

# Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

NOVEMBER 2020

## Decline to sign petition to eliminate the ban on flavored smoking products

California State PTA is asking members not to sign a petition that seeks to eliminate a recently-passed ban on flavored tobacco and vaping products.

CAPTA worked hard to support the passage of SB 793, which prohibits the sale of flavored smoking products to adults and children. It passed the state legislature with bipartisan support and was signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom in August.

The tobacco industry immediately filed a referendum to prevent the law from going into effect on January 1, 2021. If this effort succeeds in collecting 623,212 signatures by December 10, 2020, the law will be on hold until the next general election in 2022, when voters statewide will decide whether to reject or keep the law.

Big Tobacco is spending millions to defeat SB 793, hoping to keep an estimated \$1.1 billion in revenue in

their pockets while hooking more California kids on harmful nicotine.

Flavored tobacco products have long been a tool used by the industry to lure new and young consumers to their products and increase profits. Sweet and minty flavored products have fueled the popularity of e-cigarettes and cigars among youth. In the past two years, youth e-cigarette use has soared 135 percent thanks to these candy flavors. In California, one in every four teens uses a flavored tobacco product.

Spread the word and decline to sign! CAPTA has put together templates with sample wording and images that your unit or council or can quickly and easily post on your social media accounts. (Use the hashtag #PTA4Kids on Twitter so CAPTA can like or retweet your post!) The template can be found [here](#).

## There is a silver lining to the dark pandemic cloud

Yes, it has been a difficult year. But there is at least one silver lining to the dark pandemic cloud: All PTA advocacy events, from the national to the local level, have gone virtual. That means you can attend these events without the expense and inconvenience of traveling.

National PTA is planning a Virtual Legislative Conference on March 9 to 11, 2021. This will be an opportunity to network with fellow PTA advocates from around the country and hear about their success stories. "Don't miss the chance to expand your knowledge of the

ins and outs of federal law, grow your advocacy skills, explore National PTA's legislative priorities for the 117th Congress and virtually meet with your federal representatives on Capitol Hill," says PTA.

The California State PTA Legislation Conference will be held virtually early next year. Plans are in the works. And while we will miss our annual visit to the beautiful state capitol, Sacramento Safari will march on via your computer in February. Watch for more details about these events during the coming months.



**Gabriela Mafi, Ed.D.**  
Garden Grove Unified  
School District



**Gregory A. Franklin, Ed.D.**  
Tustin Unified School District

## Fourth District PTA Superintendents Forum

**Thursday, November 12**  
**9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. via Zoom**

Don't miss one of the most popular and interesting advocacy events of the year!

Open to all PTA members.

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/y6mqc99k>

Registration will close on Wednesday, Nov. 11, 12 p.m.

An email with a link to join the meeting will be sent out before the event.



**Jerry Almendarez**  
Santa Ana Unified School District



**Crystal Turner, Ed.D.**  
Saddleback Unified School District

## School funding basics: Where does the money come from?

Where does the funding that pays for our public schools come from? Property taxes? The state? The federal government? The Lottery?

The answer is all of the above, although in different proportions than you may think.

Many people believe that local property taxes provide the bulk of school funding. However, property tax accounts for only about 21 percent of the statewide K-12 budget. Property taxes are collected at the county level and then divided by the county auditor among numerous local government agencies, including school districts, cities, public utilities, and county services. Each entity receives its share based on a complex system that was developed in the 1970s. Most school districts do not receive enough money through this process to run their schools.

School districts have only a few other options to raise money locally. These include local school bonds (which must be approved by voters), Mello-Roos fees, sale or lease of district properties, and donations. These sources provide about 12 percent of school funding statewide.

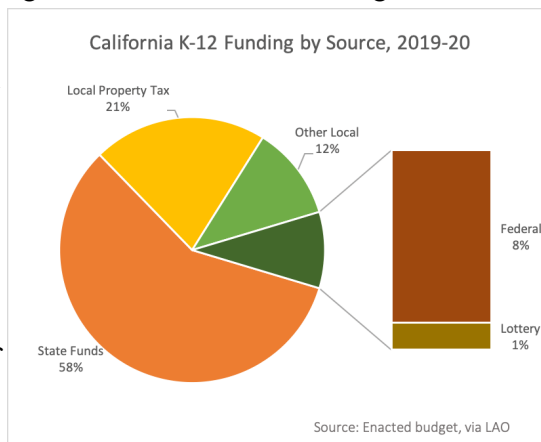
California's Constitution requires the state to provide public education and state law mandates a certain level of funding for each district based on the number of students, grade levels, and the needs of students who are served. To fulfill this obligation, the state provides money from its general fund, filling in about 58 percent of the statewide education budget. Most of the general fund comes from income taxes and about 40 percent of those taxes are paid by the top one percent of income earners. These wealthy folks get much of their income from the proceeds of stock market investments, which tend to fluctuate wildly. This accounts for the repeated boom and bust cycles in California's budget and consequently in state education funding.

### You are it!

Like it or not, you, as an involved parent or community member, are the heart of California's education accountability system. **There is no independent watchdog in the system. You are it.** The system literally depends on the vigilant support of local, active, informed constituents to speak up for what's right and what's needed.

[Ed100.org](https://www.ed100.org) Lesson 1.1

In 1988, California voters passed Prop. 98 in an attempt to assure that 40 percent of each state budget would be allocated to K-12 schools and community colleges. This sounds like a simple, straightforward plan, but in practice Prop. 98 is implemented through complex formulas that almost never result in schools receiving their 40 percent. During economic downturns, the legislature has found ways to suspend Prop. 98, shift revenues and postpone payments to school districts. What was intended to be a floor for education funding has become more of a ceiling.



Some school districts do receive enough local property tax revenues to fulfill or surpass their state requirements. These are known as “basic aid” districts because the state must only provide “basic aid” to fulfill its constitutional requirement. About 100 of the nearly 1,000 California school districts fall in this category.

Federal funding, which amounts to about 8 percent of education funding statewide, comes in the form of money for particular purposes, such as Title I programs for

high poverty schools, and services for special needs children through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

“What about the Lottery? Didn’t that solve school funding?” Absolutely not! While many people believe the California Lottery was created to support education, in reality it was placed on the ballot and promoted by Scientific Games, a company that produces lottery materials. It has never provided more than about one percent of the state education budget.

## CAPTA Advocacy Webinar

Join California State PTA Director of Legislation Shereen Walter and members of the Legislation Team during monthly Advocacy Webinars to discuss all the latest information. The next webinar will take place from 7 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4.

**Webinar registration link for all dates:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/31940121174953740>

If your computer does not have speakers or you otherwise have trouble hearing the audio once you’ve logged in, mute your speakers and call 1 (631) 992-3221 to hear the discussion. Use attendee PIN number 300-067-555.

(Note: you cannot use this phone number to hear the webinar unless you register and log in through the above link first.)