

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, February 2015

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

- Governor Brown has issued his proposed budget for 2015-16. Under his plan, funding for K-12 schools and community colleges would go up by \$7.9 billion, a 12 percent increase. However, school districts won't be able to spend all of that on education because they are being required to contribute money to the state's retirement fund for teachers and other public employees. Also, the budget increase will still leave California at 46th place in per pupil funding nationwide.
- No Child Left Behind (NCLB) is the latest version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which was originally passed in 1965. The ESEA is supposed to be reauthorized by Congress every five years. We have been waiting for Congress to reauthorize NCLB since 2007. It looks like that might finally happen this year, although there will probably be a lot of controversy when lawmakers start discussing possible changes.
- National PTA has joined *Invest in US*, a national campaign launched by President Barak Obama to increase investments in high-quality early learning programs for children from birth to age five. Businesses, foundations, organizations, and state and local leaders are involved in this effort, too. You can see the whole list at investinus.org. It's pretty impressive!
- Last chance to register for Sacramento Safari! Registration closes on February 27.

Not in this month's Advocacy Communicator (because the editor ran out of room): Ron Bennett presented a detailed discussion of the Governor's budget proposal at the January 23 Advocacy Roundtable. His PowerPoint presentation is posted at www.fourthdistrictpta.org under Advocacy/Roundtables.

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