

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

NOVEMBER 2017

State legislation supported by PTA is chaptered into law

California State PTA took positions on 129 bills during the 2016-17 state legislative session. Among the bills that PTA supported, 43 were chaptered as law. These include:

- **AB 10 (Garcia, Cristina)** Any public school serving grades 6-12 with at least 40 percent of student body on free/reduced-price lunch must provide feminine hygiene products free of charge.
- **AB 210 (Santiago)** Counties may develop homeless multidisciplinary teams to identify and assess homeless individuals, link homeless individuals to housing and supportive services, and allow service providers to share confidential information to ensure continuity of care.
- **AB 424 (McCarty)** A school district superintendent, designee, or equivalent school authority is prohibited from providing written permission for a person to possess a firearm within a school zone.
- **AB 247 (Garcia, Cristina)** A Lead Advisory Task Force will be convened to work on reducing childhood lead poisoning in the state.
- **AB 699 (O'Donnell)** The law on educational equity and prohibition of discrimination now includes protections based on immigration status.
- **AB 746 (Gonzalez, Fletcher)** The water system at any school site built before 2010 must be tested for lead before January 1, 2019. If specified amounts of lead are found, parents and guardians must be notified, fountains and faucets must be shut off, and drinking water must be provided to students.
- **AB 830 (Kalra)** The California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), suspended in 2015 because it did not coincide with the new Common Core State Standards, was eliminated. There will be no replacement exam.
- **AB 841 (Weber)** Schools may not advertise food or beverages during the school day and may not participate in incentive programs involving foods or beverages that do not comply with state nutritional standards. (Does not apply to Bxotops for Education.)
- **AB 1360 (Bonta)** The petition to establish a new charter school must include a description of procedures to suspend, expel or otherwise remove a student from the school and an explanation of how the school will comply with federal and state due process requirements.
- **AB 1520 (Burke)** A Lifting Children and Families Out of Poverty Task Force will be established to re-

search, analyze, and provide guidance to the Legislature in supporting California's efforts on lifetime wellness, self-sufficiency, and economic strength in families and communities throughout the state.

- **SB 213 (Mitchell)** A child may not be placed in a home for adoption or fostering if an adult living in the home has been convicted of a violent felony.
- **SB 250 (Hertzberg)** This prohibits schools from shaming or denying a regular meal to students whose parents fail to pay for school lunches. The school district must try to determine whether a family qualifies for free or reduced-cost lunches before sending a notification regarding an outstanding balance.
- **SB 258 (Lara)** Manufacturers of cleaning products are required to disclose specified chemical ingredients on a product label and on the manufacturer's website.
- **SB 395 (Lara)** A youth 15 years of age or younger who is in police custody must consult with legal counsel prior to an interrogation and before waiving any rights. The consultation may not be waived.
- **SB 751 (Hill)** This bill resolved the contentious issue of a cap on school district reserve funds. The new law increases the amount that districts may place in a reserve fund and exempts small and basic aid school districts.

For a complete report on CAPTA's advocacy efforts, go to www.capta.org/focus-areas/advocacy.

Sacramento Safari! February 26 and 27, 2018

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- ★ Hear about education issues from key state leaders who are involved in the decision-making process.
- ★ Visit our beautiful State Capitol.
- ★ Meet legislators and their staff and talk to them about our children and schools.
- ★ Network with parent advocates from throughout Orange County

Bills to watch during the next state legislative session

There is plenty of unfinished business in Sacramento. When state lawmakers went into recess on September 15, they ended the first year of a two-year legislative session. Bills that did not pass during the past year may be considered when the legislature reconvenes on January 3. Some of those bills are of interest to PTA.

- **AB 1217 (Bocanegra, Portantino)** This misguided attempt by the state to create a new STEM school in Los Angeles and subvert every local agency was strongly opposed by California State PTA and could potentially return in 2018. CAPTA has long supported public charters that are developed, evaluated and held accountable by their local communities. This bill circumvents all local contributions and oversight. The identity of the organizers who brought this proposal to the state has remained a secret.
- **SB 328 (Portantino)** This bill would allow middle and high schools to begin the school day no earlier than 8:30 a.m. CAPTA will continue to work with the bill's author in hopes of encouraging the State to recognize how crucial a later start time is for the health and well-being of our students in grades 6-12.
- **AB 1220 (Weber)** CAPTA supports this bill, which would give school districts the option to extend the probationary period for new teachers from two years to three. Because teachers must be given lay-off notices by March 15, the current probation is actually only 18 months long. Supporters say a longer time

would allow districts to help new teachers succeed. Previous attempts to extend the probation have failed.

- **AB 1321 (Weber)** This bill aims to ensure fiscal transparency by requiring each school district and school to report per pupil expenditures of federal, state and local funds, as required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act. CAPTA supports this measure.

Poverty is a big obstacle for students

Until poverty is eliminated, California schools will not graduate 100 percent of their students.

So says Russell Rumberger, professor emeritus at UC Santa Barbara and director of the California Dropout Research Project.

"A lot of kids and their families live in very dire circumstances, with food insecurity and health issues that affect their ability to learn," he said. "Even if schools are working their butts off, most people would agree, you're never going to solve any major problem like graduation rates without attempts to help kids and families improve."

Poverty is too big an obstacle for some students to overcome. Although graduation rates in California have steadily increased, more than 50,000 students drop out of high school each year, Rumberger said. These are the young people who are most disadvantaged. They die nine years sooner on average than high school graduates, earn half a million dollars less over their lifetimes, are five or six times more likely to be incarcerated, and tend to rank low in most indicators of well-being, including poverty, he said.

Rumberger praised districts such as Oakland Unified, which is helping low-performing students complete high school by working with them for five or six years, instead of four.

PTA has a long history of supporting programs that promote the welfare of children. One of the Purposes of PTA is "To engage the public in united efforts to secure the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and social well-being of all children and youth."

(Adapted from an article by Theresa Harrington at www.Edsource.org.)

4th District PTA Legislative Agenda

The Fourth District PTA 2017-18 Legislative Agenda has been approved by the district board and printed.

The trifold includes our advocacy priorities at the local, state and national levels, as well as data about the students in our schools. (Did you know that 48 percent of the students in Orange County schools are socioeconomically disadvantaged?)

Copies are available at the Fourth District PTA office. (Address below. Check website for office hours.) You can also download and print a copy at www.fourthdistrictpta.org.

If you plan to visit your local legislator on behalf of PTA, the Legislative Agenda is a great item to leave with him or her. You can also share it with your superintendent and school board members.

For tips on how to visit legislators, see the October issue of the *Advocacy Communicator*, available on line. If you need help or advice, contact Vivien Moreno, Fourth District PTA Vice President for Advocacy, at advocacy@fourthdistrictpta.org or Donna Artukovic, Fourth District and CAPTA Advocate, at donnaartukovic@earthlink.net.

California State PTA 2018 Legislation Conference

January 22 – 23, 2018

Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento

Open to new and experienced PTA advocates.

Registration opens soon at www.capta.org.