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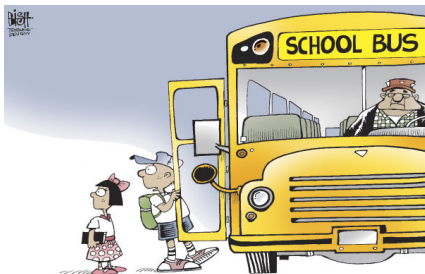
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I NEVER KNEW THAT MOM COULD DO CARTWHEELS

2016-17 School Year Kick-Off

If the Broncos are in the middle of training camp and the farmers markets are full of Palisade peaches, Rocky Ford cantaloupes and Olathe sweet corn, it can mean only one thing: Summer is almost over and school is starting back up across Colorado. We hope you enjoyed some well-deserved time away from the board table so you could recharge your batteries and get ready for a great 2016-17 school year.



Your Thoughts?

The U.S. Department of Education is collecting input from stakeholders, including school board members, regarding the educational and technical assistance needs of states and school districts. This information will be used to help decide how these needs might be addressed by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

To participate, all you need to do is complete a [five-question survey](#). When you access the survey, select "Other" on question No. 2 and type in "School Board Member" in the text field. Then answer the remainder of the questions. CASB has [additional information](#) in our Learning

Center.

The survey will be available until Thursday, Aug. 18.



The Three Rs plus CTE

The Education and the Workforce Committee of the U.S. House approved the "Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act" in July. This legislation amends the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, first passed in the 1980s. [Who the heck was Carl D. Perkins?](#) (Hint: He's not the singer-songwriter of "Blue Suede Shoes" fame.)

Career and Technical Education has become a hot-button topic in public education as educators work to ensure every student is career- or workforce ready when they graduate.

Highlights of the [proposed bill](#) include:

- Provides flexibility to the states in how they use federal CTE funds
- Improves alignment between career and technical education and training for jobs in demand
- Attempts to make it easier to access CTE funds

Rep. Jared Polis, D-Boulder, is a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, but he does not serve on the subcommittee that proposed the bill. Rep. Polis voted as a member of the committee as a whole to send the bill to the full House. Congress is on summer recess until September, but it is hoped that the House will vote on the bill once it returns and send it to the Senate. CASB encourages all of our members to contact their members of Congress and ask them to support the bill. [Additional committee information](#)



1970s Flashback

There were a lot of groovy things about the 70s: Donna Summer, the Bicentennial and Star Wars, to name a few. The decade also featured some bummers, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB). Never heard of PCBs? That's because the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) banned their use in 1979. PCBs were used in electric components, including ballasts in florescent lighting fixtures. When these ballasts fail, they often leak PCBs and require extensive cleanup.

What does this nostalgic road trip to the *ME* decade have to do with *YOU*? While PCBs have not been used for more than 30 years, the EPA suspects there are still a bunch of fixtures lurking in buildings built before 1980. In an attempt to clean up these decades-old leftovers, the EPA is proposing new rules for their removal and replacement with non-PCB ballasts. These proposed rules would apply only to public buildings, child-care sites and elementary and secondary schools built before 1980. Currently, the EPA is looking at a two- or four-year phaseout of ballasts that contain PCBs, with target dates of 2020 to 2022.

The EPA estimates there are more that 1.2 million florescent lighting fixtures that contain PCBs in school building across the nation. The EPA estimates it costs approximately \$185 per fixture to replace the PCB ballast. While there may be some savings due to improved energy efficiency from the new equipment, the cost to school districts remains considerable. The EPA is accepting public comments on the proposed new rules until Sept. 28, 2016. Please talk with your superintendent and leadership teams to see if these rules would impact your school district. Comments can be sent to:

[Mr. Peter Gimlin](#)

Environmental Protection Agency
1201 Pennsylvania Avenue NW – 7404T
Washington DC 20460

If new rules are approved, an announcement will come in early 2017. Stay tuned as additional information becomes available.

CASB will be publishing the School Board Advocate once a month when the Colorado General Assembly is not in session. Once the session begins, we will publish twice a month. If you have feedback about the School Board Advocate or suggestions for future editions, please contact [Matt Cook](#), director of public policy and advocacy.

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