

Fourth District Legislative Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

DECEMBER 2012

Legislative Analyst's report has good news for public schools

After ten years of relentless budget cuts, brighter days may be ahead for California's public schools.

The state will have a significantly smaller budget deficit in the next year. After that, revenues will grow substantially, possibly resulting in a \$9 billion surplus by 2017-18, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office, a non-partisan state agency that provides analysis and recommendations to the state legislature.

The \$6 billion in mid-year budget cuts that were looming over public education this year will not occur. Funding for K-14 schools is expected to increase from about \$53.8 billion in the current fiscal year to \$66.5 billion in 2017-18. The state will be able to repay the \$13 billion owed to public schools and community colleges over the next five years, the LAO says.

One reason for this good news is the passage of Prop. 30, which increases income taxes for wealthy Californians for seven years and state sales tax for four years, and is expected to raise about \$7 billion a year. The LAO also credits previous budget cuts and the state's economic recovery.

School funding got another boost with the passage of Prop. 39, which changes the way multistate businesses are taxed. This is expected to raise an additional \$1 billion per year. For the first five years, half of this goes to clean energy research and development. The state General Fund receives the remaining \$500 million and, beginning in 2018-19, gets the entire \$1 billion. As a result of the new revenue, funds going to K-14 schools under the Prop. 98 minimum funding guarantee will increase approximately \$200 million annually for five years and at least \$500 million each year thereafter.

For the current year, K-12 spending will remain flat, at \$7,530 per student, according to the LAO. This is because the new revenue from Prop. 30 will be used to begin paying off deferred payments that the state owes to schools and community colleges.

After this, school funding will increase by \$2 billion to \$3 billion each year, through 2017-18, the LAO says.

However, the state has a long way to go to get school funding, staffing and services back up to the national average. California currently ranks at or near the bottom

Calendar of Events

Advocacy Roundtable

Friday, January 25, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Orange County Department of Education

200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa 92626

★Open to all PTA members.

California State PTA Legislative Conference

February 25 and 26, in Sacramento

For more information, go to www.capta.org

among states in per pupil funding, class size, counselors, librarians and nurses.

For the 2013-14 budget, the governor and legislature will need to tackle a \$1.9 billion deficit (down from a \$16 billion shortfall at the start of the current fiscal year). The deficit is due mainly to lower than expected revenues for the past two years and higher than expected expenditures.

The LAO predicts operating surpluses beginning in 2014-15, assuming California's economy continues to grow and federal officials take action to avoid the economic problems caused by the so-called "fiscal cliff."

The LAO report repeatedly urges the legislature and governor to be cautious with the new revenues and to keep a tight rein on spending.

To read the LAO's report, go to www.lao.ca.gov. There are several related articles at www.edsource.org.

The Latest Education News from Washington D.C.

presented by

Jacque Chevalier

National PTA's Senior Education Policy Analyst

Friday, January 25

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Orange County Department of Education

Building D, Rooms 1001 and 1002

200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa 92626

All PTA members are welcome to attend.

No need to RSVP... just show up!

Questions? Contact Fran Sdao at
roundtables@fourthdistrictpta.org

Education issues to be tackled by the California Legislature

As the new legislative session begins, California State PTA will be watching for developments on several important education issues. These include:

Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

Common Core Standards for English language arts and mathematics were adopted by California and 44 other states two years ago. The purpose was to create consistent expectations and assessments, to better prepare students for higher education and a global economy, and to allow for collaboration among states on best practices and professional development. In addition, California is one of two dozen states taking a lead role in writing the Next Generation Science Standards, due to be released by the end of this year.

California is in the process of implementing the CCSS, which requires new instructional materials, teacher training and a new testing system. Due to budget constraints in previous years, the adoption of new textbooks and the replacement of the STAR testing system were postponed until the 2015-16 school year.

Standardized Testing

California is part of a multi-state consortium to develop standardized tests aligned with the CCSS. The tests will be administered online and will be individually tailored, with questions based on a student's previous answers.

With the current testing system expiring in 2015, the state legislature will have to decide what grade levels should be tested and how often, and what subjects should be covered. They will need to ensure that all schools have the required technology by 2015, or provide an alternative way for students to take the test. Other options are to postpone the new test, or administer it but disconnect it from high-stakes accountability.

Weighted Student Formula

In January, Gov. Brown proposed replacing the current convoluted school funding system with a Weighted Student Formula. School districts and charter schools would receive a base amount for each pupil, plus an additional amount for low-income students and English language learners. The proposal was dropped in response to

opposition from State PTA and others in the California Education Coalition, who feared that many school districts would be losers in a redistribution of funds during a time of meager budgets. With the passage of Prop. 30, it is expected that the governor will again present some version of this in his January budget proposal.

Don't be left behind!

Sacramento Safari, March 18-19

Registration opens mid-December at
www.fourthdistrictpta.org

Reminders:

- In order to attend, you must be designated as a representative by a vote of your PTA.
- Units and councils may send as many representatives as they like.
- Allocate about \$600 in your PTA budget for each attendee.

Changes in OC legislative districts

Orange County's representation in the state legislature has seen some significant changes, due to last year's redrawing of district lines, term limits, and the November election.

The county now has seven assembly districts, instead of nine. (In several cases, districts cross county lines.)

Senator Tom Harman and Assembly Members Jose Solorio, Tony Mendoza, and Jim Silva were termed out.

Assemblyman Chris Norby, who ran for re-election in the newly drawn 65th Assembly District, was defeated by Sharon Quirk-Silva.

Former Assemblyman Jeff Miller ran for state Senate in a Riverside district, but was not elected. Other new Orange County Assembly members are Tom Daly (69th District) and Travis Allen (72nd District.)

State Senators Bob Huff and Mimi Walters were re-elected in newly drawn districts. Senator Mark Wyland is also continuing, but his new district does not include any part of Orange County.

Due to redistricting and the fact that even numbered state senate districts do not come up for election until 2014, two Orange County state senate districts (32 and 36) will not have elected representation for two years.

New and returning senators and assembly members are sworn in and the new legislative session begins on December 3. Business is not conducted until January 7.

Many thanks to all of the PTA members who worked so hard to pass Prop. 38.

Your efforts helped educate the public about the urgent need for increased school funding. PTA will continue that effort until our children and schools get the support they deserve.