

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, March 2014

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

- Here are two important questions: What is our school district doing about the LCAP? Is our PTA part of the process?
- Right now, every school district in California should be working on a Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) that describes in detail how the district will spend its money to meet student achievement goals and to serve the needs of students who are low-income, English learners or in foster care.
- The school district is required to get input from parents, students, staff and community members, and it has to put together a parent advisory committee to review the LCAP. We should find out where our school district is in this process and find out how we can be involved.
- The LCAP has to be adopted by the school board by July 1. Then it goes to the county department of education for approval.
- This is the first time in many years that school districts have had this much control over how they spend their money. It's very important for us to be informed about this process.
- PTA has teams of volunteer advocates in Washington D.C. and in Sacramento to work for legislation that will benefit children, families and public education. The *Advocacy Communicator* lists several websites where you can track the bills that PTA is following, both in Washington D.C. and in Sacramento.
- Nominating committees are looking for officers and chairs. Sometimes it's hard to find a legislative or advocacy chair, but Fourth District PTA has a lot of resources to make that job easy.
- The Advocacy Roundtable on April 4 will be a program on LCAP in Orange County. A speaker from the Orange County Department of Education will talk about how school districts in Orange County are handling the new process. It's free and open to all PTA members.
- National PTA is working on four priorities this year: General Education (including reauthorization of ESEA-NCLB), Special Education, Family Engagement in Education and Early Childhood Education. There's more information in the *Communicator* and at www.pta.org.

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