

Fourth District Legislative Advocacy Communicator



Fourth District PTA Advocacy Committee

January 2009

CA Budget Crisis Deepens

If ever there were a time to be seriously worried about the state of education funding in California, this is it. The State of California is expected to run out of cash next month. California faces an estimated \$41.6 billion budget shortfall over the next 18 months. Many of the California-based banks that allowed vendors to be paid on state IOUs the last time around no longer exist and the ability for school districts to borrow money while politicians in Sacramento feud has ended with the credit market crisis.

Since the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, the funding for public education has been on a roller coaster ride with the annual ups and downs of state revenue collections and at the mercy of state legislators who have become increasingly divided by partisan politics and sometimes seem unwilling to work together to find a solution.

Governor Schwarzenegger recently vetoed a partial solution passed by the Democrats in December. The governor has proposed a combination of spending reductions and “revenue enhancements” (i.e., tax increases) that have yet to be supported by Republican legislators. His proposal includes \$1.1 billion in cuts to education plus the deferral of school payments from April to July (making widespread layoffs in districts across the state inevitable). The CTA (California Teachers Association) has proposed a 1 cent tax increase with monies to go strictly to education – but even if this were to make it on the ballot and be approved by voters, it will not help with the current budget crisis. Observers agree that we are “at the brink” and that some combination of revenue increases along with spending cuts will be needed to come up with a state budget. How much of those cuts fall on public education remains to be seen. California State PTA has always advocated for a balanced approach to solving the education funding crisis, with both cuts and revenue increases.

Calendar of Events

Event	Date	Time	Place
Advocacy Roundtable	Tues. Feb 3	9:30 – 11:00 am	Newport Mesa School District
State PTA Legislation Conference	Feb. 22-24 Sun-Mon-Tues		Sacramento
Sacramento Safari 4th District PTA Trip	March 30-31 Mon-Tues		Sacramento
Advocacy Roundtable	April 24, Fri	9:30 – 11:00 am	OCDE Rm 1001
EdSource Forum	April 17, Fri		Irvine Hyatt
California State PTA Convention	April 30-May 3 Thurs-Fri-Sat-Sun		San Jose

Tips for becoming a better Leg Rep

- Join Fourth District PTA’s emailed Leg Link
- Subscribe to Capitol Alerts from the Sac Bee
- Attend Advocacy Roundtables & Trainings

Ask a Leg Rep

If you have a question concerning legislative issues, please feel free to contact:
advocacy@fourthdistrictpta.org - someone from the Fourth District A-Team (Advocacy Committee) will respond to your request.

Key Contacts

- <http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org/legislation/index.html>
- <http://www.sacbee.com/static/weblogs/capitolalertlatest/>
- <http://www.capta.org/sections/advocacy/local-advocacy.cfm>
- <http://www.pta.org/pta>