

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

NOVEMBER 2018

What does it cost to help all California students to succeed?

If you asked a panel of experienced teachers and school administrators what it would cost to give every California child the education they need to be successful after high school, what would their answer be?

The researchers who led *Getting Down to Facts II*, an in-depth examination of our state's schools, did just that. In fact, they asked two panels – a total of 22 educators – the same question and gave them three days to come up with a response.

The answer was an average of \$16,800 per student, about 38 percent more than the per-pupil spending in California in 2016-17. Schools in high-poverty areas would require more funding.

Among the recommendations by the panels:

- Add ten days for teacher training and collaboration.
- Reduce class sizes to 22 in elementary and middle school.
- Hire more resource teachers, guidance counselors, social workers, psychologists and librarians.
- Provide learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering, math and the arts.
- Ensure that all 4-year-old children have access to a high-quality preschool or transitional kindergarten program.
- Provide a special education program that fully integrates students with disabilities in the general classroom.

The good news is that the gap between adequate funding and actual funding has decreased since the first

Getting Down to Facts Study in 2007. The challenge is for the state to find an additional \$22 billion to devote to its K-12 schools to assure that all students will be successful.

Get involved in your district's LCAP

Your school district's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) is an ongoing process. You and your PTA should be involved. You have a pretty good idea of what's working and what isn't. Your school board needs your perspective.

Every school district is required to develop a three-year LCAP that shows how funding will be used to improve achievement and meet the needs of low-income students, English learners and foster children. The plan must be updated every year and approved by the school district's board of trustees by July 1. Parents must be involved in the process, along with district staff, students and community members.

During the fall, you can prepare for involvement by educating yourself about LCAP requirements and the LCAP process in your district. The California State PTA website (CAPTA.org) has resources to help you prepare, published in several different languages. These include:

- A description of the local LCAP process.
- An explanation of the eight priorities that must be included in the LCAP.
- Best practices that have worked well for other school districts.

Ed100.org is another excellent resource. In addition to basic information on the education system in California, it offers an *LCAP Checklist for Parents* with pertinent questions and an outline of areas to be examined.

Don't miss this opportunity to help shape the future of your schools!

CAPTA Advocacy Conference Call

The next California State PTA advocacy conference call is scheduled for Monday, November 26, at 7 p.m.

Call-in Directions:

- Conference Dial-In Number: 1 (641) 715-3276
- Participant Access Code: 604265#
- To mute or unmute during the session, press *6.

Sacramento Safari! February 25 and 26, 2019

Too great to miss!

Get complete information
and register today at:

www.fourthdistrictpta.org



- ★ Hear from key speakers on issues that affect children and youth.
- ★ Learn about the inner workings of state government.
- ★ Advocate directly to our legislators.
- ★ Network and learn from other PTA leaders.

Bill sponsored by California State PTA becomes law

California State PTA (CAPTA) is celebrating the passage of **AB 2878**, which adds a specific definition of family engagement to the State Education Code. The bill, co-authored by Assembly Members Rocky Chavez and Kevin McCarty, was sponsored by CAPTA.

Family engagement is one of eight state priorities that must be addressed by school districts in their Local Control and Accountability Plans. Previously, the term was not well-defined and was interpreted differently throughout the state. AB 2878 provides schools, districts and parents access to research-based best practices for family engagement and involvement.

CAPTA also took positions on almost 200 other bills, many of which passed into law. These include:

- **AB 406 (McCarty):** As of July 1, 2019, a for-profit corporation, for-profit educational management organization, or for-profit charter management organization cannot establish or renew a charter school.
- **AB 1747 (Rodriguez):** Schools must conduct annual active shooter drills. The California Department of Education will provide additional guidance and oversight of safety plans.
- **AB 1861 (Rodriguez):** Sex education classes must include information on how social media and mobile phone apps are used for human trafficking.
- **AB 1868 (Cunningham):** A school district may provide optional instruction in sex education classes about the potential risks and consequences of creating and sharing sexually suggestive or sexually explicit materials through cell phones, social networking sites, computer networks, or other digital media.
- **AB 1871 (Bonta):** Charter schools must provide low-income students with one nutritionally adequate free or reduced-price meal each school day.
- **AB 2289 (Weber):** Schools are required to admit pregnant and parenting pupils and to make accommodations that allow them to continue their education.
- **AB 2514 (Thurmond):** Establishes the Pathways to Success Grant Program to set up and expand dual language immersion programs, developmental bilingual programs for English learners, and early learning dual language learners programs.
- **AB 2601 (Weber):** Beginning with the 2019-20 school year, charter schools are required to provide instruction on comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention.
- **AB 2657 (Weber):** A school may not use behavioral restraints or seclusion to control a student's behavior except when there is a clear and present danger of serious physical harm to the pupil or others that cannot be immediately prevented by a response that is less restrictive.
- **AB 2735 (O'Donnell):** English learner students in middle or high school may not be denied enrollment in core curriculum courses and courses required for high school graduation, except for English learners who are newcomers to the United States.
- **AB 3205 (O'Donnell):** Any school modernization project that gets funding from the state must include locks that allow doors to be secured from the inside for classrooms and any room with an occupancy of more than five people.
- **SB 1104 (Roth):** School districts and charter schools serving grades 6 through 12 are required to inform parents and guardians about human trafficking prevention resources.

For a full report, go to capta.org/focus-areas/advocacy/current-legislation.

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Forum

Friday, November 16
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Fountain Valley School District
10055 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley



Focus on school funding: Follow the Money!

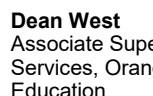
Join us as we explore key school funding issues at the state, county, and local school district levels.

Open to all PTA members.



Rick Simpson

Former Chief of Staff to the Speaker of the California Assembly and renowned school funding and policy expert



Dean West

Associate Superintendent for Business Services, Orange County Department of Education



Kathy Moffat

Orange Unified School Board Member and past Director of Legislation for California State PTA

