

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

APRIL 2022

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Forum

Friday, April 8
9:30-11:30 a.m. via Zoom
<http://qr.w69b.com/g/oI9WI9Yzu>



9:30—10:30 a.m. **Build your own Student Sacramento Advocacy Program!**

The Irvine Unified Council PTA will present:

- How their program got started and continues to evolve
- Who from the school district, each school site, and PTSA participates in the program
- What information, materials, and resources are provided
- How students are selected
- What a typical 6-week activity schedule looks like

10:30—10:45 a.m. **Update on California State bills**

10:45—11:15 a.m. **Changes in voting districts**

11:15—11:30 a.m. **Wrap-up with the A-Team**

National PTA advocacy

PTA advocacy isn't just local or statewide. National PTA takes positions on federal bills and issues of national importance. Here are two of the concerns National PTA is addressing:

- **Sensible solutions to gun violence and gun violence prevention.** No parent should have to fear for the safety of their child once they leave home. Unfortunately, lives are continuously being lost or changed forever due to a lack of gun violence prevention laws. PTA calls on Congress and the Administration to immediately address the many factors that contribute to the rampant gun violence in the United States.
- **Critical funding for school infrastructure.** National PTA and its members have long advocated to ensure schools have the proper resources needed to help children learn, grow and succeed to reach their full potential. Yet, historically, unlike roads and bridges, school facilities have received virtually no federal investment. In more than 30 percent of public-school facilities, windows, plumbing and HVAC systems are considered in "fair" or "poor" condition. Now is the time for the federal government to invest in school infrastructure.

For more information, and to easily send messages to your federal legislators, visit pta.org.

Academy for Student Leaders

Ed100, a trusted source of information on California public education, has a special program designed just for students: the Ed100 Academy for Student Leaders. In June 2021, about 500 students participated in a three-day Ed100 conference with more than 30 speakers on a variety of topics.

This year's Academy will be held June 20 to 22. The first free application deadline is April 14. Students who apply by this date and are accepted will be connected with a peer from the Ed100 team of outreach ambassadors, who can help them get the most out of the experience.

Ed100 is also looking for faculty members or PTA parents who work with student leaders to serve as allies to nudge individual students to apply. For more information go to Ed100.org.

Where to find your new election maps

For the second time in California's history, new district boundaries for State Senate, Assembly, Congress and the State Board of Equalization were drawn by a Citizens Redistricting Commission. The new districts are in effect for the June 7 Primary Election.

Your district may have changed. The Orange County Registrar of Voters has posted maps showing where the new boundaries are. Find them [here](#).

The site also has maps for the Orange County Board of Education, the Board of Supervisors and other districts.

CAPTA State Convention

This year's California State PTA Convention will be held April 29 to May 1 at the Ontario Convention Center.

Delegates will vote on a resolution that would support the use of plant-based options in school meals "so that all students have access to healthy meal options that meet their diverse needs, while mitigating environmental impacts." Plant-based meals are defined as containing no animal products or byproducts, including meat, poultry, fish, dairy, or eggs. The resolution was submitted by the student members of the CAPTA Board of Managers.

Convention workshops include three for advocates:

- Who Wants to Be an Advocate?
- 8 Steps to Advocacy: How to be a Changemaker!
- PTA Resolutions – Representing the Voice of our Membership

For more information go to CAPTA.org.

Candidate Forum for OC Superintendent and OC Board of Education

A Candidate Forum for Orange County Superintendent and three seats on the Orange County Board of Education will be held virtually from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3.

The forum is sponsored by Fourth District PTA and the League of Women Voters of Central Orange County Area. Both PTA and the League are nonpartisan organizations that do not support or oppose candidates. The moderator of the forum will be Jan Wagner, from the League of Women Voters of North Orange County.

All of the candidates have been invited to participate. The forum will be run under League guidelines, with the first half hour dedicated to the two candidates for superintendent and the next hour focused on the Board of Education seats. Questions will be posed to each candidate, beginning with a different candidate for each round. Personal attacks and debate will not be allowed.

Watch for announcements from Fourth District PTA to register for the forum and submit your questions. Please specify if the question is intended for the superintendent candidates or board candidates. Questions may be addressed to a specific person but all candidates will have an opportunity to reply.

OC Department of Education Candidates

Orange County Superintendent

Stefan Bean
Al Mijares (Incumbent)

Board of Education Area 2

Mari Barke (Incumbent)
Martha Fluor
Christopher R. Ganiere

Board of Education Area 4

Paulette Chaffee
David M. Choi
Ellisa Kim
Tim Shaw (Incumbent)

Board of Education Area 5

Sherine Smith
Lisa Sparks (Incumbent)

The role of the Orange County Department of Education

State law requires every California county to have an office of education that oversees the finances and operation of school districts in that county. This includes approving each school district's budget and Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). In our county the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) fulfills this function. OCDE also provides an array of services and resources to students and school districts. These include teacher training, technical support, legal services, and alternative education programs for certain students.

The OCDE has a board of five trustees, who are elected by the voters in each of five trustee areas in Orange County. The Orange County Superintendent of Schools also is elected by the voters of Orange County.

The county Board of Education approves the OCDE budget and serves as an appeal board for local cases involving student expulsions or inter-district transfers. The county board also has the power to approve charter school applications that have been denied by local school boards. The board does not control any of the 27 Orange County school districts.

The Orange County Board of Education meets once a month. Information about the meetings, including the current agenda and transcripts of past meetings, is available at ocde.us.

Where to get information on bills

Where can you go to find information about legislative bills supported by California State PTA?

A list of the bills that CAPTA is supporting, watching, or opposing can be found at www.capta.org under Focus Areas.

You can also track state bills through the official state legislative information [website](#). When you get to the page for a specific bill, click on the tab titled "Bill Analysis." This will often provide you with additional information, including a clear explanation of what the law would do, why it is needed, research or background to support the need for the law, arguments for and against, and a list of supporters. The "History" tab will tell you the current status of the bill.

CAPTA Advocacy Briefing

Join the California State PTA Legislation Team for an informational briefing, followed by an opportunity to speak with Legislation Team members, in small group settings, to ask questions and discuss effective ways to advocate at your school, district, and greater community.

The next California State PTA advocacy briefing and office hour virtual meeting will be held Tuesday, April 19, at 7 p.m.

To register to join the monthly advocacy briefing and office hour zoom meetings click [here](#).