

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

DECEMBER 2022

Legislative Analyst predicts a drop in education funding

After years of record-breaking education budgets, the long-anticipated downturn in state revenues has arrived, leading to potential cuts in the amount of money schools receive during the next several years.

Rising interest rates have led to a weakened economy and state tax receipts for the current budget year have been lower than expected, leading to reduced funding for schools, says a [report](#) by the Legislative Analyst's Office. However, the state has prepared for this eventuality and the LAO recommends several ways to cushion the anticipated losses.

Prop. 98 requires the state to allocate a specific amount of funding (the "minimum guarantee") to K-12 schools and community colleges, based on school attendance and certain economic indicators. The minimum guarantee is a combination of local property taxes and money from the state's General Fund. The guarantee for the current budget year is down by \$204 million from estimates made in June, and an additional \$5.4 billion drop is expected in the next fiscal year, according to the LAO report.

There is an elevated risk of a recession starting next year but the LAO does not think this is inevitable. "Our forecast also anticipates improvement in subsequent years, with revenue estimates reflecting normal levels of growth in 2025-26 and 2026-27," the LAO says. "If the Legislature chooses to reduce spending, it could do so in ways that would not disrupt ongoing spending. For example, it could reduce certain one-time grants the state has not yet allocated to schools or community colleges." Funding for multi-year grants could be reduced with the costs covered in future budgets instead.

The LAO sees several other ways to mitigate the losses. During the pandemic years, school enrollment declined but the state continued to fund schools at pre-pandemic per-pupil amounts. With the state now going back to paying for actual enrollment there will be a reduction in spending.

The 2022-23 budget allocated a significant amount of ongoing Prop. 98 money to one-time activities which expire in the next budget year, freeing up the underlying funds. These savings and the decrease in enrollment will make \$7.6 billion available for an 8.38 percent cost of living adjustment in 2023-24, the LAO predicts.

Since 2014, the state has had a Proposition 98 Reserve—a rainy day fund dedicated solely to education. By the next fiscal year there will be about \$8.3 billion in this reserve. The LAO recommends withdrawing \$2.4 billion

to \$3.1 billion for each of the next three fiscal years. "These withdrawals would reduce the likelihood of reductions to existing programs," the report states. Local school districts have their own reserve funds that are currently at "relatively high levels" and these can also be used to weather the economic downturn.

The LAO points out that during the past two fiscal years the minimum guarantee grew by \$31.3 billion, the fastest two-year increase since the passage of Prop. 98 in 1988. "The drop in 2022-23 erodes only a small portion of this gain. By historical standards, the school funding picture remains strong."

The LAO's report is the starting point for the budget planning process. Gov. Newsom will undoubtedly use the information as he puts together his initial 2023-24 budget proposal, which will be unveiled in January.

Sacramento Safari 2023

What you need to know!

- Begins Monday, February 27 at 10 a.m. Embassy Suites, Sacramento
- Ends Tuesday, February 28 at 5 p.m.

Who can go?

- Current PTA members in good standing.
- Attendees from units and councils must be voted as representatives.
- Attendees must be adults or high school students accompanied by an adult.
- School board trustees and superintendents are welcome.

Cost? About \$800 total

- \$425 per person for double occupancy.
- \$550 per person for single occupancy
- Includes lunch and dinner on day 1 and breakfast on day 2.
- Make your own travel arrangements. Plan to pay for transportation from and to the airport and lunch and dinner on Tuesday.
- Costs should be reimbursed by your PTA unit or council.

Registration is now [open](https://fourthdistrictpta.org) at fourthdistrictpta.org.

Save the date
Sacramento Safari Orientation
February 17, 9:30 a.m.



New and returning legislators representing Orange County

Although election results are not final, there are clear winners in Orange County state legislative districts. Several county lawmakers will be returning to their seats, but there are also a number of newcomers. Legislators will assume their offices on December 5.

District boundaries changed since the last election due to the redistricting process that takes place every 10 years. To find out what districts you live in go to this interactive [map](#) provided by the Orange County Registrar. You can also find your state Assembly member and senator at this [website](#).

Please note that the election results on the Orange County Registrar of Voters website ([OCVote.gov](#)) are for Orange County only. Some Orange County legislative districts extend into neighboring counties. For full results, go to the Secretary of State website ([sos.ca.gov](#))

County officials must complete their final official results by December 8. The Secretary of State will certify the results on December 16.

Two propositions supported by CAPTA are approved by voters

Although the final results have not been certified, it appears that the two California State PTA-supported propositions on the November ballot passed with solid majorities.

Prop. 28, which provides a permanent funding source for arts and music programs in public schools, took 64 percent of the votes. Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, the state must allocate an amount equal to one percent of the Prop. 98 funding for the prior year and give it to schools for arts programs. The money will come from the General Fund, not from Prop. 98 school funding. The Legislative Analyst estimates that schools will receive \$941 million for arts during the first year.

Prop. 31 passed by 63 percent. The ballot measure was an attempt by tobacco companies to prevent SB 793 from going into effect. SB 793 prohibits the sale of certain flavored tobacco products or tobacco product flavor enhancers to adults and children. These flavored products are appealing to youth and teenagers, with 97 percent of young e-cigarette smokers using flavored products. With the passage of Prop. 31, the ban will go into effect.

Save the Date
California State PTA
Legislation Conference
March 20 and 21
in Sacramento

State Lawmakers for Orange County

State Senate

30th District—Bob Archuleta (returning)
32nd District—Kelly Seyarto (former Assembly member)
34th District—Tom Umberg (returning)
36th District—Janet Nguyen (returning)
38th District—Catherine Blakespear

State Assembly

59th District—Phillip Chen (returning)
64th District—Blanca Pacheco
67th District—Sharon Quirk-Silva (returning)
68th District—Avelino Valencia
70th District—Tri Ta
71st District—Kate Sanchez
72nd District—Diane Dixon
73rd District—Cottie Petrie-Norris (returning)
74th District—Laurie Davies (returning)

Save the Date
Fourth District PTA Advocacy Forum
Friday, January 20 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Orange County Department of Education
Room D1004/5
200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa

CAPTA monthly Advocacy Calls

Join the California State PTA Legislation Team for a monthly 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.

[Register](#) in advance for these webinars. All calls are from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted below.

Dates and topics:

- December 13 (30 minutes)—*Introduction to legislation conference*
- January 17—*Budget – guest speaker*
- February 21—*Coalition building*
- March 21—*Panel (possibly mental health) / Advocates bill report*
- April 18—*Convention preview*
- May 16—*Wins report sharing what our advocacy has achieved in the legislative cycle*
- May 30—*May budget revise*