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July Highlights

Message from State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell

Last month, we watched as the Governor and the Legislature worked to come to a budget agreement to close California's \$26.3 billion deficit. The final agreement, coupled with the previous year's cuts, reduced spending for kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) education by a staggering \$18 billion. While I certainly do not agree with the deep cuts made to K-12 public education, I am glad that the budget was finalized without suspending Proposition 98 and at least schools now have certainty about the level of state support coming in this fiscal year.

Without question, our work in the classroom will be even more challenging than in past years. As educators, we must cope with doing even more with less. In particular, I am concerned about the elimination of funding for instructional materials and curriculum development and adoption. This delay in adopting instructional materials for our students for five years has the potential to significantly affect learning in our schools over the next ten years.

I will continue to urge the Governor and the Legislature to reconsider this ill-conceived budget action. In the meantime, I call on school leaders and teachers to consider ways to ensure that students will not miss out on learning about important historic and scientific events that would have typically be included in textbooks or other instructional materials.

In other news, President Barack Obama this month issued guidance on how states can participate in the federal Race to the Top challenge, which encourages states to compete for \$4.35 billion in education funds by implementing important education reforms. The four areas of reform include increasing effective teaching, developing globally competitive standards and assessments, turning around low-performing schools and improving data systems to become continuous learning systems that guide decision making. Without question, the Race to the Top challenge will be one of the boldest and farthest-reaching efforts to implement meaningful reform in our nation's schools in generations. I generally agree with the intent and the focus of the proposed guidelines for reform, but there are some specific requirements with which I disagree, and so I look forward to beginning the work of communicating our thoughts and any potential changes to the guidelines over the next month.

On the local front, a few days ago I announced the appointment of Dr. John Bernard as the State Administrator for the King City Joint Union High School District in Monterey County. A state takeover of the district was required by law after the district was granted a state loan to avoid bankruptcy. The \$13 million emergency loan for the King City Joint Union High School District was authorized in Senate Bill 130, authored by Senator Jeff Denham (R-Merced). Dr. Bernard has the talent and experience and my full support to get King City Joint Union High School District back on firm fiscal footing, improving test scores, and narrowing the achievement gap. I am confident that under the leadership of Dr. Bernard, the district will turn around and find itself back under local control as soon as possible.

Finally, I want to share that I am now available on Twitter and will be holding periodic online office hours using the social networking Web site. Technology is helping break down the barriers between government and the people we serve and I hope that this Web-based tool will make information from the California Department of Education more accessible to Californians. To follow me on Twitter, please visit the [Twitter SSPI Jack Web page](#) (Outside Source). I look forward to hearing from you.

Honoring Teachers

This month we are honoring John Michael Puckett, an Orange County Teacher of the Year, and a finalist for the 2009 California Teachers of the Year. Mr. Puckett is the lead instructor for the Building Industry Technology Academy (BITA) at Katella High School, North Orange County Regional Occupation Program, in the Anaheim Union High School District.

When his students are asked to describe him, the words just seem to gush out: caring, intelligent, dedicated, involved, practical, helpful, a friend, and, of course—cool.

No teacher could ask for a better assessment. Mr. Puckett is indeed a combination of the attributes that, as his students would say, make him an "awesome" teacher. He wrote in his application for the California Teachers of the Year program, that if he were to be considered for such an honor, it was because he is honored to be a teacher. "There are many professions out there that provide a great deal of personal satisfaction. However, there are not many where you can honestly say at the end of the day that you made a difference in someone else's life. That is the beauty of teaching."

Mr. Puckett is not only the lead instructor for the BITA program, but he developed its integrated curriculum, which he calls one of his greatest accomplishments.

Mr. Puckett brought to teaching the skills he acquired during his many years in the construction industry—skills, he said, that most students are unable to acquire because of the lack of emphasis of applied learning. In his application he wrote that the recent importance placed on mandated testing and increasing test scores, "... produces students who might be good test takers, but little else. We should not only be measuring their book knowledge. We need to assess their communication skills, capacity to work as part of a team, and the ability to exercise creative problem solving."

Mr. Puckett said it is his belief that the biggest issue in education today is relevance. "Lack of relevance contributes to student apathy toward their education, and this, in turn, results in an ever increasing drop-out rate. Apathetic students can easily become at-risk students."

Although, he's grateful that in recent years more emphasis has been placed on career technical education, he

stressed there must be even more if American students will be able to compete internationally.

"Our children must be prepared to compete in a global economy," Mr. Puckett says. "During their lifetimes, the current generation of students in our schools will face opportunities and challenges the likes of which have not been seen before. In the global arena, our students will need to compete with the best the world has to offer."

Mr. Puckett earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Biola University in La Mirada in 1997 and a Clear Teaching Credential at the University of San Diego in 2005.

Pre-Launch Sequence Continues for the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System Rollout in Late August

The California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) is still on target to go live in late August. The rollout of functionality, however, has been refined with the administration functionality becoming available on **August 31, 2009**, and the Statewide Student Identifier (SSID) and Fall 1 certification functionality becoming available on **October 5, 2009**.

The California Department of Education (CDE) sent to district staff information which details the activities they must undertake in preparation for CALPADS. You can find information about CALPADS on the [CDE Summer 2009 Education Data News Web page](#).

One important schedule update is that local educational agencies (LEAs) will be able to continue acquiring and maintaining SSIDs through the existing State Reporting and Records Transfer System (SRRTS) operated by the California School Information Services (CSIS) through **September 10, 2009**. This date was extended from July 31, 2009. You will not be able to acquire or maintain SSIDs from **September 11, 2009** until CALPADS SSID functionality becomes available on **October 5, 2009**.

Please note that the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) Pre-ID deadline is **September 18, 2009**; therefore be sure to acquire SSIDs for students taking the CELDT by **September 10, 2009**, in anticipation of this deadline.

Another important activity requires superintendents and independently reporting charter school administrators to designate an LEA CALPADS Administrator. You should have received through e-mail, a letter and the LEA CALPADS Administrator application. This individual will be responsible for assigning the appropriate CALPADS access to local LEA users. The LEA CALPADS Administrator must be designated and the completed CALPADS LEA Administrator application submitted to the CDE for the LEA to receive the CALPADS LEA Administrator account and access to the CALPADS environment. The LEA CALPADS Administrator should have his or her account by mid-August 2009, prior to when CALPADS goes live with administration functionality on **August 31, 2009**.

To receive a copy of the letter and application, send an e-mail to the CALPADS Operations Office at calpadsaccess@cde.ca.gov. CALPADS training began in July and will run through the end of September. CALPADS training, which includes four modules, will be offered multiple times through WebEx training sessions, enabling staff to receive training at their desks. It is important that staff complete training by the end of September.

CALPADS is an important first step toward creating the comprehensive data system we need to help us continue to increase student achievement. Taking this initial step will be a challenge as is true with the transition to any new system.

If you have any questions regarding CALPADS, please contact the CALPADS Operations Office at 916-324-6738 or by e-mail at calpads@cde.ca.gov.

California Department of Education Launches Simplified Version of Web site

The California Department of Education (CDE) has launched a simplified version of its Web site for handheld or mobile devices, and cellular telephones. Users also may access the regular Web site through these devices.

Because most mobile devices have slower Internet connectivity and smaller screen displays, graphics were removed from the [CDE mobile Web site](#) and text-based links are used that deliver information more quickly to the user. The mobile Web site is designed to provide easy access to information that is most likely to be requested in a format that is suitable for a mobile device. The mobile Web site also links to the regular [CDE Web site](#).

If you have any questions regarding CDE Mobile, please contact Tina Jung, Information Officer, Communications Division, at 916-319-0579 or by e-mail at tjung@cde.ca.gov.

We are all a-Twitter: O'Connell is Now Accessible on Social Networking Web site

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell is now accessible via Twitter and will be holding periodic online office hours using the social networking Web site. "Technology is helping break down the barriers between government and the people," said O'Connell. "I hope that Web-based tools will make information from the California Department of Education more accessible to Californians."

According to a recent report posted by The Nielsen Company, the world's leading communications and marketing company, "Twitter.com continues to grow in popularity and importance in both the consumer and corporate worlds. No longer just a platform for friends to stay connected in real time, it has evolved into an important component of brand marketing. Unique visitors to Twitter increased 1,382 percent year-over-year, from 475,000 unique visitors in February 2008 to 7 million in February 2009.

Twitterers (a.k.a. Tweepers) are not primarily teens or college students as you might expect. In fact, in February the largest age group on Twitter was 35-49; with nearly 3 million unique visitors, comprising almost 42 percent of the site's audience, according to Nielsen.

To follow O'Connell on Twitter, please visit the [Twitter SSPI Jack Web page](#) (Outside Source).

If you have any questions regarding O'Connell on Twitter, please contact Cindy Cunningham, Manager, Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, at 916-319-064 or by e-mail at ccunningham@cde.ca.gov.

Frosting Packets Recalled; Salmonella Contamination Suspected

The California Department of Education has been notified by the California Department of Public Health that on July 10, 2009, Country Creations announced the voluntary recall of packets of frosting because of the potential they are contaminated with Salmonella. The frosting packets are included with the company's Country Creations Braided Bread and Country Creations Cinnamon Rolls that were produced and distributed nationwide between September 1, 2008, and June 12, 2009, and sold through school fundraisers and a variety of retailers.

The recall was initiated when Country Creations was notified by its nonfat dry milk supplier that the non-fat dried milk used in their products may be contaminated with Salmonella.

We are notifying you of this recall because a significant amount of the recalled products were distributed through various school fundraisers. We would appreciate your sharing this information within your district, since this product could still be available in consumers' freezers.

The recalled products are NOT commodity items, but may have been purchased for use in school food service operations and for use in fundraisers.

If you have any questions regarding the recall, consumers are asked to contact Country Creations quality assurance representatives at 970-339-9003 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time or refer to the company's recall news release on the [Country Creations Web site](#) (Outside Source).

Nonprofit Educational Web Site Prides Itself on Lack of Partiality

Need to know both sides of the nuclear power issue or whether milk is healthy for humans? [ProCon.org](#) (Outside source) will have the answer—both pro and con.

The five-year-old Web-based organization is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity whose mission is "promoting critical thinking, education, and informed citizenship by presenting controversial issues in a straightforward, nonpartisan primarily pro-con format." Information is presented on 21 different ProCon.org issue Web sites in subjects ranging from the Big Three bailout, medical marijuana, and the U.S.-Iraq war to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, illegal immigration, and doping in sports.

The Web site uses the same unique pro-con format in order to expose readers to differing perspectives and to promote critical thinking. Each perspective on every topic is backed by sourced information. ProCon.org Web sites are free of charge, require no registration, and contain no advertising. The Web sites have been referenced by more than 120 media entities and used in more than 540 schools in 48 states and 14 countries.

If you have any questions regarding ProCon.org, please contact Pam Slater, Information Officer, Communications Division, at 916-319-0818 or by e-mail at pslater@cde.ca.gov.

Pod Casts, Wikis, and Blogs! Oh my!

If you or your staff have been too busy to test drive some of the new collaborative tools of the Internet, the California School Library Association (CSLA) has put together several fun and easy tutorials on discovering assistive technology and the newest tutorial designed for students with an emphasis on safe and responsible Internet use.

Teachers and administrators who participate will learn the Web 2.0 tools that are bringing students in touch with the entire world through social networking, wikis, video, podcasting, and gaming sites. Web 2.0 allows Internet users to go from information retrieval to participation. There are 23 "Things" to complete. Each week begins with a brief explanation of a new Web 2.0 topic, followed by Discovery Exercises that provide the background needed to understand the tools. Then there is an opportunity to practice with an activity. Learners post to their personal Web logs in a blog format about the experience. And yes, an early lesson teaches just how to set up that blog.

You can explore these latest technology tools on the [California Department of Education School Libraries Web page](#). Select the links in the "Web 2.0 Tools for Library and Classroom" section.

If you have any questions regarding the Web 2.0 tools, please contact Barbara Jeffus, School Library Consultant, Curriculum Frameworks and Instructional Resources Division, at 916-319-0445 or by e-mail at bjeffus@cde.ca.gov.

New Program Helps Local Educational Agencies Issue Tax-Exempt Bonds

The Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB) Program is a new program created under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Tax Act of 2009. Applications for the QSCB Program are available on the [California Department of Education QSCB Web page](#).

The QSCB is a tax credit bond program that allows districts to apply for authorization to issue bonds. QSCB allocations are not grants; they are an authorization to seek out and utilize an interest-free bond from an entity desiring a tax credit in lieu of interest. The proceeds may be used to finance new construction, rehabilitation or repair of public school facilities, and the acquisition of land for the public school facilities being constructed or rehabilitated.

Local educational agencies should only apply for this program if they have the capacity to issue and repay debt. The deadline for applying for the first round of allocations is August 25, 2009.

If you have any questions regarding QSCB, please contact Shannon Farrell-Hart, Education Fiscal Services Consultant, School Facilities Planning Division, at 916-323-3923 or by e-mail at sfarrell@cde.ca.gov.

California Meets Requirements for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

California has met the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B, according to the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for fiscal year 2007. The OSEP made this determination on the basis of statewide data submitted by the California Department of Education's Special Education Division in its Annual Performance Report (APR).

The reauthorization of IDEA in 2004 requires each state to develop a State Performance Plan (SPP) that evaluates the

state's efforts to implement the requirements and purposes of the IDEA and describes how the state will improve its implementation. The SPP includes baseline data, measurable and rigorous targets, and improvement activities for 20 indicators. These indicators pertain to such benchmarks as graduation rate, participation and performance on assessments, and ensuring that complaints and hearings are resolved within mandated timelines.

The IDEA requires each state to report annually to the federal Department of Education on its performance vis-à-vis these indicators through its APR. In turn, the U.S. Secretary of Education is required to issue an annual determination letter to each state on its progress in meeting the requirements of the statute. California is one of 28 states that the OSEP determined met the IDEA Part B requirements for 2007. This determination is the highest ranking possible.

If you have any questions regarding the SPP or APR, please contact Chris Drouin, Manager, Assessment, Evaluation, and Support Unit, at 916-327-3547 or by e-mail at cdrouin@cde.ca.gov.

Get Into the Act! Professional Learning Series Spotlights Douglas Reeves, Ph.D.

The Middle Grades Improvement Office announces the addition of three new professional learning presentations by Dr. Douglas Reeves as part of the Get Into the Act! Professional Learning Series. The new professional learning activities will be released on the Taking Center Stage—Act II Web Portal at the end of August.

In the first presentation, Dr. Reeves, a national expert and popular speaker on education issues, discusses "Rigor in the Classroom," leading viewers through four related areas of significance: achievement and student socioeconomic status, power standards, feedback and grading, and the culture of achievement.

In "Making Assessments Work," Dr. Reeves shares tips on how to make common formative and summative assessments work and discusses the difference between objective and subjective assessment. He explores the learning and leadership matrix and extols the power of non-fiction writing.

Dr. Reeves' third presentation, "Effective Accountability," explores the pros and cons of accountability and shares a new concept: holistic accountability.

"Teacher Leadership," the fourth in his series, looks at four teacher leadership strategies and the power of networks. In it, he discusses the importance of teacher leadership and the question, "What's in it for me?"

The founder of the Leadership and Learning Center, Dr. Reeves is the author of more than 20 books and articles on leadership and organizational effectiveness and has twice been named to the Harvard University Distinguished Authors Series. He has been named Brock International Laureate for his contributions to education, received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and awarded the Parent's Choice Award for his writing for children and parents.

Designed specifically for California's middle grade educators, the Get Into the Act! Professional Learning Series features respected experts sharing research-based strategies on a variety of topics geared toward enhancing excellence in middle grades.

You can find information about this presentation on the [California Department of Education Publication Taking Center – ACT II \(TCSII\) Web page](#).

If you have any questions regarding middle grades topics, please contact Joyce Hinkson, Education Programs Consultant, Middle Grades Improvement Office, at 916-322-1892 or by e-mail at TCSII@cde.ca.gov.

Copenhagen Study Team Visits California's Adult Education System

In preparation for week-long review of our California Adult Education system, the California Department of Education (CDE) Adult Education Office hosted a brief July planning meeting with two national leaders from the Copenhagen, Denmark Study Team.

This will be the second visit for Denmark, whose government previously sent a study team more than a year ago to observe kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) and adult programs in the southern part of the state. This fall, the second team, which will be comprised of 13 principals and top-level administrators, will travel from San Francisco through the North Bay to Sacramento.

With a special emphasis on information technology (IT) and distance learning (DL), specific local educational agencies and CDE offices will showcase state-of-the-art technology and instructional methodologies. "We are honored to have this special opportunity for international exchange," said Adult Education Office Administrator Debra Jones.

You can find information about Adult Education on the on the [CDE Adult Education Web page](#). You can also find information on the [Outreach and Technical Assistance Network for Adult Learners Web site](#) (Outside source).

If you have any questions regarding the tour or IT/DL resources, please contact Margaret (Margi) Park, Education Programs Consultant, Adult Education Office, at 916-322-2175 or by e-mail at mpark@cde.ca.gov.

Diagnostic Center, Southern California Supports Literacy Efforts in Santa Maria-Bonita School District

The Diagnostic Center, Southern California (DCSC) recently completed its fifth and final year of a multi-year literacy training project with the Santa Maria-Bonita School District. A total of 78 teachers, administrators, and support staff participated in the project this year which provided in-depth training and multiple levels of support in the area of literacy. Specifically, the project supported the implementation of the state-adopted reading intervention program SRA/REACH and Reading Mastery Plus programs for 524 students attending 15 elementary and four junior high school resource specialist programs, special day classes, and general education intervention programs within the district.

Project components included: consultation and assistance with program implementation, classroom coaching and modeling, a Direct Instruction Coaching Institute consisting of 25 contact hours, and a Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA)-wide Direct Instruction Practitioner's Clinic.

A primary goal of the project was to increase staff skills in the implementation of REACH: Corrective Reading and Reading Mastery programs and raise the academic performance of students participating in the intervention programs. As a result of the project, Reading Master Plus was implemented in all special education elementary classrooms, and administrative teams developed skills in the areas of teaming and collaboration in order to better meet the needs of both general and special education students at their school sites. Three district teachers were also trained as Direct Instruction coaches. The district plans to continue increasing staff understanding of Direct Instruction program implementation and outcomes for students.

If you have any questions regarding this project or the work of the Diagnostic Center, please contact Valerie Johnson, Director, DCSC, at 323-222-8090 or by e-mail at vjohnson@dcs-cde.ca.gov.

California Partnership Academies Develops New Partnerships

The California Department of Education Secondary, Career, and Adult Learning Division High School Transformation Unit recently solidified partnerships with the Career Academy Support Network at the University of California, Berkeley and the Advanced Transportation Technology and Energy Initiative at West Valley Community College in Saratoga to begin work on an extensive array of support materials for students, staff, and administrators of the nearly 500 California Partnership Academies (CPA).

Included in these projects will be the expansion and development of highly innovative curricula (notably in the burgeoning area of green industry), professional development opportunities and materials, and technical assistance services, all of which are expected to be available within the next year, and disseminated electronically at no cost.

You can find information about the CPAs on the [CDE CPA Web page](#).

If you have questions regarding the CPAs, please contact: Karen Shores, Education Programs Consultant, High School Transformation Office, at: 916-319-0478 or by e-mail at kshores@cde.ca.gov.

California Department of Education Waiver Office is All About the Web

The California Department of Education (CDE) Waiver Office will begin posting all waiver documents and backup materials scheduled to go before the State Board of Education (SBE) on the CDE Web site. All waivers now must be prepared using the revised forms available on the [CDE Waivers Web page](#).

The correct forms will show a revision date of April 2009 or later. Please do not use older versions. A new form must be downloaded each time a new waiver is submitted because the forms undergo periodic revision.

In addition, the revised forms contain directions on how to send the electronic waiver request and all backup documentation, including multiple attachments if needed, via a newly created e-mail address at waiver@cde.ca.gov. The documents must be in a Word or Excel format. Portable Document Format (PDF) and picture format files may not be submitted because of their inaccessibility to the visually impaired.

In addition to the electronic copy of a waiver request, a signed original and a copy must be mailed to the Waiver Office, 1430 N Street, Suite 5602, Sacramento, CA 95814. For examples of other waiver documents that have been submitted to the SBE, please access the July 2009 agenda on the [CDE Agenda--July 8-9, 2009 \(Item WC-10 revised 7/3/09\) Web page](#).

If you have any questions regarding the revised online forms, please contact Judy Pinegar, Administrator, Waiver Office, at 916-319-0592 or by e-mail at jpinegar@cde.ca.gov.

State-Level Direct Certification Match Available in August 2009

In 2005, Congress enacted a law requiring all local educational agencies (LEAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program to implement a method of direct certification by July 1, 2008. Direct Certification is the process by which LEAs certify children who are members of households receiving assistance under the Food Stamp Program and California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) as eligible for free school meals, without further application.

LEAs may implement direct certification via either the local data match through their county department of social services or the state-level matching system available through California School Information Services (CSIS), or they can choose to implement both.

The benefits of implementing Direct Certification, include: increasing the number of children eligible to receive free meals, increasing participation in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, increasing the LEA's total federal reimbursement for meals, reducing paperwork associated with certifying children for free meals, and increasing the LEA's ability to maximize Title I funds and other funds tied to the percentage of free and reduced-price eligible children enrolled in school.

To participate in the state-wide data match, the CSIS Coordinator or Food Service Director must first obtain training. Additional training is not necessary if coordinators or directors have already completed such CSIS direct-certification training. To register for training, please visit the [CSIS Records Transfer Training Schedule and Registration Web page](#) (Outside Source).

There is no charge for participating in the CSIS state-level direct certification process.

LEAs that submit student address data on or before **August 24, 2009**, will have the opportunity to be included in the state-level match occurring on **August 25, 2009**.

If you have any questions regarding the training, please contact CSIS, at 916-325-9210 or by e-mail at support@csis.k12.ca.us.

If you have any questions on how to implement direct certification, please contact Jennifer Sheldon, Child Nutrition Consultant, School Nutrition Programs Unit, at 916-322-3195 or by e-mail to jsheldon@cde.ca.gov.

Child Nutrition Information and Payment System: Using the Internet to Submit Meal and/or

Milk Reimbursement Claims in the 2009-10 School Year

With the implementation of the California Department of Education's online Child Nutrition Information and Payment System (CNIPS), child nutrition sponsors must now update their program information using a paperless process through the Internet. The annual renewal consists of completing and submitting School Year (SY) 2009-10 Sponsor and Site Application(s) via the CNIPS. Historically, School Nutrition Program (SNP) sponsors have updated program information by submitting a paper Annual Participation Statement (APS) to the Nutrition Services Division (NSD) every April.

This online process is intended to reduce the workload necessary to complete the application. We are pleased that sponsors report their meal reimbursements are expedited in a timelier manner as a result of this process. This is an added bonus to this paperless system and is consistent with State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell's Paper Reduction Initiative initiated in February 2004.

The CNIPS is now available for sponsors to update their district application packet and immediately start claiming reimbursement for meals and milk served during July 2009 or during any other month in SY 2009-10.

If you have any technical questions related to the use of the CNIPS, please contact the CNIPS Help Desk at 800-952-5609 or by e-mail at cnips@cde.ca.gov. You can also visit the [SNP CNIPS Training Web page](#).

Free and Nutritious Summer Meals Help Fill the Gap and the Tummy

The federally funded Summer Meal programs provide vital aid to students who would otherwise go hungry and helps them to return to school in the fall ready to learn. As all of you are well aware, the economic downturn in our state has created hardship for many of our students and their families who otherwise would have faced a summer of hunger if not for the efforts of district and school staff.

Please continue informing students of these off-campus summer food sites that are available until they return to school. You can find information about locations where children may receive free nutritious meals during school vacation and off-track periods on the [California Department of Education 2009 Summer Meal Service Sites Web page](#).

If you have any questions regarding summer meals, please visit the [CDE Summer Food Service Web page](#).

If you have any questions regarding other summer food sites in your area, please contact Melissa Garza, Summer Food Service Program Specialist, Community Nutrition Programs Unit, at 916-322-5885 or by e-mail at mgarza@cde.ca.gov.

Senate Youth Program Seeks Outstanding High School Seniors or Juniors

The California Department of Education (CDE) is coordinating the 48th annual United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) in California, sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. All public and private high schools in the state are invited to nominate up to two of their outstanding seniors or juniors to participate in the competition.

The California Student Application, California Qualifying Examination, California Instructions, California Frequently Asked Questions, and USSYP brochure will be available on Friday, August 14, 2009, on the [CDE United States Senate Youth Program Web page](#).

The completed application packet containing an original and one copy of the California Student Application, California Qualifying Examination, and an unofficial student transcript must be submitted for each candidate to the CDE by the postmarked deadline of **Thursday, October 1, 2009**.

If you have any questions regarding the USSYP, please contact Carol Smith, USSYP Coordinator, Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, at 916-319-0577 or by e-mail at csmith@cde.ca.gov.

Questions: Executive Office | 916-319-0800
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Last Reviewed: Thursday, August 13, 2009