

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, June 2016

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

- Governor Brown issued his May revision of the proposed state budget. There is more money for education, but schools are still not back to where they were in 2009, and things weren't so good then.
- The revised budget doesn't include more money for early childhood education and some children's advocates are worried that transitional kindergarten programs will be eliminated in coming years.
- A resolution on dyslexia was approved at the California State PTA Convention. Up to 20 percent of students in California have dyslexia and struggle to learn reading, yet there are no programs to train teachers in recognizing and addressing the problem. PTA will work to change that.
- Will our PTA council sponsor a candidate forum for the school board election in the fall? We should get to work on organizing that right away.
- Are we including advocacy programs in our PTA budget for next year? We should allocate money for Sacramento Safari, Advocacy Resource Notebooks and other things listed in the *Communicator*.
- California State PTA is supporting an effort to extend the income tax increase on high earners for another 12 years. Most of that money would go to schools. Signature gathering is underway to put a proposition on the November ballot.
- California State PTA is sponsoring AB 2680, which would provide one-time funding to help school districts develop family engagement programs. The bill has stalled in an Assembly committee, but PTA says the effort has increased awareness of the importance of family involvement in education.

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