

# Fourth District Legislative Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

FEBRUARY 2013

## Gov. Brown's Proposed Budget

Governor Brown has proposed a 2013-14 state budget that would increase revenues for public education and radically change the way schools in California are funded.

School districts would receive \$11,742 per student, a \$337 increase from the current year and \$1,315 more than the previous year. Total Prop. 98 funding would rise to \$56.2 billion, a \$2.7 billion increase over the 2012-13 year.

California K-12 education is funded through a complex process, with a different formula for each school district in the state. The Governor proposes to replace this outdated system with a "local control funding formula" (previously called a "weighted student formula"). Revenue limits and most categorical funds would be replaced with a statewide per student base amount. School districts would receive an additional 35 percent for students who are low income, English learners or in foster care, and districts with more than 50 percent of such students would receive an additional "concentration factor" of 35 percent per designated student. Spending decisions would be made by school districts, not individual schools. Districts would be required to get input from teachers, parents and community members.

Supplemental funding would be provided to lower class sizes in Kindergarten through third grade and to provide career technical education classes in high school. Several programs would be excluded from consolidation within the new funding formula, including special education, the After School Education and Safety Program, child nutrition and home-to-school transportation.

Gov. Brown says this new formula would mean more control, flexibility and accountability at the local level. It would increase revenue transparency and ensure that resources are allocated to meet student needs. All school districts would be required to adopt an annual District Plan for Student Achievement showing how they will use state funding to improve schools, benefit low-income students, English learners and foster children, and implement Common Core Standards.

The new system would be implemented gradually over the next seven years to assure that districts do not suffer severe budget cuts due to the reallocation of funding. The governor's budget proposal includes \$1.6 billion to begin moving districts to a "target base rate" as part of this transition.

## Calendar of Events

### Registration Deadline for Sacramento Safari

February 22

### California State PTA Legislative Conference

February 25 and 26, in Sacramento

For more information, go to [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org)

### Sacramento Safari Orientation

Friday March 1, 2013 9:30-11 a.m.

Fountain Valley School District

10055 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley, 92708

★ All Safari participants should attend.

### Sacramento Safari

March 18 and 19 in Sacramento

The Governor's budget also includes plans to begin repaying the \$10.4 billion owed to schools. This debt was built up during the past five years when the state deferred payments to school districts, requiring them to borrow money or reduce spending to make ends meet. The passage of Prop. 30 allowed the state to repay \$2.2 billion of that debt and the Governor proposes to repay an additional \$1.9 billion in the next fiscal year. This would put the state on track to pay off the entire debt by 2016-17.

The Governor's most controversial idea may be his plan to dedicate most of the new Prop. 39 revenue to schools and to count that as part of the Prop. 98 minimum funding guarantee. Approved by voters in November, Prop. 39 changes the way multistate corporations are taxed and requires half of the resulting revenue increase to be spent on clean energy projects for the first five years. Gov. Brown would dedicate all of this funding (\$450 million in 2013-14 and \$550 million per year after that) to school districts and community college districts on a per student basis, regardless of local needs for clean energy projects. The Legislative Analyst's Office says this contradicts the provisions of both Prop. 98 and Prop. 39.

All of these proposals must now be considered by the state Assembly and Senate, which will develop their own versions of the budget. The state Constitution requires the budget to be ready for the governor's signature by June 15.

## Jacque Chevalier presents National PTA Advocacy Program

By Shereen Walter, Fourth District PTA Advocacy Team

Special guest speaker Jacque Chevalier, National PTA Senior Education Policy Analyst, engaged us at our third Advocacy Roundtable of the year, with information about National PTA's Federal Advocacy program. Jacque's areas of expertise are general education K-12, school safety, and budget and appropriations.

National PTA advocates before Congress and the Administration to advance policies in the areas of general education, special education, early childhood education, education funding, child health and nutrition, juvenile justice and delinquency prevention and school safety.

National PTA is involved with the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, or ESEA (No Child Left Behind is the seventh iteration of ESEA!) and the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) as well as advocating for the full funding of federal education formula grants such as Title I, IDEA and Head Start.

Despite all the negotiations on these reauthorizations, the disappointing news is that the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress is unlikely to reauthorize any of these education programs. However, funding does not stop and the programs remain in effect until they are modified through the reauthorization process.

Jacque also talked about PTA's stance on gun violence, in the wake of the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut.

National PTA has a long history of advocating for the safety of our nation's children and youth and supports federal efforts to protect children and youth from gun violence. National PTA believes school safety is a critical priority and that every attempt must be made to reduce violence, especially incidents involving the use of firearms. Parents, educators, community members, and gov-

ernment must prioritize this issue to ensure a safe learning environment for all students.

National PTA believes that the best learning environment for our students is schools that are 100 percent gun free. PTA's policy agenda regarding Firearm Safety and Gun Violence Prevention includes:

- Universal background checks.
- Federal ban on sale and purchase of military-style assault weapons.
- Federal ban on high capacity, non-sporting ammunition.
- Expanded access and support for mental health services.

As Jacque stated, "An increase in mental health professionals will have more of an impact than the addition of one armed security guard."

Rest assured that our National PTA Advocates are working as tirelessly in Washington DC, as our California State PTA Advocates do in Sacramento, all for the protection and care of children and youth across the nation.



### Last chance to sign up for Sacramento Safari!

The registration deadline is February 22, but participation is limited and seats are filling fast. Don't miss out on the most exciting event of our advocacy year.

**Register today at [www.fourthdistrictpta.org](http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org)**

### Districts must restore school year

School districts that cut days from their school year during recent years of budget cuts must go back to 180-day school years, starting in 2015-16. Gov. Brown confirmed his agreement with this in a supplemental trailer bill to his proposed budget.

The state legislature in 2008 reduced the required number of school days to 175 to give school districts flexibility in dealing with budget cuts. This reduction was set to expire at the end of the 2014-15 school year.

A survey by the Legislative Analyst's Office showed that almost 40 percent of California's schools districts have cut their academic years.

#### Save the Date!

Friday, April 26  
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

### Advocacy Roundtable

*Program to be announced*

Fountain Valley School District  
10055 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley 92708