

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

JUNE 2022

Governor's May revise budget addresses many PTA priorities

California State PTA is pleased that the Governor's May budget revision includes many PTA priorities. We are encouraged by the projected increase in Proposition 98 funding and the proposed increase in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) base grant. Adequate and stable school funding has been a long time PTA priority. Although we appreciate the direction of this proposal, we urge the Governor to embrace the significantly larger LCFF base grant increases proposed by the Legislature and supported by California State PTA. Further, we renew our commitment to seek stable, ongoing funding rather than fluctuating and one-time funding.

PTA Priorities:

- **Nutrition** Adding \$611.8 million to the Universal school meals program to ensure reimbursement rates for schools continue when the federal funding ends (current funding ends 6/30/22 unless Congress acts to extend this program).
- **LCFF Base Funding** May Revise proposes an increase of \$2.1 billion, about three percent, to the LCFF base funding. This will impact students in all public schools in California and we encourage the administration to go further to increase the funding closer to what is proposed in the legislature.
- **K-12 facilities** \$3.9 billion in facilities over the next three years for modernization and new construction. To address outstanding school maintenance and energy efficient upgrade, the governor is proposing an additional \$1.8 billion.

- **Expanded Learning Opportunities** This budget proposal would fully fund the implementation of the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) four years ahead of schedule. This proposal would allocate \$2,500 for every low income student, English language learner and foster youth in grades TK-6 in the state.
- **Pre-Kindergarten Education**
 - **State Preschool Family Fee Waivers** – waiving the family share cost for children participating in the State Preschool Program for the 2022-2023 school year.

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A record-breaking state budget

With a stunning level of tax revenue leading to the largest California state budget ever, Governor Gavin Newsom is proposing a record-breaking \$128 billion expenditure for K-12 schools and community colleges in 2022-23. This is \$20 billion higher than the education budget that Newsom proposed in January and a \$35 billion increase over the budget for the current fiscal year.

The governor's May revise budget provides funding for a number of PTA priorities, including an increase in the LCFF base grant and more funding for nutrition, school facilities and early childhood education.

The proposed budget includes a record-breaking \$8 billion in one-time discretionary money, allocated on a per-pupil basis. The governor would like that money to be spent on three general areas in response to the impacts of the pandemic: protecting staffing levels, addressing student learning challenges, and supporting the mental health and wellness of students and staff. However, school districts could use these funds as they see best.

The budget also includes \$1.85 billion for deferred maintenance at all schools, \$4.5 billion for community schools, and \$1.5 billion for all-electric school buses.

During the next weeks state lawmakers will work with the governor to develop a final state budget. One of the issues they will work out is how much to increase the LCFF base grant, with both the Assembly and Senate looking at larger increases than the governor proposes.

The state Constitution requires the legislators to complete the budget by June 15. The governor must sign it by June 30.

Click [here](#) to hear Kevin Gordon's analysis of the May revise budget during the CAPTA Advocacy Briefing on May 24.

Do you know your state legislature?

How much do you know about your California State Legislature? Test your knowledge!

Answers are on page 2.

1. How many Senate members are there?
2. How many members are in the Assembly?
3. How long are their terms?
4. What are their term limits?
5. Who leads the Senate?
6. Who leads the Assembly?
7. What does AB or SB before a bill number mean?



Get ready to be involved in next year's LCAP process

Before the end of June, your school district will approve a budget for the next year along with a Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), as required under the state's Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

Do you know what is in your district's LCAP? Were you involved in putting it together?

The LCAP is a three-year plan that describes how your school district will spend its budget to serve the students in your local schools. It must address 10 priority areas: basic services, state standards, course access, expelled youth, foster youth, parent involvement, student engagement, school climate, student achievement, and student outcomes. It must also show how your district will address the needs of children from low-income families, foster youth, English learners and homeless children.

The LCAP is reviewed and updated every year with the help of parents, staff, students and community members. Getting involved in that process is one of the most important things you can do on the local level.

You can get ready for the next round by learning more about the LCAP and the school system and by taking a look at the resources that are available to you.

CAPTA response to May revise

(continued from page 1)

- **State Preschool Program** – increased funding via adjustment factors for students with disabilities and dual language learners in the State Preschool Program.

We are hopeful that the proposed Discretionary Block Grant will allow school districts to use one-time funds to address student learning challenges, support the mental health and wellness of students and staff and allow local decision making on how best to use the funds to support our local school communities.

The increase to 6.56 percent to the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) from the proposal of 5.33 percent in January is improving news, although this still puts school districts behind inflation which is just over 8 percent. This highlights the need to pursue the Legislature's proposals to further increase LCFF base funding.

PTA is also encouraged to see the Governor's commitment to invest in special education, community schools, mental health services, early literacy, community engagement, STEM instruction and teacher and staff retention and recruitment.

California State PTA will continue to work with both the administration and Legislature to ensure the needs of California's children and families are met. As PTA members, this is an opportunity for advocacy both locally and throughout California.

California State PTA [website](#) has lots of information and links to other resources. ED100.org, an excellent source of information about the California education system, offers a recent [blog](#) by Jeff Camp that explains the importance of the LCAP.

Take some time this summer to develop your expertise and you'll be ready to roll when the new school year begins!

What is LCFF?

The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) is a simplified funding system established in 2013. Under LCFF, every school district receives a per-pupil **base grant**, with differing amounts for the grade levels of the students served. Districts receive **supplemental grants** for each student who is an English learner, homeless, low-income or in foster care. (Children in more than one category are counted once.) Districts with more than 55 percent of students in those at-risk categories receive an additional **concentration grant** amount for each student over the 55 percent threshold.

School districts decide how to spend the funding, but they must describe their plans by developing Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs) with input from parents, staff, students and the community.

Include Advocacy in your PTA budget

Be sure to include advocacy in your PTA budget for the next school year. If you plan to host a candidate forum for your school board, there may be expenses connected to that. Also, please budget \$700 to send a representative to Sacramento Safari, scheduled for February 27 and 28 in 2023.

Answers to the quiz on page 1:

1. 40 State Senators
2. 80 Assembly Members
3. Senators serve four-year terms, Assembly members serve two-year terms
4. A person may serve no more than 12 years in the Senate, Assembly or both, in any combination of terms.
5. The Lieutenant Governor is the president of the Senate but usually only gets involved to break a tie vote. The Senate is led by the president pro tempore, currently Toni Atkins.
6. The Assembly is led by the Speaker, currently Anthony Rendon.
7. AB means Assembly Bill, a bill that was authored by one or more Assembly members. SB means Senate Bill, a bill that was authored by one or more Senators.