

# Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

MAY 2017

## PTA takes positions on proposed state legislation

California State PTA has taken positions on 74 bills being considered by the state legislature. CAPTA supports 58 of the bills and is opposed to one. The remaining bills have a position of “watch” or “support if amended.”

Positions on proposed legislation are based on the mission and purposes of PTA, position statements, legislative planks, and resolutions passed by the members at convention.

Among the bills supported by CAPTA are:

### **AB 10 (Garcia) Feminine hygiene products.**

Would require public and private schools to keep every restroom stocked with feminine hygiene products.

### **AB 234 (Steinorth) Student financial aid.**

Would restore funding for the Assumption Program of Loans for Education, which pays off student loans for teachers who meet specific requirements.

### **AB 410 (Cervantes) Beginning teacher programs.**

Would prohibit a school district, county office of education, or charter school from charging a fee to a teacher to participate in a beginning teacher induction program.

### **AB 424 (McCarty) Possession of a firearm in a school zone.**

Would delete the authority of a school district superintendent, designee, or equivalent school authority to provide written permission for a person to possess a firearm within a school zone.

### **AB716 (O'Donnell) Magnet Schools.**

School districts could apply to the state for grants up to \$575,000 for one-time startup costs to set up a new magnet school.

### **AB 885 (Rubio) Pupil health: drinking water.**

Would require all schools to install certified water filters at all faucets, fountains, and other outlets designated for drinking or cooking and to replace all lead-bearing parts in the school's water delivery system, where possible.

### **AB 1110 (Burke) Eye and vision examinations.**

All students would be required to have an eye and vision examination before beginning elementary school.

### **SB 138 (McGuire) Universal free meal service.**

High poverty schools would be required to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students.

### **SB 250 (Hertzberg) Child Hunger Prevention and Fair Treatment Act of 2017.**

The act would require schools to develop a plan to ensure that a pupil whose parent or guardian has unpaid school meal fees is not shamed or treated differently than others, and is not deprived of food.

### **SB 577 (Dodd) Teacher credentialing programs.**

Community college districts could be authorized to offer teacher credentialing programs

California State PTA is opposed to:

### **AB 165 (Cooper) Privacy: electronic communications**

This bill would remove the protections of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act at school districts. This would allow anyone acting “for or on behalf of” a public school to search through student, teacher and possibly even parent data.

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## Get ready for a new year of PTA advocacy!

Advocating for children, families and public education is central to PTA's mission. Make sure your PTA is ready to participate in this important role next year.

What can you do now to get ready?

- **Make sure your PTA picks an advocacy representative.** This can be an elected office or an appointed chair position.
- **Attend the Advocacy Session at the Fourth District PTA Annual Spring Workshops on June 3.** The workshop is open to all interested PTA members. To register, go to [www.fourthdistrictpta.org/training-workshops](http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org/training-workshops).
- **Educate your advocacy representative about Fourth District PTA resources that make the job easy.** These include this newsletter, talking points to present at PTA meetings, free informative Advocacy Forums, the Advocacy Resource Notebook, a speakers bureau and more!
- **Include advocacy in your PTA budget for next year.**
- **Plan to send a representative to Sacramento Safari,** scheduled for February 26 and 27 in 2018. Include about \$650 in your budget for the trip.

## California legislators are trying to change charter school regulations

California's experiment with charter schools began in 1992 with a simple idea: allow some public schools to operate free of certain state and school district regulations. With greater flexibility in programs and funding decisions, these schools would pilot innovative education ideas that other schools could adopt. They would also provide more educational options for students and encourage traditional schools to improve their programs.

Twenty-five years later the charter school movement has become more complex and controversial.

California now has more than 1,200 charter schools serving almost 31,000 students. Some are district schools that have been converted to charter by their staffs and parents. Others are start-up charters opened by non-profit organizations. Five charter schools are run by for-profit operators. Several wealthy philanthropists, including Eli Broad, the Walton Family and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, are aggressively supporting the development of more charter schools, especially in Los Angeles.

This has led to concerns that charter schools are pulling too many students and too much funding out of traditional schools, making it harder for those schools to serve their students. There are concerns about a lack of transparency and accountability in how charter schools spend the public funding they receive. A number of charter schools, including several in Orange County, have been shut down due to misuse of funds.

There are also disputes about who may authorize the opening of new charter schools and reauthorize the school when the charter is up for renewal every five years. Currently, a charter school that is turned down by a school district may appeal its application to the county department of education or the State Board of Education. In Orange County, several charter schools that were rejected by school districts were subsequently approved by the Orange County Board of Education.

During the last legislative session, California lawmakers proposed several bills that would have resulted in more regulation for charter schools. Most of these were vetoed by Governor Brown. Several similar bills have been introduced during this session.

California State PTA supports three of the bills:

- **AB 406 (McCarty)** Beginning in 2019, new or renewing charter schools could not be operated by a for-profit corporation, a for-profit educational management organization, or a for-profit charter.
- **AB 1360 (Bonta)** This bill would ensure equal access for students and require a charter school's admission, suspension, and expulsion procedures to comply with state and federal due process requirements.
- **AB 1478 (Jones-Sawyer)** Charter schools and entities managing charter schools would be subject to the

Ralph M. Brown Act, which requires open meetings, unless the charter school is operated by an entity governed by the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, in which case it would have to follow those regulations.

CAPTA is watching three additional bills:

- **AB 1224 (Weber)** This bill would establish the Chartering Authority Pilot Program under which the state board would select up to three county boards of education to authorize and oversee up to five additional charter schools each. The bill would authorize a nonprofit public benefit corporation that operates more than one charter school in the state to petition a county board of education participating in the pilot program to consolidate some or all of its existing and future

charter schools under the jurisdiction of a single chartering authority, subject to approval by the state board.

- **SB 808 (Mendoza)** A petition to establish a charter school could only be approved by the school district where the charter school would be located, not by a county department of education or the State Board of Education. Charter schools previously approved by a county board of education or the state board could continue to operate only until the date on which the charter is required to be renewed.
- **SB 806 (Glazer)** This bill prohibits the operation of for-profit charter schools, prohibits for-profit entities from engaging in certain activities related to charter school governance and instructional services, and subjects charter schools to a variety of the same open meeting, conflict-of-interest, and disclosure laws as traditional school districts.

### California State PTA Position Statement on Charter Schools

The California State PTA believes charter schools have a valid place in our public school system, because they can provide K-12 students and parents with expanded choices in educational opportunities and may serve as laboratories for programs that can be replicated in other public schools. Public charter schools are most successful when proposed, developed and evaluated in the communities they serve. PTA recognizes that sufficient resources, including facilities, must be provided to charter school students, and to the chartering entity responsible for oversight of charter school performance.

PTA further believes that charter schools must not be operated by for-profit organizations, nor be affiliated with a nonpublic, religious, or home-based school.

(Complete Statement at [www.CAPTA.org](http://www.CAPTA.org))