

# Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

SEPTEMBER 2019

## What you need to know as a new PTA advocacy chair

If you are the new advocacy chair or legislative officer for your PTA, thank you for taking this important position. PTA has a proud history of advocating for programs and legislation that help children be safe, healthy and successful. Now you are a part of that vital mission.

If you have never done this job before, you may wonder how to begin. The state legislative process is complex and the issues can be confusing. There is a lot to learn.

Never fear! Fourth District PTA is here to make your job as easy as possible.

**Get training!** Fourth District PTA **Advocacy Training** will be held on Friday, September 20. (Details below.) A workshop for beginners will give you the basic information you need. You should also plan to attend Fourth District PTA **Advocacy Forums** to get important updates on current topics in education and PTA advocacy, presented by expert speakers. (Schedule on page 2.)

**Educate yourself!** The **Advocacy Resource Notebook**, packed with important information, will be on sale at the Advocacy Training for \$15. (This expense should be reimbursed by your PTA.) The Notebook is also available at the Fourth District PTA office.

There is a wealth of information available online, beginning with the Fourth District and State PTA websites ([fourthdistrictpta.org](http://fourthdistrictpta.org) and [capta.org](http://capta.org)). An invaluable resource is **Ed100.org**, a free online course on California education, broken into brief lessons. Encourage your members to access this course to become informed parents and to win possible prizes for your school.

**Stay connected!** This newsletter is published once a month, September through June. To receive notifications

when each issue is ready, sign up at [fourthdistrictpta.org](http://fourthdistrictpta.org) under Communications/Publications and Resources.

Each issue of the newsletter is accompanied by **Talking Points**. Make copies of the newsletter for your members or send it to them electronically. Make sure Advocacy is on the agenda for your PTA meeting and use the Talking Points to make your report. And just like that, you have completed an important part of your job: informing your members about current advocacy issues.

**We are here to help!** If you have a problem or question contact your council legislative officer, or Bev Berryman, Fourth District PTA vice president for advocacy, at [advocacy@fourthdistrictpta.org](mailto:advocacy@fourthdistrictpta.org).

## Some bills to watch during the fall state legislative session

California lawmakers are back in session after their summer recess and have resumed their work on hundreds of proposed bills. California State PTA has taken a support position on a number of bills that impact children and schools. Among the most important are the following:

**AB 39 (Muratsuchi)** This bill is co-sponsored by California State PTA.

The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) was established in 2013 with the goal of achieving “full funding” by 2020. Full funding was defined as bringing all California school districts to the level of per-pupil funding they received in 2007-08, adjusted for inflation.

This was achieved in the 2018-19 fiscal year. However, there is general agreement in the education community that schools are not receiving adequate funding.

AB 39 sets a new goal for LCFF: placing California in the top 10 states nationwide in per-pupil funding by increasing the base grant.

It is estimated this would require an additional \$35 billion. The bill does not establish a funding source, but it shifts the state’s focus from a fully funded formula to the aspiration of fair and full funding for all schools.

**AB 197 (Weber)**

This bill would require every school within a school district or charter school to have at least one full-day kindergarten.

**SB 328 (Portantino)**

Research shows that teenagers who sleep later are  
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Fourth District PTA

### Advocacy Training

Friday, September 20

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Fountain Valley School District

10055 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley

**Special sessions for beginning and advanced advocates!**

Free and open to all PTA members.

Walk-ins are welcome, but please register at

[www.fourthdistrictpta.org](http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org)

## School funding increases this year— Is it enough?

California schools are starting the academic year with a substantial boost from the state budget signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in June. The total allocation for K-12 education is \$103.4 billion, an increase of about \$6.4 billion over last year.

About \$2 billion of the increased funding will go to school districts through the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), which provides about 90 percent of state funding for schools. School districts decide how to allocate this funding, based on the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) that each district develops with the help of parents, school staff, students and the community. (To learn more about LCFF and how your PTA can be involved in the development of your district's LCAP go to [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org).)

Gov. Newsom and state legislators also designated funds for specific state priorities, particularly in the area of early childhood education. The budget includes \$1.8 billion in new money to add 10,000 state-subsidized preschool spots. The preschool seats will be available to all 4-year-olds living in neighborhoods where most children are in low-income families, regardless of each family's income, with priority given to low-income families. The funding will also provide subsidized childcare for infants and toddlers in low-income families.

To address the need for more science, math, bilingual, and special education teachers, especially in certain areas of the state, the budget provides \$20,000 grants for about 4,500 teacher candidates who commit to teaching those subjects at a high-needs school for at least four years.

The budget includes a 21 percent increase for special education, with about \$500 million going to help school districts provide services for preschool children with disabilities.

Funding increases were also approved for:

- The construction or expansion of facilities for full-time kindergarten (\$300 million)

- After-school programs (\$50 million)
- Installation of broadband infrastructure in schools (\$7.5 million)
- Training for teachers and administrators (\$35 million)

During the past several years, school districts have been required to increase their contributions to the state retirement systems for teachers and other school employees, drawing significant amounts of money away from education programs. (The state and school employees must also contribute increasing amounts.) The new budget deposits about \$3.15 billion into the retirement fund, freeing up about \$850 million that school districts can use for other purposes.

Prop. 2, approved by California voters in 2014, requires the state to pay into an education Rainy Day Fund when the economic situation is positive. This year the state will make its first deposit of about \$400 million into this account.

While this year's budget news is positive, it is still a long way from providing the adequate funding our schools need and a stable revenue system that would prevent the drastic revenue fluctuations our schools have experienced in past years. California State PTA urges the governor and the legislature to develop a plan to bring California education funding to the levels of our highest-performing states.

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### Bills to watch...

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healthier, more successful in school, and less prone to accidents and depression. SB 328 would require middle schools to start their school days no earlier than 8 a.m. and high schools to start no earlier than 8:30 a.m.

#### **AB 48 (O'Donnell)**

All of the funding from the most recent school facilities bond, passed in 2016, has been spent or allocated. AB 48 would put a \$13 billion bond for school construction and renovation on the March 2020 ballot.

#### **AB 493 (Gloria)**

This bill requires all public schools to provide online training at least once every two years to teachers for the support of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQ) students.

#### **SB 419 (Skinner)**

This bill prohibits the suspension of a K-5 pupil and the expulsion of a K-12 pupil who disrupts school activities or otherwise willfully defies school authority, beginning July 1, 2020. It also prohibits, from July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2024, the suspension of a 6-8 pupil for the same act.

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## Plan Your Advocacy Year

### Advocacy Training Workshop

September 20 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

### Advocacy Forums

November 22 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

January 24 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

April 3 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

### Sacramento Safari

Orientation, February 14, 9:30 a.m.—11 a.m.

Sacramento Safari, February 24 - 25

### CAPTA Legislative Conference

January 13 - 14, in Sacramento