

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

JUNE 2023

Governor's May revise budget maintains education programs

As anticipated, projected state revenues have decreased since January, leading to a drop in education funding in Gov. Newsom's May revise [budget](#). However, Newsom's plan does include an 8.2 percent cost of living adjustment and maintains funding for schools and childcare programs.

The total state budget now has a \$31.5 billion deficit, as compared to a \$22.5 billion shortfall anticipated in the January budget proposal. In the revised budget, Prop. 98 funding for TK-12 schools and community colleges would be \$106.8 billion, a \$2 billion drop from the initial budget proposed in January. That is about \$4 billion less than the record-breaking \$110.4 billion budget from two years ago. (It's also about \$10 billion more than the 2020-21 education budget.)

Newsom's proposal reduces some one-time multi-year allocations in order to maintain ongoing education investments. Funding for the Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant would be reduced from \$7.9 billion to \$5.4 billion. About \$607 million would be cut from the Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials Discretionary Block Grant, leaving \$1.8 billion for distribution to school districts. This is separate from the \$941 million in arts funding that schools will receive from Prop. 28 next year.

Programs that would be maintained in the proposed budget include:

- **Accountability improvements and equity multiplier:** \$300 million would be added to the Local Control Funding Formula to be allocated to schools that serve students with learning needs. Accountability changes would require school districts to show how they are addressing low student performance. An additional \$2 million would go to county departments of education to provide assis-

tance to "equity multiplier" schools.

- **Transitional kindergarten:** This year the state expanded eligibility for this program but enrollment has been lower than expected. The May revise provides about \$600 million for this program, about \$100 million less than the January proposal.
- **Expanded Learning Opportunities Program:** Created in response to the pandemic, this program provides after-school enrichment and summer school for grades TK through 6, with programs specifically directed to children who are low-income, English learners, or in foster care. The May revise extends the deadline for districts to spend the \$4 billion that was allocated for this program in 2022.
- **Nutrition:** In response to higher demand, the budget includes an increase of \$300 million to provide free breakfast and lunch at schools. (This program is also supported by about \$2.6 billion in federal funding.)

- **Bilingual education:** An increase of \$20 million one-time funding will be available through the 2028-29 fiscal year to support bilingual teacher development.

- **Restorative justice:** A \$7 million one-time allocation will be available for school districts that opt to implement restorative justice practices to be developed by the State Department of Education.

During the next weeks state lawmakers will work with the governor to develop a final state budget. The state Constitution requires the legislators to complete the budget by June 15. The governor must sign it by June 30.

Since the *Advocacy Communicator* is not published during the summer, how will you find out what's in the final budget? [EdSource.org](https://www.edsource.org) is a great place to get up-to-date nonpartisan information about California education.

Budget includes dyslexia screening

Mandatory dyslexia screening for students in kindergarten through second grade, beginning in 2025-26, and \$1 million to develop a list of appropriate screening tools are included in the May revise budget proposed by Gov. Newsom. Schools would be required to provide additional services to students identified as having a learning disability.

Dyslexia, a neurological condition that makes reading difficult, is the leading cause of illiteracy. Up to one million California students may have this condition.

California is one of only 10 states nationwide that do not test for dyslexia. Previous attempts to require screening were defeated over objections that students who were not native English speakers would be incorrectly identified as having dyslexia and needlessly placed in special education. Newsom said a state-of-the-art test being developed at UC San Francisco will take into account a child's cultural and linguistic background.

State Senator Anthony Portantino, who introduced SB 691 to require dyslexia screening, said he is "ecstatic" over Gov. Newsom's proposal. California State PTA supports dyslexia screening.

Details on Prop. 28 arts education funding are in the works

By Shanin Ziemer, Create CA Arts Ambassador for Orange County

As a PTA advocate working with your school to determine the best way to use the new Prop. 28 arts education funding, you should be aware that some of the details are still being worked out by the California Department of Education.

The ballot measure, which was passed in November, will provide about \$941 million in new arts education funding in 2023-24. Schools will receive about \$115 for every student in preschool through high school, with an additional \$85 for every student who qualifies for the federal Free and Reduced Lunch program. Each school may decide how to spend the money, within certain guidelines.

One requirement is that the funding must “supplement, not supplant,” which means the money must be spent on new programming and cannot be used on existing programs. This leads to the question: If a school takes on a program that was provided by PTA, does that count as a new program eligible for Prop. 28 funds? For example, if the PTA paid for a band or choir program, can the school take over that expense? This will have to be clarified by the State Department of Education.

There will be a process for schools to apply for waivers to have more flexibility with their monies, but there aren't any details yet on how that will work.

At the end of each year, every school must submit a board-approved report detailing Prop 28 expenses, including the types of arts education programs offered, the number of staff, the number of pupils served, and the number of school sites providing arts education programs. The exact format of that report has yet to be decided by the Department of Education.

School districts with more than 500 students must spend at least 80 percent of the funding to hire staff and must certify that those employees are specifically providing arts education. This will create a demand for 15,000 new arts teachers in our state, but there are not enough teachers in the pipeline to fill that need. To help address this gap, the state is offering grants up to \$20,000 to encourage students to enter the profession and complete their teacher training if they commit to work in high needs schools for four years after graduation. For more information, go [here](#).

Even though school is out for many of our students, budget decisions are still being made at our schools and districts. This is an excellent time to reach out to find out what their process is to decide how to spend their Prop 28 funds. Your school district should have a current Strategic Arts Plan that guides these decisions. Ask to see that plan, or ask that they update or create a plan if they don't have one. [CreateCA](#), our state's arts education advocacy organization (and a partner to California State PTA) has great

resources available to help with that process, including a [blog](#) dedicated to Prop. 28.

If you are interested in learning more about arts advocacy or getting more involved, you can reach out to Shanin at ArtsNow.Shanin@gmail.com.

Now is the time to start working on a California State PTA resolution

Is your PTA unit or council aware of an issue or problem that should be addressed by PTA?

If so, you may want to write a resolution to present at the California State PTA Convention in 2024. This is not a simple process, but it could make a real difference for our children.

Why are resolutions important? PTA is a grassroots organization. When California State PTA (CAPTA) decides to support or oppose a proposed law or proposition it does so based on our Mission Statement, Position Statements and Resolutions that were approved by delegates at the State Convention.

For example, at the June 2020 State Convention delegates approved a resolution calling for the prohibition of the sale of electronic cigarettes and all flavored tobacco products to young people. This gave CAPTA the authority to work for the passage of SB 793, which prohibits the sales of flavored tobacco and vaping products to adults and children in California. The bill was signed into law, but the tobacco industry funded a petition drive to place it on the ballot as a referendum. Voters approved the law in the 2022 General Election so these products are now outlawed in our state.

Putting together a resolution requires a lot of work and is best done by a committee. The resolution can be initiated by an individual PTA member, but it must be approved in a vote by a PTA unit, council or district.

A draft of your resolution must be submitted to the CAPTA Resolutions Committee by November 1. A mentor will be assigned to help you complete the process. The final resolution must be submitted by January 5.

More information and a link to the Resolutions Procedure Book can be found [here](#).

Save the dates!
May 3 to 5, 2024
California State PTA Convention
Ontario