

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

APRIL 2021

California is developing a Cradle-to-Career Data System

A longitudinal data base that will track youngsters from early childhood into their working careers is under development by the state of California.

The Cradle-to-Career Data System (CCDS) will combine information from numerous state agencies and education institutions, including the California Department of Education, county offices of education, community colleges, public and private university systems, the Employment Development Department, and the state Health and Human Services Agency. All of those entities collect information, but for the most part their data banks are not connected.

“Not linking data limits the ability of policymakers, educators, researchers, parents, and others to get answers to many basic questions about student progression from preschool through K-12 education, through higher education, and into the workforce,” according to a [report](#) by the Legislative Analyst’s Office. An integrated data system would give state lawmakers “a more holistic view of the state’s education system and allow policymakers to make more informed budget and policy decisions.”

The development of the CCDS was launched in 2019 with a \$10 million state budget allocation. WestEd, a nonpartisan, nonprofit consulting firm, was chosen as the planning facilitator. During 2020, more than 170 people from numerous organizations worked together to create a blueprint for the data system.

Governor Newsom’s proposed budget for 2021-22 includes \$15 million to continue that work. Next steps will include creating a governance structure for the data system, creating a website and communication materials, and building a virtual data warehouse. Completing the project will take four to five years.

What kind of questions could be answered using a longitudinal data base? Here are a few:

- Which early education programs have the greatest effect on reading and comprehension in elementary school?
- What health and social service programs are best at helping students succeed?

- What are the best strategies to deal with equity gaps?
- Which high school career-technical programs lead to college degrees and higher-paying jobs?
- What are the long-term effects of access to state financial aid?

CAPTA position on the statewide student data base

California State PTA is watching AB 99, which would authorize the continued development of the Cradle-to-Career Data System.

The need for a state-wide data system is supported by **Longitudinal Integrated Statewide Data System**, a [resolution](#) passed by delegates at the 2008 California State PTA Convention and reviewed and deemed relevant in 2017.

The background summary states, in part, “Without an effective student tracking system, California is significantly limited in its ability to determine the effectiveness of local policies, programs, and practices aimed at improving student learning and achievement.”

The CCDS will be available to the public. Parents and students will have access to analytical tools, summaries of key student and employment outcomes, and a research library. “Students and their families could use a suite of operational tools that support college and career planning, college-eligibility monitoring, electronic transcripts, and access to financial aid and other services,” according to a [report](#) by WestEd.

California is one of only a handful of states that do not have a longitudinal data system for students. The new data base will surpass those of other states by being “future proofed” against becoming technically outdated, by reflecting a “whole child” approach, and by providing useful tools for students and families, according to the Governor’s proposed 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, April 7.

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.)

PTA members bring National PTA messages to Congress

Almost 700 PTA members from across the country attended the virtual National PTA Legislative Conference in March. The three-day event included virtual Hill Visits to the offices of our Senators and Representatives.

Participants in the visits presented five requests from National PTA:

- **Make meaningful, robust investments in education in the next COVID relief package.**

The American Rescue Plan, which provides billions of dollars in assistance to schools nationwide, was passed by Congress on the day of the Hill Visits and signed by President Biden the next day.

- **Increase funding for the Statewide Family Engagement Centers to \$20 million.**

PTA asked for increased funding to support Statewide Family Engagement Centers, which are currently operating in 13 states, but not in California.

- **Include schools in any comprehensive infrastructure package.**

PTA supports the passage of the Reopen and Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2021, which would invest \$100 billion in grants and \$30 billion in bonds targeted to high-poverty schools.

There's a giant chasm between what some of our policymakers think and what we are experiencing in our schools. That chasm is where advocacy lives. We close that chasm with our stories.

Daphne Hoffacker, Austin (Texas)
Council PTA Advocacy Chair

- **Improve the federal school meal program through Child Nutrition Reauthorization.**

Congress should extend that waiver authority granted in 2020 to allow child nutrition programs to better meet the needs of struggling families through the next school year and beyond. Congress must reassert its authority over the federal school meal program and reauthorize the child nutrition program to ensure food served in schools meets the highest nutritional standards.

- **Support policies which protect all students, including students from historically marginalized populations and communities.**

PTA urges Congress to introduce and pass the Keeping All Students Safe Act, which would prohibit schools from using seclusion and dangerous restraint practices, except when necessary to protect students and staff. Congress should also introduce and pass the Protecting our Students in Schools Act, which would ban the use of corporal punishment in schools.

Details on the requests can be found [here](#).

Bills supported by California State PTA

California State PTA has taken a support position on the following bills:

AB 408 (Quirk-Silva) Would require educational staff, including teachers, paraprofessionals, and school staff, to be trained on identifying youth who are experiencing homelessness.

SB 100 (Hurtado) Would require the California Department of Social Services to convene a working group to conduct a holistic review of the extended foster care program and make recommendations to the Legislature on needed improvements, ensuring the program meets the current needs of California's foster youth.

AB 366 (Rubio, Blanca) Would ensure foster youth would receive age appropriate sex and HIV education, by requiring social works to report completion of this education to the court. Youths who are 10 years of age or older, in junior high, middle, or high school, and has been under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court for a year or longer would fall under this law.

AB 37 (Berman) Would require elections officials to mail every active registered voter a ballot for all future elections and ensure that all California voters can contin-

ue to track their vote-by-mail ballot as they move through the mail system and are processed by elections officials.

SB 274 (Wieckowski) The Brown Act requires that a legislative body must mail a copy of its meeting agenda or full agenda packet upon request. This law would require these items to be emailed, or provided via a website link, upon request.

For information about how CAPTA takes positions on bills, go to the [Advocacy](#) section of the Toolkit.

Join us in Sacramento in '22!

Our virtual Fourth District PTA Sacramento Safari in February was a big success, but next year we hope to be back in Sacramento where PTA parents can network with each other, tour the beautiful state capitol building, and visit legislators' offices.

Please plan to send at least one person to Sacramento on February 21 and 22 in 2022. Include about \$700 in your PTA budget per person for the trip.

