

Fourth District Legislative Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

MARCH 2013



Fourth District PTA members at the CAPTA conference

CAPTA Legislation Conference

Several members of the Fourth District PTA Advocacy Team attended the California State PTA Legislation Conference February 25 and 26. Full reports will be posted at fourthdistrictpta.org. Here are clips from some of the speakers:

Lupita Cortez Alcalá, Deputy State Superintendent of Instruction *Greatness by Design*, written by a state task force, is a blueprint for ensuring that teachers and administrators are well-prepared and well-supported and have opportunities to grow throughout their careers.

Rick Simpson, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Assembly Speaker "The passage of Prop 30 stops the bleeding but doesn't provide any windfall for education, despite what the advertising promised."

Karen Staph Walters, Governor's Education Policy Advisor The governor is passionate about local control and the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). "I can absolutely tell you that this is his top education priority."

Assemblymember Nancy Skinner She has introduced state legislation to regulate the sale of ammunition and ban the sale of conversion kits that allow guns to shoot 30 or more bullets.

Assemblymember Joan Buchanan On the LCFF: "Re-arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic doesn't keep the ship from sinking...Why do we need to push through something in a couple of months that is going to affect education for decades to come?"

Dan Schnur, Director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics at USC Regarding Prop 30 and education funding: "The challenge that California faces is that voters think they fixed the problem, and they didn't."

Mac Taylor, California's Legislative Analyst The state is now in a much better fiscal situation. However,

Calendar of Events

Sacramento Safari

March 18 and 19 in Sacramento

Advocacy Roundtable

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

Fountain Valley School District

10055 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley 92708

★ Open to all PTA members.

two-thirds of the state's revenue still comes from the personal income tax, which is very volatile, so we're not out of the woods yet.

Nick Schweizer, Education Program Budget Manager The fiscal situation is still very tight, even with Prop. 30. The Governor prioritized education and hopes to change the funding formula and pay down deferrals.

Abe Hajela, Lead Counsel in the *Robles-Wong v. California* lawsuit The lawsuit asks the court to compel the State to align its school finance system with the educational program that the State has put in place. The case is on appeal and a hearing is expected in 3 to 18 months.

Rick Pratt, Chief Consultant to the Assembly Education Committee Several bills have been introduced to reform teacher evaluations and to reduce the time and cost of teacher dismissals.

PTA supports assault weapons ban

National PTA and California State PTA support the Assault Weapons Ban of 2013, authored by California Senator Dianne Feinstein. The proposed legislation would stop the sale, transfer, importation and manufacturing of military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition feeding devices.

CAPTA's support is authorized by a resolution passed at the 1989 state convention titled "Ban on Military and Assault-Type Weapons," and by Position Statement 4.5.34, adopted in 1990 and reaffirmed in 2011.

"We do not need more guns and ammunition on our school campuses," said CAPTA President Carol Kocivar. "What we need, especially in California, is more counselors, and mental health services, and smaller class sizes and school nurses. Let's not escalate a gun culture. Let's escalate our support for a safe and high-quality education for all children."

Governor and LAO issue reports on Local Control Funding Formula

The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) proposed by Gov. Brown as part of the 2013-14 state budget would be the biggest change in the state's school funding system in several decades. Revenue limits and most categorical funds would be replaced with a statewide per pupil base amount, with additional funding for students who are low income, English learners, or foster children.

School District	2011-12	2019-20
Anaheim	\$6,262	\$11,656
Buena Park	6,053	10,378
Centralia	5,925	10,025
Cypress	5,833	8,772
Fountain Valley	5,707	8,513
Fullerton	5,972	9,079
Huntington Beach City	5,739	8,044
La Habra	6,012	8,925
Magnolia	6,122	11,190
Ocean View	6,038	9,077
Savanna	6,247	10,517
Westminster	6,136	10,920
Anaheim Union	7,232	11,297
Fullerton Joint Union	7,329	10,271
Huntington Beach Union	7,263	10,117
Brea-Olinda	6,076	9,066
Capistrano	6,002	8,964
Garden Grove	6,360	10,959
Laguna Beach	13,362	13,362
Newport-Mesa	9,198	9,553
Orange	6,124	9,879
Placentia-Yorba Linda	6,252	9,209
Santa Ana	6,398	11,803
Saddleback Valley	6,214	9,055
Tustin	6,068	9,453
Irvine	6,244	8,707
Los Alamitos	6,132	8,616

The state Department of Finance released a report showing school district funding under the new formula. The chart at left shows Orange County per student funding for 2011-12 and projected per student revenues at full implementation, expected in 2019-20. The dollar amounts are for state funding only and do not include federal revenue (such as special education) or categorical funds not included in the LCFF (such as Home to School Transportation).

According to the DOF report, no school district will receive less than it did in 2012-13 and most will receive funding increases under the LCFF.

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) also issued a detailed report, stating that the LCFF would replace an outdated and illogical school funding system with a formula that is uniform, easy to understand and transparent. Implementation over several years will cost about \$15.5 billion. The Governor's proposed budget includes \$1.6 billion to begin the process.

The LAO report also lists several concerns, including:

- Two outdated and inequitable categorical programs, Home to School Transportation and the Targeted Instructional Improvement Grant, are left outside the funding formula.
- Will there be enough accountability to ensure that the additional funding is used for the benefit of the children it is intended to help?
- Basic aid districts will continue to receive more funding than other districts.

CAPTA's position on the LCFF

PTA supports the concept of additional dollars for English learners and low-income children and supports the concept of local control over education dollars. PTA wants to ensure that critical programs that are supported through categorical funding will continue under the new formula.

PTA also believes that whenever a change in policy is proposed, it is important for the policy to be discussed and hearings held in the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature, rather than having these policy proposals introduced in the budget. This ensures thoughtful and transparent decisions are made.

The report by the Department of Finance includes charter schools and other data. The complete report is at www.dof.ca.gov. Click on **Local Control Funding Formula (LLCF) Information**.

The LAO report is at www.lao.ca.gov. Click on **The 2013-14 Budget: Restructuring the K-12 Funding System**