

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, June 2013

Details are in the June issue of the *Advocacy Communicator*.

- Gov. Brown issued the “May Revise,” a new version of his proposed state budget based on tax receipts for the year so far. He is still being conservative with the money. He reduced the general fund even though the state has received a lot more tax revenue than expected. However, he did add \$1.6 billion for education, with \$1 billion of that to go towards implementing the Common Core Standards.
- Gov. Brown is still adamant about passing his Local Control Funding Formula, which would completely change the way schools are funded in California. The state Assembly and the state Senate have different versions of that formula. They need to combine those in a single version and then submit it to the governor for approval.
- Things are going to be happening quickly now because the legislators have to finish their version of the state budget by June 15, otherwise they won’t get paid until the budget passes. PTA has some concerns about the funding formula, so please watch for emails from state PTA or Fourth District PTA, because we might need to communicate our concerns to the legislators or the governor.
- Nine school districts in California, including Santa Ana Unified, are applying for a No Child Left Behind waiver separately from the state. No Child Left Behind requires schools and districts to show that they are moving towards 100 percent proficiency of all students in English language arts and math by 2014, a goal that most people think is impossible to achieve. There are funding restrictions and other repercussions for schools that don’t meet the goal. Several states have gotten waivers to get around that, but California refused to go along with the federal requirements for accountability. The nine school districts, working together, have come up with an accountability system that they think will be accepted by U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan.
- Fourth District PTA has a great program of resources for anyone who wants to get involved in advocacy. We all should pay attention to this, because what happens in Sacramento often has a bigger impact on our schools than what happens in our local districts.