

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

JANUARY 2023

Work continues on the Cradle-to-Career Data System

Work continues on a longitudinal database designed to track California youngsters from early childhood into their working careers.

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 databanks are not connected.

The new integrated data system, rolling out over the next five years, will allow educators, policy-makers, parents and the public to determine which programs and strategies are the most effective in assuring student success over the long term. It will give state lawmakers “a more holistic view of the state’s education system and allow policymakers to make more informed budget and

policy decisions,” according to a [report](#) by the Legislative Analyst’s Office.

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 can use these features to assist them with college and career planning, college-eligibility monitoring, electronic transcripts, and access to financial aid and other services. Individual information about students will be protected.

What kind of questions could be answered with the help of 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?

The development of the CCDS was launched in 2019 with a \$10 million state budget allocation. WestEd, a non-partisan, 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.

In May 2022, the CCDS announced it had signed “landmark legal agreements with 15 education, social service, and workforce entities that allow for the creation of data sets on student progress from pre-K through college and employment.” The Cradle-to-Career Governing Board also appointed 32 researchers, advocates and educators to two new advisory boards to provide ideas and feedback.

On June 8, the Office of Cradle-to-Career Data will hold the first of a series of [Community Conversations](#), where members of the public can learn more about new developments and provide their input.

Don't be left behind!

Sacramento Safari 2023

February 27 and 28

Embassy Suites, Sacramento



**Complete information
and registration at fourthdistrictpta.org**

Sacramento Safari Orientation

Virtual

February 17, 9:30 a.m.

**Please be sure to attend this important meeting if
you are going to Sacramento Safari.**

National PTA Legislative Conference

National PTA will hold its Legislative Conference virtually on March 7 and 8. This is a great opportunity to hear from National PTA leaders and to find out what PTA is doing on the national level. The event will include virtual visits with members of Congress.

More information is available at pta.org.

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

Watch for more details.

The California School Dashboard is back with a new look

After a three-year break, the California School Dashboard is back with a new look.

The [Dashboard](#) is the state's online school accountability system. It uses multiple criteria such as academic achievement, graduation rates, chronic absenteeism, and college and career readiness, to measure school success. Normally it also indicates whether schools have improved or declined in each area.

The Dashboard hasn't been updated since before the pandemic because statewide testing was suspended and data were not available. The assessments fully returned last spring.



Previously, multi-colored dials were used to illustrate a school's performance and to show progress over time on math and English scores. Because the state only has information for the 2021-22 school year, this year's version uses simple bar charts that resemble cell phone reception bars. More bars indicate

better results.

The Dashboard can help parents get the information they need to work on priorities for their school district Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAP).

For more information, see this [article](#) by the Orange County Department of Education.

Tobacco companies continue to fight flavored tobacco ban

California voters approved a new law that bans the sale of flavored tobacco products, but R.J. Reynolds and other tobacco companies are still trying to get rid of it.

[SB 793](#) was 2020 legislation that was supported by California State PTA. Studies have shown that tobacco products and e-cigarettes with fruit and candy flavors appeal to young people. More than 5 million kids in the U.S. now use e-cigarettes and 70 percent say they started smoking because of the flavored products.

SB 793 was passed and signed by Gov. Newsom in 2020. A coalition of tobacco companies immediately turned in enough signatures to force a referendum, giving voters an opportunity to reject the law. Instead, 63.4 percent of voters approved SB 793 by voting yes on Prop. 31 in the 2022 General Election.

The tobacco companies then filed a lawsuit, arguing that the law violates the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution and that the state does not have the authority to dictate how out-of-state manufacturers make their products. When a California District Court refused to block the law, the companies filed an emergency appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court to stop or delay the measure until there is a ruling on the lawsuit. On December 12 the full Court denied the appeal without comment and without dissents. This allowed the law to go into effect as soon as the election results were certified by the California Secretary of State in mid-December.

**California State PTA
Legislation Conference
March 20 and 21
in Sacramento**

CAPTA monthly Advocacy Webinars

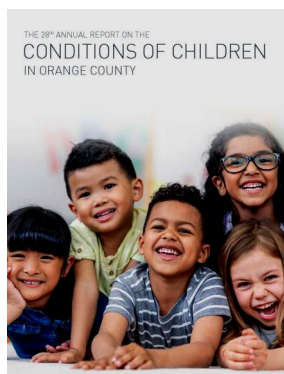
Join the California State PTA Legislation Team for a monthly informational briefing, followed by an opportunity to speak with Legislation Team members, in small group settings, to ask questions and discuss effective ways to advocate at your school, district, and greater community.

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

Next call:

- January 17—*Budget – guest speaker*
- February 21
- March 21
- April 18
- May 16
- May 30

Conditions of Children in Orange County



The 28th Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County was released last month by the Orange County Social Services Agency.

The report covers the areas of good health, economic well-being, educational achievement and safe homes and communities. Much of the information is broken down by city or school district.

You can read the report [here](#).