

# Fourth District Legislative Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

SEPTEMBER 2013

## California has a new, simplified school funding system

This school year marks a historic change for California public education. A new, simplified funding system has been initiated, replacing a decades-old complex funding process that had a different formula for every school district in the state.

Under the newly-established Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) every school district receives the same per-student amount (or “base grant”), depending on the grade levels that are served. Districts receive an additional 20 percent for students who are low income, English learners or foster children. Districts with 55 percent or more of these high needs students receive an additional “concentration factor” of 50 percent of the base grant for each student above the 55 percent mark.

Previously a large percentage of state funding was tied up in categorical money that could only be spent for specific purposes. LCFF eliminated most categorical funds and school districts now have much more control and flexibility in deciding how to spend their state funding. This means it is more important than ever for parents to be actively involved in their school district’s decision-making process.

Beginning next July, each district will have to develop a Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP),

with input from parents and the public, and submit it to the county department of education for review. There will be consequences for districts that fail to meet their stated goals. The details of this process are being developed by the State Department of Education.

LCFF will be implemented over the next eight years. During that time, the state plans to increase education funding until it returns to 2007-08 levels. However, this will still leave California far below other states in per student spending. PTA will continue to fight for adequate funding for public education.

There are concerns that eliminating funds for specific programs and giving school districts more control over spending will have unintended consequences, especially in times of lower tax revenues. Some education experts believe that programs such as ROP or adult education will disappear as districts shift funding to other priorities.

To learn more about how LCFF will impact Orange County school districts, attend the Fourth District PTA Advocacy Roundtable on September 20. (Details below.)

Information is also available at [www.edsource.org](http://www.edsource.org) and [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov) (California Department of Education).

## Advocacy Training Roundtable

Friday, September 20

9:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Fountain Valley School District Board Room

10055 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley 92708

(Please park at the back or side of the building, not in front.)

- Beginners session: How to be an effective unit or council legislative representative.
- Advanced session: In-depth information about how PTA leaders and members can advocate locally as the Local Control Funding Formula is implemented.

All PTA members are welcome to attend.

Please RSVP at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Sept2013AdvocacyRoundtable>

Keynote Speaker



**Ron Bennett**

CEO of School Services of California

**“What the Local Control Funding  
Formula Means to Orange County Schools”**

## Sacramento Safari: Bringing Our Voices to the State Capitol

### What is it?

Sacramento Safari is Fourth District PTA's annual trip to our State Capitol. It is a unique opportunity to examine the issues that impact our schools, learn about the workings of our state government, and network with other Fourth District PTA parents. This year's Safari will take place March 17-18..



more than one representative. Attendees under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent.

### Don't miss this exciting opportunity!

Sacramento Safari costs are a legitimate PTA expense. Plan to send a representative from your unit or council and include the costs in your PTA's annual budget.

### Why is it important?

Participants meet with California State PTA advocates and a variety of knowledgeable speakers, with time for questions and answers. Past speakers have included state legislators or their staff members, representatives from the California Department of Education, the Legislative Analyst, and noted Sacramento journalists.

Appointments are set up for small groups to meet with individual legislators in their offices in the capitol building. It's an exciting, information-packed two-day experience!

### How much does it cost?

The cost for the trip is about \$600, including hotel stay and travel expenses. Participants make their own travel arrangements. Single or double occupancy hotel reservations are arranged by Fourth District PTA. Housing and some Safari activities are at the Embassy Suites, 100 Capitol Mall, about a half mile from the State Capitol.

### Who may participate?

Sacramento Safari participants must be appointed by a vote of a unit or council. Units and councils may send

## Our Advocacy Program

Advocating for our children, families and public schools is a vital part of Fourth District PTA's program. Our goal is to create a network of council and unit advocacy chairs to help inform our members about important issues and empower them to speak out on behalf of children and youth.

The Fourth District PTA Advocacy Committee (the "A-Team") provides programs, resources and activities to meet this goal. These include:

- **Four Advocacy Roundtables**, featuring expert speakers on a variety of topics. Open to all PTA members.
- **Sacramento Safari**, March 17-18, takes about 90 PTA members to Sacramento to learn about the issues and visit legislators' offices.
- The *Advocacy Communicator*, for advocacy chairs to use and share. Published monthly, September through June, and available at [www.fourthdistrictpta.org](http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org).
- **Talking Points** with a brief summary of current information accompany each issue of the *Advocacy Communicator*. Advocacy chairs can use these to make oral reports to their units or councils.
- **Speaker's Bureau**: A-Team members come to your meeting to talk about a variety of advocacy issues.
- **Leg-Link**, emails are sent to inform members about legislative activities and alert them when action is needed.. Sign up at [www.fourthdistrictpta.org](http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org).
- **Advocacy Resource Notebooks** with information and resources for local advocates. May be purchased for \$10 at the Fourth District PTA office.
- **Council Legislative/Advocacy Chair Meetings** to discuss our advocacy programs, get feedback, and support local efforts.

For more information, contact Shereen Walter, Fourth District PTA Vice President for Advocacy, at [advocacy@fourthdistrictpta.org](mailto:advocacy@fourthdistrictpta.org).

## Plan Your Advocacy Year

### Advocacy Roundtables

September 20	9:30 a.m.—11:45 a.m.
November 15	10:30 a.m.—Noon
January 24	9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
April 4	9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

### Sacramento Safari

Orientation, March 7  
Trip, March 17 and 18

More information about these events will be available in the *Advocacy Communicator*, *Orange Leaves*, *Leg-Link* and on [www.fourthdistrictpta.org](http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org).