

UPDATE

www.aala.us

Week of January 12, 2015

2015 MAJOR EDUCATION ISSUES— IT DEPENDS ON WHO'S WRITING

It is common at the beginning of the year for resolutions, forecasts and predictions to be made. Many of the sources for education information both online and in print have identified what they consider to be the main issues for education in 2015. We have selected two different lists for your edification.

The first list of this year's important issues is from *EdSource*, an Oakland-based nonprofit committed to raising public awareness on education issues, legislation and effective models. The authors are members of the staff at *EdSource* and are journalists, writers and editors with no actual teaching or school administration experience. The 10 major issues for them are:

- **Accountability**—With the demise of the API, the federal and state governments must decide what will replace it as a measure of student achievement. The California Board of Education has said that the requirements of the Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAP) will be the basis for the state's new accountability system.
- **Funding**—Projections are that revenue will increase beyond expectations, allowing K-12 schools and community colleges to get more funding in 2015-16.
- **Standardized Tests**—Most 3rd through 8th and 11th grade students will take the Smarter Balanced assessments in math and English/language arts online this spring. This will be the first formal assessment of how students are grasping the Common Core concepts.
- **Regulating LCAPs**—While **Governor Brown** has indicated that he does not want the Legislature changing the regulations of the accountability plans, several prominent nonprofit advocacy groups, including Education Trust-West and Public Advocates, are pushing for more stringent requirements.
- **Special Education**—Last year the U.S. Department of Education identified California as one of three states whose special education programs needed intervention due to the lack of academic progress of this population and gave it one year to show progress. The Statewide Special Education Task Force will release its recommendations for improvement in February.
- *Vergara v. California*—In a controversial ruling last June state laws affecting tenure, dismissal and layoffs based on seniority were declared unconstitutional. The decision was appealed by State Superintendent **Tom Torlakson**, and the 2nd Court of Appeals may hear the case this year.

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ISSUES (Cont.)

- Budget Reserves—The California School Boards Association has made it a priority to repeal a new law that was part of last year’s budget that will potentially force school districts to reduce their budget reserves in the future.
- Early Education—The Legislature will consider AB 47 (**McCarty**, D-Sacramento) which will make the state’s full-day preschool program available to all eligible low-income children.
- Career Readiness—The Public School Accountability Act Committee will make recommendations for measuring career and college readiness skills.
- *Cruz v. California*—A ruling may occur in this class action lawsuit which alleges that the State Department of Education is required to intervene in schools where students are being denied significant amounts of instructional time.

The second list we have selected was printed in the School Innovations and Achievement’s (SI&A) *Cabinet Report*, which is the company’s online newsletter. SI&A provides administrative software and services and has former superintendents, district administrators and teachers on its staff. The author who selected these top 10 issues is **Dr. Lee Funk**. He is the Director of Special Education for the company and is a former superintendent who began as a teacher and worked his way through the ranks. His top issues are in rank order and specific enough that they need no further explanation.

- Fix the infrastructure.
- Reemphasize citizen development.
- Bring back the arts, literature and music.
- Revitalize libraries with credentialed librarians.
- Reemploy and redeploy certificated school nurses.
- Elevate teachers to the status they deserve.
- Revise preservice education for educators.
- Reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) with a sensible accountability system.
- Reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act with the original funding promised in 1975.
- Upgrade the technology.

The differences in these two lists reflect, of course, the experiential base of the authors. That is the reason it is critical that we judge information from its source. Many times, those who speak for and to educators, such as those who wish education to be run as a business, have very different perspectives than those who are actually doing the job. This is not to invalidate their opinions, recommendations or suggested solutions, but should be an impetus for educators to take a stronger, more vocal stand on the direction of education.

AAALA’s main focus continues to be to represent all of our members and to ensure that the District provides schools with the resources needed to effectively educate students, preK through adult.

HEALTH BENEFITS FAQ: 2015 MEDICAL, DENTAL AND VISION PLANS

Plan Name	Phone	Web Address	Other Useful Information
Anthem Blue Cross Select HMO and EPO	800.700.3739	www.anthem.com/ca/lausd	24/7 NurseLine 800.977.0027
CVS Caremark (For Anthem BC members)	888.752.7229	www.caremark.com	Information about Medication Safety Alerts
Health Net HMO	800.654.9821	www.healthnet.com/lausd	Prescription Provider— CVS Caremark: 888.624.1139
Health Net Seniority Plus	800.275-4737	www.healthnet.com/lausd	Enrollment information: 800.596.6565
Kaiser HMO and Kaiser Senior Advantage	800.464.4000	www.kp.org	After-hours advice: 888.576.6225
UnitedHealthCare® Group Medicare Advantage HMO	800.457.8506	www.uhcretiree.com	Enrollment Information: 877.714.0178
MetLife Dental DHMO	866.576.9121	www.metlife.com/mybenefits	Healthy Smiles for Children: “Peanuts” coloring book
MetLife Dental PPO	866.576.9121	www.metlife.com/mybenefits	Compare PPO and DHMO: Compare Options
Western Dental DHMO Centers and West Dental Plan Plus	866.901.4416	www.westerndental.com	Schedule an Appointment: 800.579.3783
EyeMed Vision Care	866.723.0514	www.eyemedvisioncare.com	Find a Provider: EyeMed Search
VSP	800.877.7195	www.vsp.com	Find a Provider: VSP Search
MHN Employee Assistance Program	800.285.7717	https://members.mhn.com	Immediate Crisis Support 800.322.9707

GOOD NEWS! MORE MONEY FOR SCHOOLS



In his speech after his inauguration on January 5, **Governor Jerry Brown** announced that schools will receive \$65.7 billion next year. This is almost \$5 million more than was allocated this year, and a 39 percent increase since 2010. The specifics of the funding will be included in the 2015-16 budget proposal which is scheduled to be released on January 9, 2015. The Governor said that his Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) is a much fairer system that puts California in the forefront of educational reform.

NEW LAWS FOR 2015

Governor Brown signed legislation enacting more than 900 new laws for 2015. Key laws affecting education and/or juveniles include the following:

1. All public schools are required to have epinephrine injectors (EPI pens) to provide immediate aid to students who have serious allergic reactions.
2. Public schools may no longer expel students for willful defiance and students below the fourth grade cannot be suspended for such behavior.
3. Public schools must now publish the actual numbers of girls and boys participating in each athletic program to demonstrate equal access.
4. State education leaders have to *consider* whether to include lessons about the Armenian genocide and other mass killings into the curriculum standards which will be updated this year.
5. Both documented and undocumented immigrants are eligible to apply for state-funded student loans to attend CSU or UC campuses.
6. Businesses may only use minors' personal information that was obtained through education websites or mobile applications for online education.
7. Juveniles who fail to obey a court order to attend school cannot be incarcerated in juvenile hall or a detention facility.
8. School districts may only gather information from social media on students if it relates to school or student safety.
9. Juveniles convicted of rape, sodomy or oral copulation will have stricter punishments, eliminating the option of paying a fine, doing community service or participating in a treatment program to get their charges dismissed.
10. Full-contact football practices are limited to twice a week for middle and high school students.
11. Minors who are convicted of sexual acts on someone who is unable to give consent because of a disability or incapacity from drugs or alcohol will face increased penalties and decreased privacy protection.



Students and staff members at Polytechnic High School (**Ari Bennett**, Principal) raised more than \$15,000 in their recent toy drive for needy children. This was the 50th year of the drive and funds were raised through various school activities and donations from local businesses. Thirty-five students purchased over 3,000 items at the Mattel Toy Store Outlet in Pomona on December 19, 2014, and then delivered them to a local Los Angeles Fire Department station to benefit children in the Sun Valley area of the San Fernando Valley.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR
ADULT EDUCATION TEACHERS**

The California Council for Adult Education is offering scholarships up to \$500 for members to pursue professional development. Applications are available on the website, www.ccaestate.org, and the deadline is January 15, 2015. Members are encouraged to complete the online application.

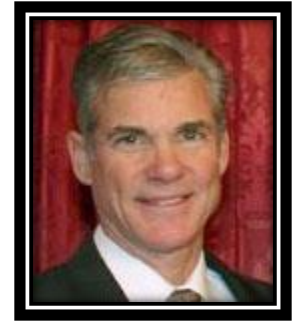
IN MEMORIAM

DAVID HIRSCH—Current principal of Hesby Oaks Charter Span School, former principal of Wilbur Avenue Elementary School and assistant principal of Wilshire Crest Elementary School. David passed away on December 23, 2014, and services were held on December 28, 2014. Donations in his memory may be made to Temple Ahavat Shalom Northridge Alumni Outreach Fund, 18200 Rinaldi Place, Northridge, CA 91326, or the ALS Association Golden West Chapter, P.O. Box 565, Agoura Hills, CA 91376.

APRIL McNEEL—Current administrative coordinator in the Professional Learning and Leadership Development Unit and former APSCS at Dorsey High School, Harbor Teacher Preparatory Academy and Audubon Middle School. April passed away on December 25, 2014, and services were held on Thursday, January 8, 2015. Condolences may be sent to her mother, **Mrs. Diane McNeel**, at 4231 S. 11th Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90008.

CHRIS TOM CARAS—Former principal of Polytechnic High and Fulton Jr. High schools and assistant principal of Locke High School and Sun Valley Engineering and Technology School. Chris retired from the District on June 27, 1986, and passed away on January 5, 2015. Funeral services will be Saturday, January 10, 2015, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 1324 South Normandie Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90006. Interment will follow at Forest Lawn, Hollywood Hills. Condolences may be emailed to www.chapmanfuneraldirectors.com

LET'S PACK THE HOUSE!



AALA members and friends are invited to attend the inauguration reception for **Tom Torlakson**, reelected to State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Come celebrate with colleagues, friends and educators on Friday, January 16, 2015, from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., at the William Turner Gallery, Bergamot Station Art Center, 2525 Michigan Avenue, Suite E-1, Santa Monica. After the event, take time to enjoy the art galleries at the Bergamot Station. To RSVP to this invitation, click [here](#).

CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE	CONTACT
Second Semester Begins	January 12, 2015	
AALA Executive Board Meeting	January 12, 2015 4:30 p.m.	Gema Pivaral , 213.484.2226 or gpivaral@aala.us
CalSTRS Pre-Retirement Workshop at Hazeltine ES, Auditorium	January 15, 2015 4:00 p.m.	
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observed	January 19, 2015	
COBA Meeting at Crenshaw HS Library	January 28, 2015 5:30 p.m.	Josephine Ruffin , 323.296.2040 or www.cobalausd.net
AAPA Professional Development at Gratts LC	January 28, 2015 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. 6:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.	Daniel Kim , daniel.kim@lausd.net
CalPERS Benefits Education Event at Desert Princess Palm Springs	January 30 – 31, 2015 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	CalPERS Benefits Education Events
Academic Decathlon at Roybal LC	January 31, 2015 7:30 a.m.	Cliff Ker , 213.241.3503 or cliff.ker@lausd.net
Fundraising Event for Euna Anderson, Board of Education Candidate , at Acapulco Restaurant, 750 Sampson Way, San Pedro	January 31, 2015 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Tresa McCoy , 310.487.6954 or tresa.mccoy24@gmail.com

ACADEMIC DECATHLON NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Los Angeles Unified School District's 2015 Academic Decathlon will again be a two-day event. AALA members are invited to assist with this outstanding academic competition that has produced many state and national champions. Your help is needed on the following dates: Saturday, January 31, 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., or Saturday, February 7, 2015, 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (for Super Quiz) at Roybal Learning Center. Essay readers are needed on Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., at the Beaudry Building. A volunteer application and additional information are available at www.acadecala.net. For more information, please call or email **Cliff Ker** at [213.241.3503](tel:213.241.3503) or cliff.ker@lausd.net.

PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CREDENTIAL—TIER II

The Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, California State University, Northridge, is pleased to announce the next cohort of its program for the attainment of the Professional Administrative Services Credential (Tier II). This is a one-semester, 6-unit Tier II program.



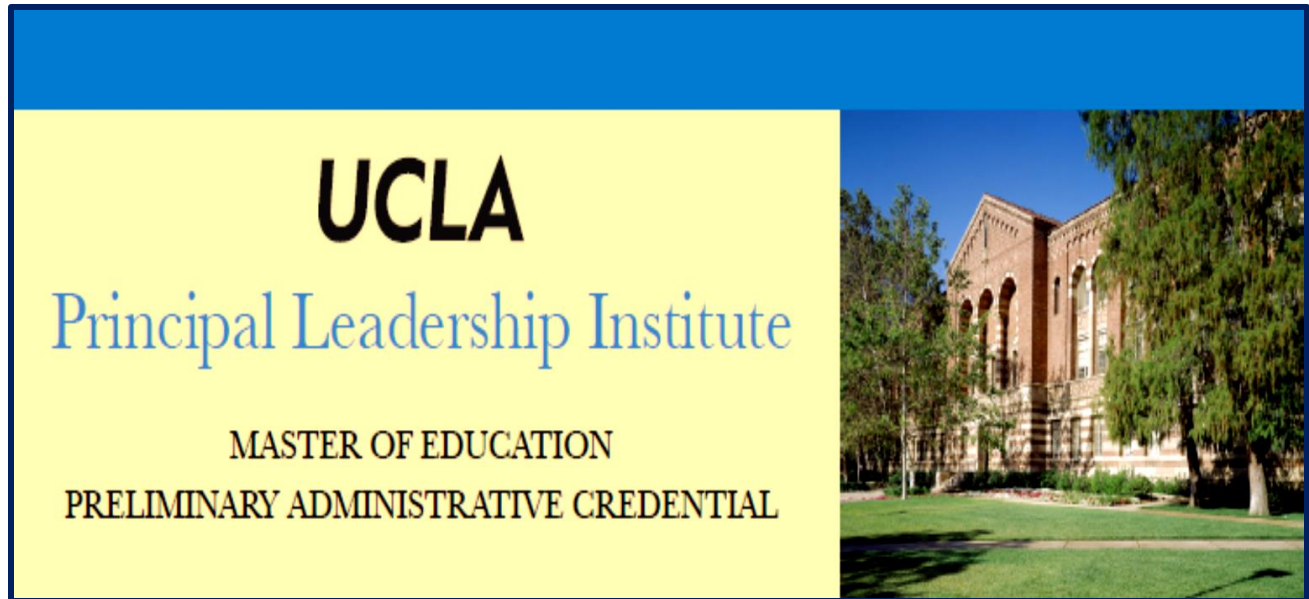
The cohort will run from January 2015 through May 2015 at a centralized location. Tuition for the entire program will be \$2,489. Please note that this cohort is available to certificated employees of the Los Angeles Unified School District. For registration information, please contact **Cynthia Perez**, at the CSUN ELPS Office at 818.677.2591 or cynthia.perez@csun.edu.

**LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY ED.D.
IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**



Advance your career with an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership for Social Justice from Loyola Marymount University's School of Education. Learn the practices and theories to become a systems leader, superintendent, principal or policymaker who drives socially just change and makes a difference in schools and communities. LMU's innovative 3-year program is designed for working professionals. LMU doctoral students set their own research agendas focused on social justice issues important to them and relevant to the real world of schools and communities. All doctoral students benefit from generous scholarship support and individualized attention from LMU faculty and staff.

Applications for the 2015 doctoral cohort are due January 25, 2015, and are available online at <http://soe.lmu.edu/doctoral>.



The UCLA Principal Leadership Institute invites aspiring administrators and teacher leaders to apply for the 2015-2016 cohort of social justice leaders. We offer a Tier 1 Administrative Services Credential and Master of Education starting in June 2015 and ending in August 2016. Small scholarships are available to assist with tuition fees. Explore our website at www.uclapli.org and attend an upcoming information session on: January 14 or 17. The application deadline is February 2, 2015. For additional information, contact **Nataly Birch** at birch@gseis.ucla.edu or 310.267.4905.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

***Note to Applicants:** Please be advised that you are responsible for making sure all the District requirements have been met. Do not contact AALA for information regarding positions; for detailed requirements for positions and employment updates use the contact phone number provided in the announcement or visit the District website at <http://www.lausdjobs.org> (classified) or http://teachinla.com/admin_vacancies/ (certificated). Employees who change basis during the school year may not earn a full year of service credit and annualized employees who change their basis during the year may sustain an annualized settlement.*

CERTIFICATED, SCHOOL-BASED

PRINCIPAL, ELEMENTARY

President Avenue Elementary School, ESC South, MST 41G, E Basis. For more information and application procedures, please contact **Alma Kimura**, Instructional Director, at 310.354.3400. Application deadline is 3:00 p.m., Friday, January 16, 2015.

CERTIFICATED, NON-SCHOOL-BASED

SPECIALIST, CaPROMISE

Office of Transition Services, Division of Special Education, MST 38G, Temporary Adviser, E Basis. For more information and application procedures, please contact **Lela Rondeau**, Coordinator, at 213.241.8050. Application deadline is 5:00 p.m., Friday, January 23, 2015.

CLASSIFIED

ENERGY PROGRAM MANAGER

Energy Unit, Facilities Services Division, \$86,800 - \$107,500, 10-, 11- or 12-month position. For more information and application procedures, please click [HERE](#). Application deadline is Thursday, January 22, 2015.

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED POSITIONS

CERTIFICATED POSITIONS	LOCATION	CONTACT	DEADLINE
<i>INSTRUCTIONAL SPECIALIST, TSP</i> MST 38G, B Basis	San Gabriel ES, ESC South	Ruben Valles , Instructional Director, 310.354.3400	3:00 p.m. Monday January 12, 2015
<i>INSTRUCTIONAL SPECIALIST</i> MST 38G, B Basis	75 th Street and Woodlawn Ave ES, ESC South	Anthony Aguilar , Instructional Director, 310.354.3400	3:00 p.m. Monday January 12, 2015
<i>PRINCIPAL, OPPORTUNITY HS</i> MST 42G, E Basis	Central HS and Tri-C CDS, ESC East	David Downing , Instructional Director, 323.224.3100	<u>EXTENDED</u> 5:00 p.m. Friday January 16, 2015
<i>PRINCIPAL, SECONDARY</i> MST 47G, E Basis	Venice HS, ESC West	Jaime Morales , Instructional Director, 310.914.2100 or jaime.morales@lausd.net	5:00 p.m. Tuesday January 20, 2015
CLASSIFIED POSITIONS	LOCATION	CONTACT	DEADLINE
<i>DESIGN AND TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION COORDINATOR</i> \$89,000 - \$110,200, A Basis	Facilities Services Division	Click HERE	Friday January 9, 2015
<i>FISCAL OVERSIGHT ADMINISTRATOR</i> \$7,821.40 - \$9,744.86/month 10-, 11- or 12-month position	Charter Schools Division	Click HERE	<u>EXTENDED</u> Monday January 12, 2015