Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, November 2013

Details are in the November issue of the *Advocacy Communicator.*

- There are a lot of changes in California's education system this year. Common Core State Standards are being implemented in the schools. The new tests that go with the new standards aren't quite ready yet, so the state will not be giving standardized tests this year. There is a list of cancelled tests in the *Advocacy Communicator*.
- Because there won't be any state standardized tests, we probably won't have API scores for the next year or two. The new API scores will not be based on test results alone, as they were in the past, but will look at other school characteristics as well. (API scores are California's method for evaluating and ranking schools and school districts.)
- The new Local Control Funding Formula also has accountability requirements, which have to be based on priorities that the state set up. They include things like attendance, dropout rates, parent involvement and instructional materials. The complete list is in the *Communicator*. School districts have to think about these things when they develop their Local Control Accountability Plans and their budgets.
- The next Advocacy Roundtable, on November 15, is a bipartisan look at California's public education policy. The speakers are Rick Simpson, from the Assembly Speaker's office, and Senator Mark Wyland. It's free and all PTA members are invited.
- Registration for Sacramento Safari is open! Have you voted to send someone?

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