

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

SEPTEMBER 2022

School years starts with another record-breaking budget

Once again, California is starting the school year with a record-breaking education budget. Total state funding for schools and community colleges will be \$128 billion, \$37 billion more than last year.

“California school districts, enjoy it, make it last and spend it wisely, because you may never see an education budget like the one that Gov. Gavin Newsom signed...,” says an [article](#) at EdSource.org.

Much of the revenue can be attributed to wealthy taxpayers whose incomes stem largely from investments in the stock market. If the economy goes downhill, state tax revenues will follow. Another large chunk of the budget comes from federal COVID assistance, which is due to expire.

In the meantime, the state has plenty of money to deal with pressing needs, such as mental health care and helping students recover from lags in their education due to the pandemic.

Most of the new money will go to new programs and much of it will be spread out over several years.

Here are some of the things the funding will pay for:

- Counseling and mental health services
- Transitional Kindergarten for 4-year-olds whose birthdays fall between December 2 and February 2
- Arts, music and instructional materials
- Before- and after-school programs and summer enrichment programs
- Programs to encourage careers in health, computer science, STEM and education
- Literacy coaches, tutors and other interventions

Plan your PTA advocacy year

Advocacy Training Workshop

September 16 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Advocacy Forums

November 18 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

January 20 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

April 28 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Sacramento Safari

Orientation February 17

Sacramento Safari February 27 and 28

Safari Debrief March 10

CAPTA Convention

Sacramento

- School construction and renovation
- Community schools in low-income neighborhoods
- Free meals for all students

Extra levels of funding will be directed to school districts for services to students who are English learners, low-income, homeless or in foster care.

This will be an important year for PTA members to stay informed about how their district and schools are spending this money. Is it being used to assist the students who need help? Is it being spent equitably?

Look for information on your school district website. Your district’s Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) should be posted there. Ask your principal for information at your unit meetings. Invite the superintendent to present reports at PTA council meetings (if she or he doesn’t already do so). Attend school board meetings and be prepared to provide input when needed. Get involved in your school district’s [LCAP process](#) to help decide how the funding will be spent in upcoming years.

For more information about the budget, go to this [blog](#) at Ed100.org.

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Training Workshop

Friday, September 16

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Orange County Department of Education
Building D, Rooms 1004/5
200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa

There is no charge, but you must be a PTA member to attend.

Get ready for another great year of PTA advocacy! There will be information for new and continuing advocates.

The program will include:

- Updates from California State PTA
- Information on how to advocate
- How to help high school seniors register to vote
- Information on Prop. 28 (arts funding)

California State PTA supports Propositions 28 and 31

Vote YES on Prop. 28, The California Art and Music K-12 Education Funding Initiative

Prop. 28 requires the state to provide funding each year for arts and music instruction in grades Pre-K through 12. The amount would be at least 1 percent of the total state and local revenues that public schools received in the previous year, but the money would come from the state's General Fund, not Prop. 98 school funding. Spending on arts programs would increase by as much as \$1 billion, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office.

Funding would be allocated to schools based on the prior year's enrollment, with 70 percent distributed to schools based on their share of statewide enrollment and 30 percent based on each school's share of low-income students statewide. At least 80 percent of the funding must be used to hire new staff and only 1 percent may go to administration. The rest may be used for materials, musical instruments, and other program expenses. The initiative would also require schools to publish reports showing how the money was used to directly benefit students.

California State PTA has long advocated for more arts education in our schools. Although state law mandates arts education in grades 1-6 and arts electives in high school, 88 percent of schools do not provide adequate programs. Studies have shown that students who participate in art and music programs are more likely to stay in school, do well in other classes, receive a bachelor's degree and move into successful careers. California has a vibrant creative economy that generates 2.7 million jobs. Many business leaders are looking for employees who have creative and innovative skills.

See the California State PTA Study Report on this initiative [here](#).

Effort to change Orange County School Board elections does not pass

SB 286, which would have changed the election for the Orange County Board of Education, was held back by the Assembly Appropriations Committee, eliminating its chances of passing.

The bill, authored by Senator David Min, would have moved the election for members of the county board from the June primary to the November general election. Fourth District PTA members voted in February to support the measure because voter turnout for general elections is generally substantially higher than for primaries. National and California State PTA Position Statements and CAPTA Legislation Platforms emphasize the importance of citizen participation in elections.

Vote YES on Prop. 31, Referendum on Flavored Tobacco Products Ban

This proposition asks the question: Should SB 793, which bans the sale of flavored tobacco and vaping products, be approved and go into effect?

California State PTA was a strong proponent of SB 793, which was passed by state lawmakers and signed into law by Gov. Newsom in 2020. It prohibits the sale of certain flavored tobacco products or tobacco product flavor enhancers to adults and children.

Studies have shown that flavored tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, are appealing to youth and teenagers. The rate of high school students who use e-cigarettes has more than doubled in the last few years and middle school student use has tripled since 2017. Studies have shown that flavored smoking products drive the demand for use, with 97 percent of young e-cigarette users preferring flavored products and 70 percent saying that this was the reason for their use. More than 5.3 million kids in the U.S (27.5 percent) now use e-cigarettes.

Soon after the measure was enacted, a coalition representing the tobacco industry turned in more than a million signatures to force a referendum that could eliminate the law. This gave the industry two more years to sell their addictive products to adults and children. Tobacco companies have spent more than \$21 million to defeat the law.

If a majority of voters support Prop. 31, SB 793 will go into effect.

See California State PTA's study on this issue [here](#).

Resources for informed voters

The General Election will be held on November 8. Your ballot will include state offices, state and federal legislators, city and county offices, school boards, and seven statewide propositions. Make sure you're ready to be an informed voter. Here are some nonpartisan websites with valuable information:

[VotersEdge.org](#)

Information on candidates and ballot measures. Enter your address and find out what is on your ballot, as well as information about how to vote.

[Ballotpedia.org](#)

In-depth information about candidates and propositions, including campaign contributions and who supports and opposes the ballot measures.

[OCVote.com](#)

Voting information from the Orange County Registrar of Voters