

# Fourth District Legislative Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

MARCH 2014

## LCAP process should be underway in every California school district

By now, every school district should be actively working on the development of its Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).

Under the new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), districts have much more discretion in how they spend their funding. However, they must develop a detailed plan to show how the money will be used to improve achievement and to meet the needs of low-income students, English learners and foster children.

Efforts should be underway now to collect input and suggestions from parents, students, staff and community members. Steps should be taken to form a parent advisory committee, which must review the plan developed by the district. If a district has 15 percent or more English learners, a separate parent committee must provide feedback in this area.

The final plan must be approved by the school district's board of trustees by July 1.

PTA members can be actively involved by asking school and district administrators to schedule presentations and participate directly in conversations about the following:

- The programs and services currently being offered in the district, and their effectiveness in achieving student outcomes.
- Strategies, programs and services to improve student outcomes at your schools and for groups of students, and the resources needed.
- The district's current budget-building process, and how the district will be adapting its planning and budgeting processes to meet the new requirements of the LCFF and LCAP.

The initial plan will cover three years, but must be updated annually by the district by July 1 of each following year.

For more information, go to:

- **California State PTA** [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org)
- The **EdSource** Guide to Local Control Funding Formula [www.edsource.org](http://www.edsource.org) (under Special Projects)
- **WestEd** offers a variety of videos on LCFF at <http://lcff.wested.org> (under LCFF Channel)

## Calendar of Events

### Sacramento Safari Orientation

Friday, March 7, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Fountain Valley School District Board Room  
10055 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley  
★**All Safari participants should attend.**

### Sacramento Safari

March 17 and 18

### Advocacy Roundtable

Friday, April 4, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Orange County Department of Education  
Building A, Board Room  
200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa  
★**Open to all PTA members.**

## How to track PTA-supported bills

Where can you go to find information about legislative bills supported by National and State PTA?

For news from Capitol Hill about legislative issues affecting families, schools, and communities, go to the National PTA website: [www.pta.org/takesaction](http://www.pta.org/takesaction). You can sign up to receive action alerts on national public policy issues important to PTA.

For complete legislative information on the U.S. Congress, go to the Library of Congress legislative website: <http://beta.congress.gov>. The site includes schedules of activities, bill searches, information about the legislative process, a roster of members, and more.

Legislative news from Sacramento is available at [www.fourthdistrictpta.org](http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org) under Advocacy. Sign up to receive legislative updates through LegLinks.

For additional resources and to find out the status of current legislation being followed by California State PTA, go to [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org). Sign up for Legislative Alerts and for the Sacramento Update newsletter.

You can also track a state bill through the official state legislative information website, [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov).

Keep in mind that a bill must pass both houses of the legislature (the House of Representatives and the Senate in Congress or the Assembly and Senate in California) before it can be signed into law by either the President or the Governor.

## Fourth District PTA makes it easy to be an advocacy chair

The legislative or advocacy chair may seem like the most difficult job for a PTA to fill.

Everyone thinks it's a hard job. Everyone thinks you have to be an expert.

Think again.

Here in Fourth District PTA, we make the job as easy as possible. All it requires is a little effort and some computer skills.

It also helps to have a basic understanding that what goes on in Washington, D.C. and especially in Sacramento has a HUGE impact on all of our schools and that it behooves all of us to pay attention.

What should an advocacy chair expect to do? He or she should inform members about education-related activities in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. That's easy to do. Fourth District PTA produces the *Advocacy Communicator* newsletter every month, September through June, with the latest news. When the email announcement of publication arrives, the advocacy chair can make copies for members or simply forward the email. We even provide talking points that can be read as a brief oral report at a PTA meeting.

The advocacy chair should also notify members when an important piece of legislation is being considered so that members can take action as recommended by PTA. This is easy to do by signing up for legislative alerts through Fourth District PTA, California State PTA, and/

or National PTA. Legislative action alerts can then be forwarded to the membership.

The Fourth District PTA Advocacy Team offers numerous opportunities for advocacy chairs, and other members, to educate themselves. These include an information-packed *Advocacy Resource Notebook*, Advocacy Roundtables featuring well-informed education experts, and a speaker's bureau to provide information on a variety of advocacy topics at your unit or council meeting. And of course there is the ultimate advocacy experience: Sacramento Safari.

With that many resources, it should be easy to fill your unit or council advocacy position!

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## PTA 2014 Public Policy Agenda

National PTA is working on the following areas to ensure that all children reach their highest potential:

- **General Education:** Reauthorization of ESEA-NCLB remains a top priority for National PTA. In addition, PTA is fighting for improvements to ESEA-NCLB, including access to well-rounded curricula, equity protections for disadvantaged populations and accountability to parents and community.
- **Special Education:** Through the reauthorization of ESEA-NCLB and implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), National PTA will continue to advocate to ensure that all students graduate from high school college and career ready, will see that family engagement remains a fundamental principle of IDEA and will work to ensure that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents are fully protected.
- **Family Engagement in Education:** National PTA endorses the Family Engagement in Education Act of 2013 (H.R.2662/S.1291). The Act would support effective family engagement strategies where it is needed most while encouraging state and local district flexibility in identifying programming that works best. In addition to full passage of the bill, PTA will push for provisions to be included in the reauthorization of ESEA-NCLB.
- **Early Childhood Education:** National PTA supports federal and state incentives for high-quality child care and preschool programs that are affordable and accessible, coordinated at all levels, characterized by high standards for teaching, training, health and safety and incorporate strong family engagement components.

### Fourth District PTA Advocacy Roundtable

#### **Local Control and Accountability Plans in Orange County**

Friday, April 4 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Orange County Department of Education  
Building A, Board Room  
200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa

#### **Special Guest: Dr. Jeffrey Hittenberger**

Chief Academic Officer, Orange County Department of Education

Dr. Hittenberger and other special guests will discuss how Local Control and Accountability Plans are being developed in Orange County school districts.

All PTA members are welcome to attend.

Questions? Please contact Fran Sdao at [roundtables@fourthdistrictpta.org](mailto:roundtables@fourthdistrictpta.org)

*The Advocacy Communicator* is published by the Fourth District PTA Advocacy Team and is intended for distribution to local PTA units and councils. Maureen Christensen—President; Shereen Walter—Vice President, Advocacy; Gisela Meier—Editor.  
1520 Brookhollow Drive, #40, Santa Ana, CA 92705 (714) 241-0495 [www.fourthdistrictpta.org](http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org)