

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, December 2015

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

- Sacramento Safari is in February this year and we need to register soon! Who is going?
- The reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) took another step forward when a conference committee of Senate and House members voted 39-1 to approve a draft that combines their two versions. The current version of the ESEA is called No Child Left Behind. This has not been a popular law and it was due to be revised and reauthorized in 2007. Now it looks like that might actually happen. Both houses of Congress are expected to vote on the combined bill during the first two weeks of December.
- It looks like we'll have another year of increased funding for schools, according to a report by the Legislative Analyst's Office. However, we still won't be close to the national average for per student funding.
- A recent poll shows that most registered voters in California are aware of the state's teacher shortage and believe the state should take steps to address the problem. There is a lot of support for making sure teachers are well-prepared, helping them with education costs and paying teachers higher salaries.
- The next Fourth District PTA Advocacy Forum will have a panel of superintendents from Orange County school districts talking about how they are handling all of the current issues and changes in public education. It will be on Friday, January 22, at 9:30 a.m. and it's open to all PTA members.
- San Diego Unified School District officials spent a year creating a school funding model to determine how much money they need to help their students be successful and to close the achievement gap in their district. They calculated they would need an additional \$3,250 per student to expand their school year, lower class sizes, add staff, and other improvements. SDUSD officials want to share their investment tool with other school districts in California. They also hope it will lead to legislative action for more funding.

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