

## Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, November 2012

Details are in the November issue of the *Advocacy Communicator*

- Governor Brown signed several bills that were supported by California State PTA. Here are the three most important ones:
  - **SB 1458** changes California's Academic Performance Index, or API, which is used to rate public schools in the state. Standardized tests now will carry less weight. Promotion rates, graduation rates, and college and career readiness factors were added to the evaluation. There will also be more emphasis on science and social science instruction.
  - **AB 1575** prohibits public schools from charging student fees for required school materials or participation in educational activities. It provides guidelines that allow schools to participate in voluntary fund raising. This bill settles a lawsuit that was initiated by the ACLU in 2010.
  - Currently, a young person who wants to seal a juvenile criminal record has to prove that he or she has been rehabilitated. Under **AB 2040** a young person who was prostituted as a minor does not need to meet this requirement in order to have his or her records sealed.
- A task force set up by State Superintendent Tom Torlakson issued a report with recommendations on better ways to recruit and train teachers and principals. The superintendent appointed two deputy superintendents to implement the ideas and the state Commission on Teacher Credentialing is working on them as well.
- A great Advocacy Roundtable is coming up on November 30. Representatives from both sides of the aisle will give their inside views on what's going on in Sacramento. It should be interesting!