

Legislative Report Spring 2021

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Who we are

Strategic Education Services has been the advocate for school transportation for over 30 years.

We represent CASTO and the School Transportation Coalition.

- Rural School Bus Pilot Program
- Seatbelt Retrofit Legislation
- Schoolbus safety: child safety alert system
- Education finance: local control funding formula: pupil transportation: cost-of-living adjustment and add-on

Pandemic Response

Proposed Cuts

Option 1: 10 percent cut to all education funding in California

Option 2: Defer paying school district that amount until fiscal year 2021-22, allowing school district to operate under the assumption they will receive the funding.

Pandemic Response

CDE Virtual Training

[CDE IB 20-66 Virtual Training.pdf](#)

[CDE IB 11-34 \(Use of On-Line Training Programs\).pdf](#)

Pandemic Response

AB 86: Reopening Schools

After prolonged deliberations, the Legislature adopted and the Governor signed into law on March 5, AB 86, legislation to reopen the schools. Major provisions:

- All schools must open in grades TK through 2 by no later than April 1.
- COVID-19 caseload must be under 25 cases per 100,000 population.
- Otherwise, schools stay closed unless exemption is granted.
- All schools must open TK-6, and at least one middle school grade and one high school grade, once the county reaches Red Tier.
- When the county reaches Orange Tier, the expectation is that all grades return for in-person instruction.

Pandemic Response

AB 86: Reopening Schools

The bill includes \$6.6 billion:

- \$2 billion one-time for in-person instruction grants. Schools get full allocation if they open by April 1 for TK-2 or TK-6. They receive less funding if they open by May 15. This funding is designated for:
COVID-19 testing, cleaning and disinfection, personal protective equipment, ventilation and other schoolsite upgrades necessary for health and safety, salaries for certificated or classified employees providing in-person instruction or services, and social and mental health support services provided in conjunction with in-person instruction.
- \$4.6 billion for Expanded Learning Opportunity grants to be used for “Learning Loss Mitigation”. Allocation is \$725/pupil and \$1,000/homeless pupil.

Pandemic Response

American Rescue Plan

President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan on March 11. The plan includes \$15.3 billion in assistance for California Schools..

- California School Districts will directly receive \$13.7 billion based on their share of Title I funding.
- The rest of the funding must be used for to mitigate learning loss of homeless and other heavily impacted student groups, summer enrichment and social-emotional assistance for the same groups of students, and state discretionary dollars.

See how much relief your district has and will receive [here](#).

Pandemic Response

Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services Program

Under the program, Treasury will provide up to \$2 billion in grants to eligible companies that certify they have experienced an annual revenue loss of 25 percent or more as a direct or indirect result of COVID-19.

Who can apply? Transportation service providers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, including motorcoach, school bus, passenger vessel, and pilot vessel companies.

What can the funds be used for? Primarily payroll costs but may also be used to cover the acquisition of services, equipment, including PPE and protection measures from COVID-19 for workers and customers; continued operations and maintenance of existing equipment and facilities; rent, leases, insurance, and interest on regular debt service.

How can I apply? Program guidelines, applications procedures, and other materials will be updated on this [website](#).

CDC Rule Change

California adopted the federal social distancing guidance on March 20, halving the previously required guidance from 6 feet to 3 feet.

California Department of Public Health's revised guidance for school reopening "strongly recommends" 3 feet of distance but does not require it, as long as other safety measures are in place and enforced.

The change is reflected in the [COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework & Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year](#).

CDC Rule Change

No changes to the Arrival and Departure section of the guidance:

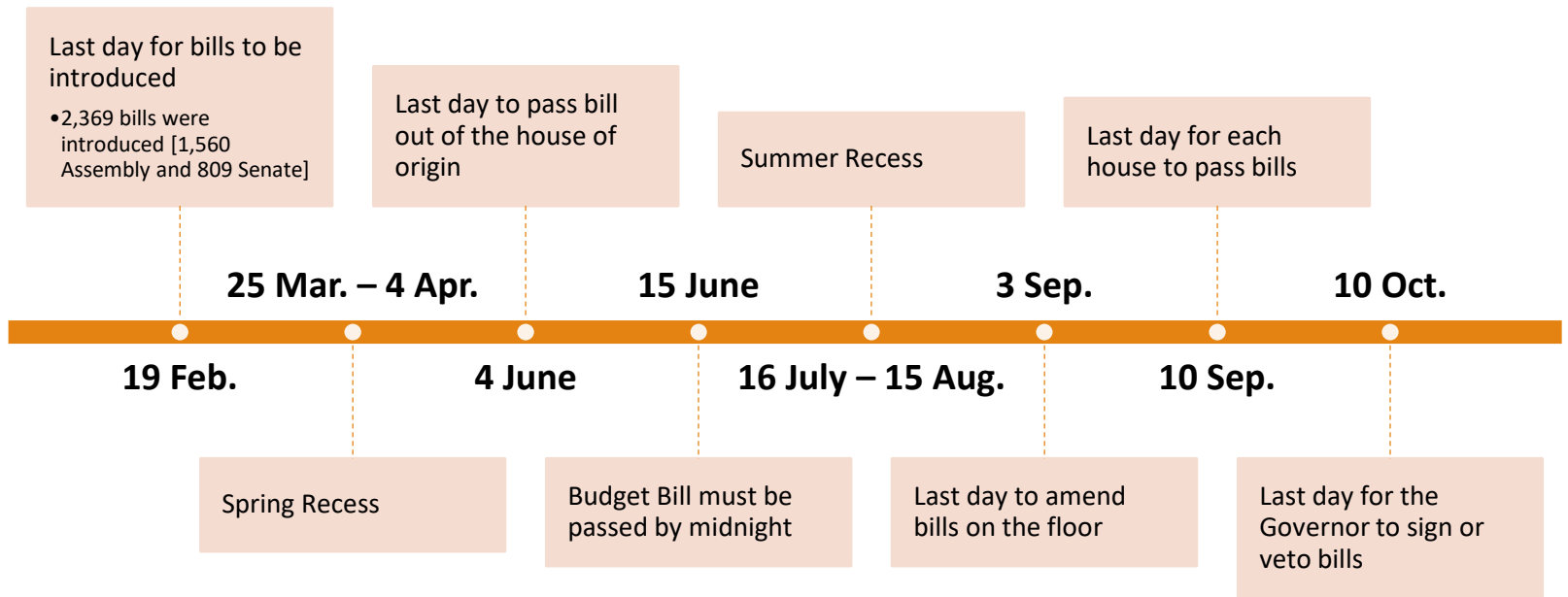
- Maximize space between students and between students and the driver on school buses and open windows to the greatest extent practicable. Two windows on a bus should be opened fully at a minimum.
- Minimize contact at school between students, staff, families and the community at the beginning and end of the school day. Prioritize minimizing contact between adults at all times.
- Stagger arrival and drop off-times and locations as consistently as practicable to minimize scheduling challenges for families.
- Designate routes for entry and exit, using as many entrances as feasible. Put in place other protocols to limit direct contact between people as much as practicable.
- Ensure each school bus is equipped with extra unused face coverings for students who may have inadvertently failed to bring one.

Start Time

SB 328 [Portantino] - School Start Times [Chaptered in 2019]

- SB 328 takes effect no later than July 1, 2022 or the expiration the school's collective bargaining agreement, whichever is later.
 - High schools shall begin no earlier than 8:30 a.m.
 - Middle schools shall begin no earlier than 8:00 a.m.
 - Rural exemption.
 - Assembly Appropriations Committee suggested the use of the federal definition. There is no general federal definition of rural school district however a school's eligibility for the Federal Rural Education Achievement Program could be used.

2021 Legislative Session Calendar Summary



Legislation

SB 111 (Newman D) Schoolbuses: stop requirements.

Would authorize a school district to install and operate an automated video traffic enforcement system.

Future CARB Meetings

Date & Time	Location	Meeting Details & Materials
April 9, 2021 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Webinar	Public Work Group for Clean Transportation Equity Investments for Fiscal Year 2021-22 Funding Plan Development <ul style="list-style-type: none">●Agenda (to be posted by April 8)
March 30, 2021 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Webinar	Public Workshop on Developing the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Funding Plan for Clean Transportation Incentives <ul style="list-style-type: none">●Notice●Agenda●Presentation

Rural School Bus Pilot Project

The California Air Resources Board has invested over \$60 million to date in the program to date.

Clean Mobility in Schools Pilot Project \$25 million.



GAVIN NEWSOM RECALL TIMELINE

Best estimates as of March 22nd, 2021

March 17—Deadline for submitting petitions. Proponents claim to have submitted 2.1 million signatures, which should give them enough of a cushion to reach the 1,495,709 necessary to qualify after invalid signatures, which currently account for around 20% of the total, are eliminated.

April 29—Deadline for Registrars in all 58 Counties to verify signatures.

May 9—Deadline for Secretary of State to notify Counties of total signature count.

May 10 - June 21—Time period for voters to request withdrawal of their name from the recall petitions.

July 6—Deadline for the Counties to notify the Secretary of State of the final signature tally after voter withdrawal window.

July 6 - August 17—Time period for the Department of Finance to analyze the cost of the recall.

August 17 - September 16—Window for the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, chaired by Senator Nancy Skinner, to hold hearings and comment on the DOF's cost analysis.

September 17—Likely date Secretary of State Dr. Shirley Weber certifies the recall election.

September 17—Likely date Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis sets the date for the recall election.

November 16, 23 or 30—Likely dates for the recall special election.

59 days before election—Filing deadline for candidates wishing to run to replace Governor Gavin Newsom should he be recalled.

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Recall Timeline

What you can do!

Two ways to help:

- Stay involved in your CASTO Chapter
- Join the School Transportation Coalition and help shape our agenda:
 - Bi-Monthly Calls
 - Legislative Reports
 - Lobbying Opportunities