizational Structure
8. Measuring and Reporting Outcomes
9. Interpersonal Communication
10. Three Letters of Support

Applications packets will be available on the California Department of Education (CDE) website at: www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ai/sb/. Applications are due to the CDE by 4:00 p.m. on January 14, 2010.

CA Laws Relating to Minors



Legal Books



Phil Kauble, Author

The *California Laws Relating to Minors* is simply a must-have reference guide for anyone who deals with schools and/or juveniles. Topics include attendance, discipline, rights of minors, due process, pupil records, delinquency, special education, and much, much more. Nearly 900 pages contain references to more than 1,400 code sections. Changes to laws on discipline, school safety, child abuse, sexual exploitation and juvenile violence are also addressed. Get your book today!

CASCWA recognizes Phil Kauble, Bill Gehr and Legal Books for their generous contributions to student scholarships.

Attention2Attendance (A2A)

SI&A has a comprehensive approach to managing attendance, combining professional development, attendance data analysis and consulting with a web-based management tool. The goal of A2A is to help educational leaders close the achievement gap by identifying and addressing the most at-risk students through attendance data.

The newly released ARRA funding (Title I Administrative Fund) allows districts to fund school academic/attendance intervention programs. Additional funding sources for A2A can be through Categorical Funds and Unrestricted General Funds. Unrestricted General Fund Revenue Generated with 1% increase in ADA per year can make a substantial difference to a District. Clients using A2A have shown ADA increases.

Our Attendance Management consulting team works with the District and Site level Administration staff. In addition to the web-based attendance tools, the team, in guiding staff through each school year:

- Monitors attendance on a weekly basis
- Does analysis & trend tracking reporting
- Assists with setting benchmarks & goals
- Reports to district leadership on an ongoing basis

Key Components of the service & tools:

- Tracks and improves attendance
- Streamlines attendance practices
- Correlates attendance activity into dollars & learning time
- Facilitates Goal Setting
- Automates absence notification process
- Provides meaningful analysis based on prior & current year performance

SI&A has created this unique service model along with two web-based attendance monitoring tools to help School Districts achieve:

- *Effective Intervention for Student Achievement*
- *Increased Attendance*
- *Maximized ADA Revenue*

What is your next move?

Contact us today...
your school district
can achieve more.



Did you know...

Ecstasy became popular as a “club drug” at night clubs and raves in the 1990’s. In recent years, it has become more commonly used at house parties and in high schools and colleges. Despite media attention about kids who have died after using Ecstasy, it still has a reputation for being a “safe” drug.

Ecstasy will frequently be laced, or adulterated, with other drugs, most commonly: caffeine, ephedrine, cocaine, PCP, methamphetamine, or Dextromethorphan (DMX).

Ecstasy users can become both physically and emotionally dependent on the drug. It is also a gateway drug and can lead to abuse of other drugs.

ECSTASY



Ecstasy is generally sold as a tablet and comes in many colors. Each tablet usually is imprinted with a logo, such as a smiley face, a cartoon character, or a commercial symbol.

Ecstasy causes body temperature to go up. Combined with party conditions - big crowds, dancing, alcohol - often leads to the body overheating. The excessive sweating does not help cool off the body which leads to severe dehydration or hyperthermia (heat stroke).

Prolonged use of Ecstasy may cause permanent impairment of working memory and attention processes as well as depression and confusion.

Ecstasy primarily affects Serotonin, a brain chemical that regulates mood, emotion, and sleep. Ecstasy use causes a release of large amounts of Serotonin, which the body cannot store, in the brain, causing a feeling of well being.

BINGE DRINKING

Binge Drinking is consuming...

5 or more drinks for males and 4 or more drinks for females in 2 hours or less.

A drink is considered to be...

One 12-ounce beer, one 4-ounce glass of wine or one 1-1/2 ounce shot of hard liquor. The alcohol content of each of these is about the same.

The body...

Can only eliminate alcohol from the system at a rate of about one drink per hour. When large amounts of alcohol are consumed over a short period of time, the body cannot cope and alcohol poisoning can occur.

Signs of alcohol poisoning...

Confusion, stupor, vomiting, unconsciousness (passing out), slow or irregular breathing, pale skin or blue-tinged skin, seizures, low body temperature.

Energy drinks are becoming more and more popular among teens. The claim is that it is the “cool” way to improve energy, alertness, and athletic performance. The facts?

The main ingredients used to “increase energy” are sugar and caffeine. While neither of these ingredients are bad in small or moderate amounts, too much can result in bad effects on the body.

Caffeine is a drug that used in large doses can cause rapid heart rate, nervousness, anxiety, irritability, restlessness, nausea and shaking.

There is little or no nutritional value. The high sugar content can contribute to weight gain and cavities.

The initial feeling of being more alert will eventually cause you to “crash” and feel even sleepier than before having had the drink. Drinking in the late afternoon and evening can cause sleep problems (insomnia), since the effects of caffeine can last four to six hours.

Energy Drinks

*Contributed by: Debi Sterling, RN ~ Safe Schools/Healthy Students Nurse, Woodland Joint Union School District
(530) 662-0201 x4341 ~ debi.sterling@wjusd.org*

Funding Opportunities

The following funding opportunities were selected from the Los Angeles County Office of Education's "Money Monday" updates...

Share Our Strength's "The Great American Bake Sale"

http://gabs.strength.org/site/PageServer?pagename=GABS_grants

This program will support efforts to increase participation among low-income children in summer and after-school meal programs, especially those that utilize USDA reimbursement through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), National School Lunch Program (NSLP), or Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Nonprofit organizations that work to increase the number of children that receive nutritious after-school and summer meals may be eligible to apply for funds raised. Schools are eligible. Grant range from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Due: Access the online grant application from June 1st - September 30, 2009.

Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy National Grant Program

<http://www.barbarabushfoundation.com/>

The Foundation's grant-making program seeks to develop or expand projects designed to support the development of literacy skills for adult primary care givers and their children. A total of approximately \$650,000 will be awarded; no grant request should exceed \$65,000.

Due: September 14, 2009

California Fertilizer Foundation (CFF) School Garden Grants

<http://www.calfertilizer.org/grant.htm>

To date, CFF has donated more than \$200,000 to more than 190 California schools for school garden projects. Over the years, they have expanded their program and are now able to annually provide 24 grants for \$1,200 each to schools throughout California (12 awarded twice a year). At the end of each year, winning schools can re-apply for a progress grant of \$1,500 and a free agricultural field trip.

Due: January 15, 2010

Verizon Foundation

<http://foundation.verizon.com/index.shtml>

Verizon's philanthropic mission is to foster relationships and partnerships that address social and economic needs in America's diverse communities. Verizon invests in and partners with organizations that focus on literacy and education initiatives, technology and work force development programs, and domestic violence solutions.

Due: Online Applications accepted January through November.

Albertson's, Inc.

http://www.albertsons.com/abs_inthecommunity/community_support/how_to_grant.asp

Albertsons and its family of stores believe in being a good neighbor by contributing to the quality of life in the diverse communities we serve. In 2002, Albertsons provided more than \$65 million in cash and in-kind donations with support focused on hunger relief, education and the development of our youth, and health and nutrition.

Due: Open

State Farm Companies Foundation

<http://www.statefarm.com/foundati/foundati.htm>

The State Farm Companies Foundation is committed to meeting the needs of our communities by focusing our educational giving in two areas: 1) Priority Schools (college, university) and 2) K-12 Public Schools with a focus on the following areas - Academic Achievement; After School; Teacher Excellence; and School-to-Work Success.

Due: Open. Requests over \$100,000 are considered quarterly.

Kingston Technology, Inc.

<http://www.kingston.com/company/charity.asp>

Kingston Technology offers various forms of contribution to the community. These contributions are directed at innovative programs to promote education, technology and support the well being of citizens.

Due: Open

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 09/08/09 Working with High Risk and Vulnerable Youth
Yolo COE, hector.molina@wjusd.org
- 09/17/09 Suspension & Expulsion and Section 504
Los Angeles COE (Downey), www.lacoe.edu/dsss
- 09/22/09 SARB Training
Rancho Cucamonga, www.ci.sbcss.k12.ca.us/ci.events
- 09/25/09 Homeless Symposium
Los Angeles COE (Santa Fe Springs), www.lacoe.edu/dsss
- 09/29/09 Custody & Residency
Los Angeles COE (Palmdale), www.lacoe.edu/dsss
- 09/30/09 -10/02/09 The ABC's of School Failure: Attendance, Bullying, Climate
Palm Springs, www.cascwa.org
- 10/08/09 New State SARB Procedures Training
Shasta County, jtaylor@scoe.net
- 10/08/09 Student Records and Custody & Residency
Los Angeles COE (Downey), www.lacoe.edu/dsss
- 10/16/09 Student Records
San Diego COE, sfraire@sdcoe.net
- 10/20/09 - 10/21/09 Drug Identification Training for Educators
Yolo COE, hector.molina@wjusd.org
- 10/21/09 SARB Certification
Los Angeles COE (Santa Fe Springs), www.lacoe.edu/dsss
- 11/03/09 Student Records Workshop
San Bernardino, www.ci.sbcss.k12.ca.us/ci.events
- 11/13/09 Student Discipline, Suspension & Expulsion Workshop
San Bernardino, www.ci.sbcss.k12.ca.us/ci.events
- 11/20/09 Bay Section Fall Workshop
Pleasanton, adelsimone@wccusd.net

September 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

75th CASCWA State Conference May 5-7, 2010 Fresno, California

Save the Date!

Join us in 2010 at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center in Fresno to hear California's top educators, educational specialists, law enforcement personnel, and educational legal teams share their expertise. This is the one-stop conference for those who are interested or work in the field of CWA. Registration information is available at...

www.cascwa.org/documents/2010StConfFlyerReg.pdf

Topics include:

- Increasing attendance and ADA revenue
- Drug identification and interventions
- Special education and regular education discipline issues
- Alternative education programs
- SARB
- Closing the achievement gap
- Meeting new NCLB guidelines

...and much, much more!

CASCWA Mission

CASCWA is an organization comprised of school and community professionals who are dedicated to improving school climate, safety, and increasing school attendance. We create a network of professional support, mentors and educators, and we influence relevant legislation and advocate for the needs of the students, families, and schools.

JOIN CASCWA!

- CASCWA is the only state organization that focuses on the specific needs of the Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance personnel.
- CASCWA offers the opportunity for like-minded professionals to develop a personal support network, particularly in these trying times.
- CASCWA offers the opportunity for professional growth through meetings, workshops and conferences.
- CASCWA is becoming more involved in the legislative process, by monitoring and advising on existing legislation being presented.
- Annual dues: Active - \$50, Retired - \$20, Student - \$20

www.cascwa.org/membershipPrint.php

Interview with Larry Aceves...

Please note that the same questions posed to Larry Aceves in this issue of the Intercom were forwarded to Senator Gloria Romero and Assemblymember Tom Torlakson, who are also candidates for State Superintendent of Public Instruction. No response or acknowledgement of receipt of the request for an interview were received at the time of publication. CASCWA hopes to receive a response for our December issue.

In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: It goes on.

☞ Robert Frost

Bravo Speaks...

I hope that you have enjoyed this issue of the Intercom. Continuing on the legacy built and established by my predecessors, particularly Frank Boehler, has not proven to be an easy task. I have yet to fully learn the history behind CASCWA, and form the close and lasting relationships that made Frank's publications so rich with life and focused on the needs of the CASCWA members. So, I hope you bear with me as I go through a year of self-discovery, trying out new and more accessible ways to bring resources and information to our members. The goal? To get my readers addicted to reading the Intercom. Wait...addiction is bad... more like...getting you to the point where you wait in breathless anticipation between each and

every publication. And then, the only way to get a copy of the Intercom is to become a CASCWA member! Yes, that means you will have to pay the SMALL, very affordable membership dues...every year...without fail.

Back to my version of the Intercom... If you can find my email somewhere in this publication, share your thoughts on the new "look," but more importantly, the sections on the Legislative Updates, Did You Know, Funding Opportunities, and Calendar of Events. In these difficult times when we are losing our friends and colleagues through reassignments, layoffs and retirement, we must try, more than ever, to support one another. It will

be necessary to share information and resources to continue our tireless efforts in improving the quality of services and programs for our students and their families. My hope is that these added sections will accomplish that very thing as it supports our CASCWA mission.

CASCWA also hopes to hear from retirees. The next issue will have a Keeping in Touch page where retirees can share what they are doing now, the trips they have been on (to make us all jealous, of course), new additions to the family, relocations, etc. We also hope they will send a picture of how fabulous they look now that they are well-rested.

Stay tuned for our December issue of the Intercom...