

Fourth District Legislative Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

NOVEMBER 2012

Governor signs legislation supported by CAPTA

Governor Jerry Brown recently signed into legislation 24 bills that were supported by California State PTA. Among the most important were:

SB 1458 (Senator Darrell Steinberg)

This bill changes the structure of California's Academic Performance Index (API). In high schools, standardized tests will now account for 60 percent of the accountability measure, instead of 100 percent. The remaining 40 percent must include graduation rates and college and career readiness factors. Promotion rates for grades 7-12 may also be included.

The bill requires the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to submit valid, reliable, and stable measures of college and career readiness to the State Board of Education for approval. The review process would feature locally convened panels to visit schools, observe teachers, interview pupils and examine pupil work.

For elementary and middle schools, where alternative data is less developed, standardized tests must account for at least 60 percent of the API. The State Superintendent is directed to develop methods for increasing emphasis on science and social science, which currently carry little weight in the API.

AB 1575 (Assemblyman Ricardo Lara)

This bill prohibits public schools from charging student fees for required school materials or participation in

Sacramento Safari, March 18-19

I learned something from every speaker.



**It gave me a broader understanding of
our legislative process and current issues.**



**This trip made me want to step up
and be more of a voice for our children.**

These are comments from previous Sacramento Safari participants. Plan to join us on our next trip!

For more information: www.fourthdistrictpta.org

Calendar of Events

Election Day

Tuesday, November 6, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

★ **Be sure to vote!**

Advocacy Roundtable

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

Fountain Valley School District, Board Room

10055 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley, 92708

A bipartisan report from Sacramento with Rick Simpson and a local legislator (to be announced).

★ **Open to all PTA members. Please RSVP to Fran Sdao at roundtables@fourthdistrictpta.org**

educational activities. It provides guidance for school administrators to allow them to participate in voluntary fundraising activities without infringing on a student's right to a free public education. It also modifies the uniform complaint process currently in place in all schools to allow for local resolution of parent and student concerns without costly litigation.

This legislation was written in response to a 2010 lawsuit by the ACLU, which charged that the widespread practice of requiring students to pay fees at public schools was a violation of their right to a free public education, as guaranteed by the California State Constitution. After Gov. Brown signed the bill into law, the ACLU announced that it would drop the lawsuit.

AB 2040 (Assemblyman Sandré R. Swanson)

Under current law, a young person with a juvenile record at age 18 may petition a court to seal the records if he or she has not subsequently been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor and can establish rehabilitation. AB 2040 allows young people who were prostituted as minors to have their records sealed without these additional requirements.

"Between 100,000 and 300,000 children -- some as young as five years old -- are prostituted in the United States every year. AB 2040 makes it a little easier for these former victims to clean up their records once they turn 18, increasing their ability to integrate back into society and a safe environment," Swanson explained. "It just doesn't make any legal or common sense to require a victim to prove they have been rehabilitated from a crime that was committed against them."

State task force recommends teacher and principal preparation reforms

“Every child deserves a great teacher, one who cares for children today and helps prepare them to contribute to the society and economy of the 21st century,” said State Superintendent Tom Torlakson. A report issued by a task force on teacher preparation “charts a path to reach that goal,” he said.

The report, *Greatness by Design*, was issued by the 48-member Task Force on Educator Excellence, which was chaired by Stanford University education professor Linda Darling-Hammond and Long Beach Unified superintendent Christopher Steinhauser.

The task force was formed to look at how to recruit the best people into the teaching profession, how best to provide training before and throughout their careers, and how to provide useful feedback to improve teaching.

Torlakson said he would assign two deputy superintendents to work with education leaders statewide to implement the report’s recommendations.

Many of the reforms listed in the report would be directed by the state Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). Linda Darling-Hammond is the vice chair of this commission. The task force recommendations coincide with much of the work already being done by the CTC, said Executive Director Mary Sandy.

The recommendations include:

- Revising teacher and administrator preparation standards to include the Common Core Standards.
- Strengthening teacher preparation in teaching English learners and students with disabilities.
- Changes in the way principals are prepared and cre-

dentialed. The task force made this a priority.

- Creating valid performance assessments that all teachers graduating from credentialing programs must take, and using the results of these assessments as a factor in accrediting teacher credentialing programs.
- Eliminating a 40-year-old requirement that a teacher candidate must obtain a credential in one year. This will require action by the state legislature.
- Taking a stronger hand in monitoring districts to see that fully credentialed, highly qualified teachers are equitably distributed.
- Reinvigorating the mentoring and training programs for new teachers that have been dropped during the past five years due to budget cuts. The chief among these is Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment.

California State PTA was represented on the task force by Education Advocate Donna Artukovic, who said she was impressed with the research-based work that was done on her committee on Teacher Evaluation. She is confident that many of the recommendations made in the report will be implemented.

The task force also included parents, teachers, principals, superintendents, and business and community leaders, as well as leading academics.

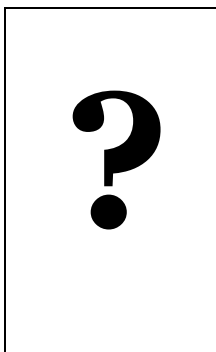
More information and the complete report is available at the California Department of Education website: www.cde.ca.gov/eo/in/ee.asp.

There are also several reports on *Greatness by Design* at www.edsource.org.

Fourth District PTA

Advocacy Roundtable

Friday, Nov. 30 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon



To be announced
after the November 6 Election!

A bipartisan look at public education policy in California

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

Fountain Valley School District, Board Room
10055 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley, 92708
(Please park at back or side of the building, not in the front)

All PTA members are welcome to attend.

Questions? Please contact Fran Sdao at
roundtables@fourthdistrictpta.org



Rick Simpson
Deputy Chief of Staff to
Assembly Speaker
John Pérez