

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

FEBRUARY 2023

Governor's budget proposal maintains education funding

The long-anticipated drop in state revenues has arrived, with a \$22 billion shortfall predicted for the next fiscal year, but Governor Newsom says he is determined to continue California's "unprecedented transformation of public education."

His [budget](#) proposal for 2023-24 maintains support for all of the programs launched during the past several years. This includes mental health services, community schools, early learning programs, and efforts to help students recover from learning losses due to the pandemic.

The proposal provides an 8.1 percent cost of living increase through the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). When combined with other growth adjustments, this will give local education agencies an additional \$4.2 billion in discretionary funds.

The budget does not use any money from the state's public education rainy day fund, which currently stands at about \$8.5 billion.

The total proposed education budget is \$108.8 billion. This translates into \$17,519 in funding per pupil, the highest level ever for the state. When property tax and federal revenues are included, it adds up to \$23,723 per pupil.

The governor's budget proposal includes the following allocations:

- \$12.5 billion for learning loss mitigation.
- \$4.7 billion for mental health.
- \$4.1 billion for community schools.
- \$4 billion for before- and after-school programs and summer school.
- \$3.5 billion for special education.
- \$3.3 to recruit, train and retain educators.
- \$2.3 billion for the Arts, Music and Instructional Materials Block Grant (This is a \$1.2 billion reduction from last year's budget. The block grant is separate from the Prop. 28 arts funding that was approved by voters in November. Prop. 28 will provide \$941 million for arts programs out of the General Fund.)

- \$1.3 billion for universal school meals.
- \$1.2 billion to expand eligibility for universal transitional kindergarten.
- \$300 million as an "equity multiplier" to provide additional resources at schools that serve children of color and students who are homeless, in foster care, low-income, English language learners, and those with disabilities.
- \$116 million to expand the State Preschool Program.
- \$3.5 million to maintain at least two doses of medication to reverse opioid overdoses at every middle and high school.
- \$100 million one-time funding to allow all high school seniors to go to museums, theater productions or other art activities. This is about \$200 per student.

In May, the Governor will issue a "May revise" budget based on updated tax revenue information. State lawmakers will develop their own budget proposals and there will be continuing discussions between legislators and the Governor. The State Constitution requires the legislators to pass the budget by June 15.

For more information:

- Carol Kocivar's [blog](#) at Ed100 explaining the state budget process.
- An [analysis](#) by John Fensterwald at EdSource.

**California State PTA
Legislation Conference**
March 20 and 21
in Sacramento
More information at [CAPTA.org](https://www.capta.org)

Registration is open!

Sacramento Safari 2023

**Student Well-Being:
Nurturing Hearts and Minds**

**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.**



Why your legislative district may have two state senators

If you want to find out who your state senator and assembly member are, this [website](#) is a good place to go.

However, you may find that there are two senators in your district. Or the person who is listed as your senator is not actually in your district.

Why did this happen?

The answer goes back to the National Census, which was held in 2020. After the Census, every state redraws its legislative districts. In California this work is done by a 14-member Citizens Redistricting Commission, a bipartisan group that is selected every 10 years. The Commission members must redraw the district lines according to strict nonpartisan rules. They may not take the residences of current lawmakers into consideration.

The Commission's map was certified by the state legislature in 2021 and the new districts were in place for the 2022 election. State Senators hold office for four years and their terms are staggered so only half are elected every two years. In 2022, senators in even-numbered districts were up.

Happy birthday, LCFF!

The Local Control Funding Formula is 10 years old this year. In recognition of that milestone, the state Legislative Analyst's Office has issued a [report](#) describing in detail how the formula came about and how it works.

LCFF replaced a previous school funding system that was, according to the LAO, overly complex, antiquated, inequitable, inefficient and highly centralized. The new system is much simpler, treats districts similarly, and provides more resources to schools with populations of needy students. It also gives school districts more control over how funds are spent and creates a local planning process that provides more transparency.

The impact on student outcomes is difficult to assess, the report notes, but some preliminary studies (using pre-pandemic data) suggest that the LCFF has resulted in improvements on standardized tests and graduation rates for English learners and low income students, especially in districts with high concentrations of those groups.

CAPTA Advocacy Webinar

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.

The next webinar takes place from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21. Please register in advance [here](#).

In some areas the new even-numbered senate districts overlapped the old odd-numbered districts, where senators had not completed their terms. Other neighborhoods switched to odd district numbers where no senator was elected.

To assure that every area is represented, the State Senate Rules Committee assigned a senator to provide constituent services in each area without an elected senator. A senator serving in this position may be identified as a "representative" on the website.

This situation will resolve when senators in odd-numbered districts are elected in 2024.

All of the Assembly members are elected every two years, so all of the Assembly districts are covered.

Arts
ORANGE COUNTY


**THE 13TH
CREATIVE EDGE LECTURE**

**DR.
MARIA
ROSARIO
JACKSON**

**CHAIR OF THE
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS**

**FREE
Admission**

**FEBRUARY 7
TUESDAY, 10 A.M.**
IRVINE BARCLAY THEATRE

PRESENTED BY **Arts** ORANGE COUNTY  **Fourth District
PTA**
everychild.onevoice

Please register [here](#).

National PTA Legislative Conference

"Health and Safety for Every Child" is the theme for the 2023 National PTA Legislative Conference, to be held virtually on March 7 and 8.

Registration is \$50. For more information go to [PTA.org](#).