

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

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California is almost ready to launch a new accountability system

A new accountability system for California's schools is almost ready to launch, at least in its first version. Rather than measuring school performance with a single number, the new system will have an array of indicators.

Under the previous system every school in the state received an Academic Performance Index (API) score, a single number on a scale of 200 to 1000, with a score of 800 rated as proficient. The scores were based entirely on how students performed on statewide English and math tests. Education advocates argued that this led schools to focus on test scores in those two subjects and to neglect other subjects and student skills. It also defined school success in a very narrow way.

In 2013 California launched the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) with new requirements for local planning and accountability. The State Board of Education decided to scrap the API and develop a new and more multifaceted method of assessing school performance.

After three years of work and input from numerous individuals and education associations, the Board has developed an accountability dashboard. Like the dashboard of a car, the new system will have indicators to measure an array of factors that affect the quality of a school.

California State PTA has been actively involved in the development of this new system, with volunteer advocates participating in working groups at the State Department of Education and State Board of Education.

When it is complete, the dashboard will have seven state performance indicators, based on data that school districts are required to report to the California Department of Education. They are:

- Chronic absenteeism
- Suspension rate
- English learner proficiency
- Graduation rates
- College and career readiness
- English language arts assessment
- Math assessment

The indicators will be rated using five colors, from red (lowest) to blue (highest), to designate performance.

School districts will use locally collected information for additional local performance indicators, which are based on state standards and criteria. These are:

- Basics (Teachers, Instructional Materials, Facilities)
- Implementation of Academic Standards

- Parent Engagement
- Local Climate Survey

The new system will provide "a more complete picture for parents and the public of the how schools are serving students," said Michael Kirst, president of the State Board, in a commentary at Edsource.org. It will also help identify achievement gaps, promote equity, and pinpoint specific areas where schools need help, he said.

The state board is determined to create a single system that meets the needs of California and complies with the requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which replaced No Child Left Behind last year. The U.S. Department of Education issued its regulations on accountability under the ESSA in late November.

The online dashboard system will be launched in early 2017 but will continue to evolve based on user feedback, said Kirst.

Some groups and individuals are pressuring the state board to summarize the indicators in a single number or grade. CAPTA is one of the groups that opposes this idea because it encourages an over-simplistic comparison of schools and school districts and because it masks important positive outcomes and areas that need attention, said CAPTA Vice President for Education Celia Jaffe.

CAPTA is also pushing for a stronger parent engagement measure, Jaffe said. The current indicator only asks if the level of parent involvement has been assessed.

Sacramento Safari

February 27 and 28, 2017



Register now at
www.fourthdistrictpta.org



Registration fees go up
after December 18!



Questions?
Contact Suzanne Gauntlett at
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LAO predicts funding increase for schools in 2017-18

California's K-12 schools and community colleges can expect to get an increase of \$2.6 billion in the 2017-18 fiscal year, according to a recent forecast by the non-partisan Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO). This would provide an average of about \$420 per student in additional funding.

Although the LAO sees no signs of recession in the coming year, the future beyond that looks less certain. Economists say a recession is overdue and there is uncertainty regarding the impact of President-elect Donald Trump's policies on federal education spending.

With continued economic growth and no recession, Prop. 98 funding for K-12 schools and community colleges would increase by about \$9 billion through 2020-21, the LAO predicts. If there is a mild recession, funding

would decrease to \$72.4 billion in 2018-19 but rebound to \$78.1 billion two years later.

If the LAO's predictions are correct and there is no recession, the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) will be fully funded in two years. The Brown administration defines full funding as restoring all school districts to the inflation-adjusted amounts they got before the 2009 recession. Schools were already severely underfunded at that time.

If there is a recession, full LCFF funding will be delayed until 2020-21, the LAO says.

General Election results

The General Election in November resulted in a few changes in Orange County legislative districts. There was good news for education statewide and in Orange County.

State Senate

29th District: Josh Newman replaced Bob Huff.

John Moorlach (37th District) was re-elected. Senators Tony Mendoza (32nd District), Janet Nguyen (34th District), were not up for election this year.

State Assembly

55th District: Phillip Chen replaced Ling-Ling Chang.

65th District: Sharon Quirk-Silva replaced Young Kim.

68th District: Steven Choi replaced Don Wagner.

Assembly Members Tom Daly (69th District), Travis Allen (72nd District), William Brough (73rd District), and Mathew Harper (74th District) were re-elected.

Propositions

All five of the propositions supported by California State PTA were approved by voters:

- Prop. 51, School facilities bond
- Prop. 55, Tax extension for education and healthcare
- Prop. 56, Cigarette tax to fund healthcare
- Prop. 58, Multilingual Education
- Prop. 63, Firearms and ammunition sales

Local School Bonds

Among the school bonds proposed by ten Orange County school districts, eight passed the 55 percent voter approval requirement. This will raise a total of \$1.4 million for Orange County schools.

Advocacy Forum

Measuring school success: How does the new rating system work?

Wednesday, January 18, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Orange Unified School District, Board Room #2
1401 North Handy Street, Orange

Get the latest update on the new data dashboard which will be used to show how our schools and districts are doing. How will this relate to the LCAP and LCFF rubric? How will multiple measures drive continuous improvement in the new accountability system? Get your questions answered.

Open to all PTA members!

Continue voter registration drives

The election is over, but your PTA voter registration drive should continue.

Many of our high school students turn 18 before they graduate. 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

