

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

OCTOBER 2017

Governor Brown signs or vetoes education bills

More than 700 bills landed on Governor Jerry Brown's desk after the end of the state legislative session on September 15.

About 40 of those bills are measures that California State PTA supports. The Governor has until October 15 to sign or veto each of the bills. If he does nothing, the bill automatically becomes law.

In September, the governor signed the following bills, which were supported by CAPTA:

- **AB 261** (Thurmond) High school students who are appointed to a school board must have preferential (advisory) votes in order to represent student opinions in the decision-making process.
- **AB 681** (Chau) The state Commission on Teacher Credentialing may determine that the academic and credentialing standards in specific countries are equal or greater than those in the U.S., allowing teachers from those countries to qualify for a teaching credential in California more quickly.

PTA Advocacy Conference Calls

Now you can get up-to-date information about education issues and bills directly from our California State PTA advocates.

Participate in conference calls, held on the following schedule:

October 30, 2017 at 7 p.m.
November 27, 2017 at 7 p.m.
No call scheduled for December
January 29, 2018 at 7 p.m.
February 26, 2018 at 7 p.m.
March 26, 2018 at 7 p.m.
April 23, 2018 at 7 p.m.
May 29, 2018 at 7 p.m.
No calls scheduled from June to August 2018

Call-in Directions:

- Conference Dial-In Number: 1 (712) 775-7300
- Participant Access Code: 960878#
- To mute or unmute during the session, press *6.

If you encounter any phone issues like dropped calls or long periods of silence, please hang up and dial (805) 360-1075. This reroutes you to a different port in their system so you can enter our dial-in number directly.

- **SB 401** (Pan) This bill eliminates size restrictions on child care facilities in state office buildings and requires indoor and outdoor activity areas to conform to existing state regulations for child care facilities.
- **SB 455** (Newman) This bill allows military families on active-duty orders to remotely enroll in any school district where they will reside regardless if the school is zoned to a military installation.

So far, the governor has vetoed two bills that were supported by PTA:

- **SB 663** (Nielsen) This bill would have established standards for determining whether packages or labels of cannabis products are attractive to children. Gov. Brown said that current law already prohibit cannabis products from being designed to be attractive to children. State licensing authorities are drafting emergency regulations on packaging for the cannabis industry, which must take effect before January 1, 2018.
- **AB 1261** (Berman) This would have required a school district to consider whether a mandatory expulsion or zero tolerance policy is deterring pupils from seeking help for substance abuse when developing its pupil suicide prevention policy. "I agree with the goal of this bill but believe this is a matter more appropriately handled at the local level," Gov. Brown said.

The Legislature adjourned on September 15 and will return to Sacramento on January 3.

Get ready to go!
**Fourth District PTA
Sacramento Safari**
February 26-27, 2018



A great opportunity to learn about the issues from a variety of education experts, meet the decision-makers and make your voice heard.

For more information, go to www.fourthdistrictpta.org under Advocacy.

Registration is open online now!

Resources to help you become a well-informed PTA advocate

There are numerous resources that will help you be a well-informed advocate for children. Here are just a few:

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Resource Notebook

A comprehensive guide for local PTA members. The ARN is available for \$15 at the Fourth District PTA office and at advocacy events. This is a legitimate PTA expense (your PTA will reimburse you; we provide receipts).

California State PTA –capta.org/Resources

Links to information about the state legislative activities, the state's education finance system, LCAP, LCFF, statistical information and much more!

National PTA –pta.org/advocacy

PTA advocacy from a national perspective.

Ed100.org

Detailed information about how California's education system works presented in brief lessons.

EdSource.org

Basic information about California education from pre-school through college as well as up-to-date articles and commentaries on current education issues.

Time to visit your legislators

With the state legislature on recess until January, this is the perfect time to visit your state lawmakers in their local offices. Here are some tips before you go.

- **Determine the reason for your visit.** A small group of members from your PTA may want to introduce yourselves and talk about the relevance of PTA. If you have a specific issue, make sure it is something the legislator can address, rather than something that should be dealt with at the school district level.
- **Call for an appointment.** Specify how much time you will need and the reason for your visit.
- **Research the legislator.** Find out what bills he or she proposed or supported. Look for common ground.
- **Draft an agenda for your group** that includes an opening, introductions and an order of PTA issues to be discussed. Assign a role to each person, including leader and note taker.
- **Be respectful.** Dress in a business-like manner. Arrive on time. Listen to what the legislator says. Leave after your appointed time, unless the legislator continues the conversation. Build a positive relationship.
- **Present PTA positions.** Research those ahead of time. If you're not sure about an issue that comes up in the conversation, tell the legislator you will get back with the information. Personal positions should be communicated at another time.

Not sure who your legislator is? Go to:
<http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov>

Leginfo.legislature.ca.gov

Official information about bills that are being considered by the state legislature. Hint: If you are researching a bill, enter the number on the search page, then look at "Bill Analysis" for background information and an explanation of why the author thinks the bill is needed.

A new tool for arts advocates

CreateCA and the California Department of Education have launched an easy-to-use tool for parents, teachers and education leaders designed to help increase participation in arts education in California. The Arts Ed Data Project analyzes and reports school-level data on arts education courses in middle and high schools across the state. It is a way to identify and address education inequities in arts education.

The Data Project is a color-coded dashboard which allows users to review school-level, district, county and statewide data. For example, one is able to look up a child's high school and compare how many theatre classes, art, dance or music classes are offered compared to another high school in the district, or the state.

The Data Project also features a roadmap for districts that guides leaders through the process of examining their data to better understand their unique circumstances and challenges. Resources and helpful guides assist districts in assessing their programs and creating strategic arts plans.

Art advocates: look up the data for your district. Compare the data to other districts in the state. Talk to the leaders in your district regarding inequities that you may discover.

Arts education sparks creative thinking and helps students find success in college, career and in life. Now you have a way to advocate with data. Visit the CREATE CA website at www.createca.net and click on California Arts Education Data Project for specific information about how to access the data for your school or district.

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Forum

Friday, November 3 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Fountain Valley School District
10055 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley



Guest Speaker:
Ron Bennett
CEO of School Services of California

Don't miss the chance to hear from one of the foremost experts in California public education!