

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, February 2014

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

- The State Board of Education approved regulations for the new Local Control Funding Formula and a template for the Local Control Accountability Plan that every school district has to develop. These are considered emergency regulations, because they had to be completed by the end January. The board is going to see how they work in school districts and will continue to refine the rules during the rest of the year.
- School districts now have a lot more flexibility in how they spend their money, but they are required to put together the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) by July 1 to describe what they are going to do. The district has to get input from students, parents, teachers and the community and the plan has to show how that input was used. We need to find out what our school district is doing and get involved!
- The deadline to sign up for Sacramento Safari is February 28. It sounds like an exciting trip. Are we sending someone to represent our unit/council?
- Governor Brown released his budget proposal for 2013-14. He wants to increase education funding by about \$11.8 billion, but half of that would be money that the state owes to school districts for past years. Average per pupil funding would increase by about \$800, but California would still be far behind the rest of the country in funding its schools.
- The *Communicator* has a report on the State PTA Legislation Conference in Sacramento. There is a lot of excitement in the Capitol this year because there are no budget cuts and a lot of new things are happening in education. People want to start solving the problems in our schools. We could find out more if we go on Sacramento Safari.
- The *Communicator* also has a report on some of the bills that State PTA supported that have now gone into effect.
- The EdSource Convention will again be held at the State PTA Convention in May. The topic is the new testing system that is coming along with the Common Core Standards. The convention is in Los Angeles this year, so it will be easier to get to the EdSource Conference, even if you don't go to convention.

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