

# Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

NOVEMBER 2015

## Governor Brown signs PTA-supported bills into law

California State PTA took support positions on 96 bills during the current legislative session. Of those, 40 have been signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown. Some of the new laws include:

- **AB 216** (Garcia) Makes it illegal to sell or provide materials that deliver non-nicotine products in a vaporized state to anyone under the age of 21.
- **AB 288** (Holden) Allows a community college district and a school district to create a partnership to provide a seamless pathway from high school to community college for career technical education or preparation for transfer, improving high school graduation rates, or helping high school pupils achieve college and career readiness.
- **AB 329** (Weber) Requires that school districts provide comprehensive age appropriate sexual health education, including HIV prevention.
- **AB 1369** (Frazier) Requires the State Superintendent to develop program guidelines to help teachers, parents and school staff identify and assess dyslexic students and provide them better educational services.
- **SB 14** (Lara) Prohibits consent from being a defense in any sexual battery civil action if the person committing the sexual battery is a specified adult who is in a position of authority.
- **SB 172** (Liu) Suspends the High School Exit exam and retroactively qualifies anyone who completed all other requirements for graduation and failed the exam to be eligible for a diploma.
- **SB 242** (Monning) Requires the approval of a school district governing board before a school district police

department could receive surplus military equipment.

- **SB 277** (Pan) Requires all students to be immunized prior to attending school unless a physician declares an exemption. (An attempt to rescind the law by placing a referendum on the ballot failed to collect enough signatures to qualify.)
- **SB 707** (Wolk) Prohibits individuals with a concealed weapons permit from bringing a firearm on any public or private school, college, or university campus without permission of campus officials.

### Two-year bills supported by CAPTA

When the two-year legislative session resumes, CAPTA will continue to work for the passage of other bills, including:

- **AB 252** (Holden) Would provide grants of up to \$8,000 to school districts to establish or expand advanced placement STEM curriculum in high schools.
- **AB 713** (Weber) Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, children would be required to complete one year of Kindergarten before entering first grade.
- **SB 636** (Liu) Would give matching grants to local nonprofits that provide dental supplies, school supplies, socks and shoes to homeless youth.

### Teacher Evaluations

CAPTA is also looking for amendments to two identical bills, AB 575 and SB 499, which deal with teacher evaluations. CAPTA's concerns about the bills involve training for evaluators and the use of standardized test scores in assessing teacher performance.

More information is available at [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org) under Focus Areas.



**Rick Simpson**  
Deputy Chief of Staff to  
Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins

## Fourth District PTA Advocacy Forum

Get the inside scoop on what's happening  
in Sacramento from two points of view.

Friday, November 6  
10:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Fountain Valley School District, Board Room  
10055 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley

**All PTA members are welcome to attend.**



**Assemblyman  
Matthew Harper**  
74th Assembly District

## School bond qualifies for 2016 ballot

Efforts by state lawmakers to provide funding for school construction have stalled, but a group of school districts and businesses has succeeded in putting a bond on next year's ballot.

Legislators introduced several bills dealing with school construction funding, but all of them have failed to advance. Meanwhile, California's Coalition for Adequate School Funding, an organization of about 350 school districts and building industry partners, collected enough signatures to place a \$9 billion school bond initiative on the November 2016 ballot.

Until recently, school construction and modernization was funded primarily with a combination of state and local money. The state dollars came from school facilities bonds, most recently from a \$10.4 billion bond passed by voters in 2006. That fund is now empty.

The legislature attempted to place a new facilities bond on last November's ballot, but dropped the plan when Governor Brown made it clear that he thinks responsibility for school construction projects should be shifted from the state to school districts in all but a few cases.

California State PTA has not taken a position on the ballot measure.

## Motor Voter Act is signed into law

A new voter registration process was signed into law by Governor Brown in October. Under the California New Motor Voter Act (AB1461) every eligible citizen who goes to the Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain or renew a driver's license will automatically be registered to vote, unless he or she opts out.

The data collected by the DMV will be reviewed by the California Secretary of State's Office to verify each resident's eligibility to vote. The law will not go into effect until the state's voter database is up and running, a system is put in place to protect the transfer of noncitizen information, and money has been appropriated by the Legislature. This may take until 2017.

## Join Fourth District PTA in the State Capitol!



## Help high school seniors learn citizenship duties and register to vote

Many of our high school students turn 18 before they graduate. Your PTA can encourage them to become active citizens by providing them with voter registration information and materials. Work with your administrators to get a voter registration form to every student.

This may be combined with other nonpartisan information about good citizenship, the rights and responsibilities young people assume when they are 18, and how to be an informed voter.

A useful publication is "When You Turn 18: A Survival Guide for Teenagers," produced by the California State Bar. This booklet provides information about voting as well as laws related to banking, contracts, employment and other issues. Free copies are available at [www.calbar.ca.gov/Public/Pamphlets.aspx](http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Public/Pamphlets.aspx)

Keep in mind that in California 17-year-olds who will be 18 by the next election can also register to vote.

## NCLB reauthorization is still stalled

The long-awaited reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act—No Child Left Behind (ESEA-NCLB) remains stalled in Congress.

Both the House and the Senate have passed reauthorization bills, but they have not combined these in a single version for approval by the entire body.

Completion of this process is a top priority for National PTA.

PTA is advocating for improvements to the law to emphasize family engagement practices in schools, access to a well-rounded curriculum, protections for disadvantaged students and accountability to parents and the community.

Urge your federal legislators to take action through the National PTA website, [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org).

**Sacramento Safari**  
February 22-23, 2016  
Registration is now open at  
[www.fourthdistrictpta.org](http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org)