

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

NOVEMBER 2023

Bills supported by California State PTA are passed into law

California State PTA took a support position on dozens of bills that were considered by state lawmakers during the last legislative session. Among the PTA-supported bills that became state law are the following:

AB 5 (Zbur) Requires schools serving grades 7 to 12 to provide at least one hour of training in LGBTQ cultural competency (developed by the State Department of Education) to teachers and other certificated staff annually.

AB 10 (Lowenthal) Requires the Department of Education to create and post on their website a model policy and resources regarding body shaming.

AB 223 (Ward) Requires any petition for change of gender or sex identifier filed in court by a minor to be sealed to protect their privacy.

AB 230 (Reyes) An existing requirement that schools serving grades 6 through 12 provide free menstrual products in restrooms is extended to include schools with grades 3 through 12.

AB 285 (Rivas, Luz) Science classes for grades 1 to 12 will include an emphasis on the causes and effects of climate change and methods to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

AB 447 (Arambula) Authorizes the California State University, and requests the University of California, to establish college programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities at 4-year public postsecondary

educational institutions.

AB 579 (Ting) Requires all new school buses to be zero-emission vehicles, where feasible, beginning in 2035.

AB 800 (Ortega) During “Workplace Readiness Week,” the first full week in May, schools are required to educate pupils on their rights as workers.

AB 1078 (Jackson) Makes book banning illegal in California by applying policies prohibiting discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying to local superintendents and governing boards.

SB 10 (Cortese) Schools that serve grades 7 to 12 must have a protocol for responding to a student’s opioid overdose. The Department of Education and county offices of education must take action to prevent overdoses.

SB 274 (Skinner) Schools are not allowed to suspend or expel grade 1 through 12 students for disrupting school activities or willfully defying school personnel.

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The 101 provides accurate information about education issues

As education advocates, it’s important that we have accurate up-to-date information about public education in Orange County and the state.

One good source of information is [The 101](#), an online resource provided by the Orange County Department of Education.

The site promises to “do our best to unpack complex topics and explain who has oversight in posts that can be read quickly and shared easily with friends and neighbors. We’ll also include links to primary sources, including state and county agencies, for those who wish to take a deeper dive.”

Here are the topic areas that are covered:

- Curriculum and instruction
- Sexual health education
- Health and wellness
- Ethnic studies
- Immunizations
- Covid-19
- School district governance
- Uniform complaint procedures
- College and Career

The information is available in seven languages.

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Forum

Thursday, November 9
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

El Modena Branch of the Orange Public Library
380 S. Hewes Street, Orange

Join us for this special opportunity to
hear from our state legislators.

Confirmed speakers:

Assembly Member Sharon Quirk-Silva

Senator Josh Newman, Chair of the
Senate Education Committee

No charge. You must be a PTA member
to attend.



Get read for Sacramento Safari — February 26 and 27

Advocacy is the heart of PTA and Sacramento Safari is the most exciting advocacy event of the year.

Here's what you can expect:

- Make connections with like-minded PTA advocates.
- Meet state leaders in education.
- Meet your local legislators.
- Learn about current issues first-hand.

Registration

Registration opens soon. Budget about \$850 per person, including hotel stay and flights.

Transportation

You must make your own flight arrangements. If possible, book your flights early. The best prices are expected during the Thanksgiving weekend.

Safari begins at 10 a.m. on Monday and ends at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, so please plan your flights accordingly.

Basic policies:

- Attendees must be current PTA members.
- Attendees from units or councils must be voted as representatives by their PTA.
- Attendees must be adults (18 years or older) or high school students accompanied by an adult.
- School board members and superintendents welcome.

Orientation

Be sure to attend the Safari Orientation on February 20 to get important information.

National PTA convention delegates approve four resolutions

At the National PTA convention earlier this year, voting delegates approved four [resolutions](#). The resolutions are national in scope, but have impact at the unit, council and state levels of PTA as well. PTA members can use these resolutions to advocate for legislation and programs at the state and local level.

The resolutions deal with the following topics:

- **Hazing:** encourages PTAs to seek and support state legislation that will make hazing that can result in bodily harm, mental trauma, or death a crime punishable by law.
- **Seizure Safe Schools:** urges that school personnel receive training on seizure recognition and response,

and recommends other measures to protect and support students who experience seizures.

- **Safe Storage of Firearms:** seeks to raise awareness and enact laws that require guns and ammunition to be locked away securely to prevent theft and access by children.
- **Protection and Support for LGBTQ+ Individuals:** PTA supports the protection of all children and youth, and the creation of safe, inclusive, supportive, and accepting school environments free from violence, harassment, intimidation and bullying.

Bills passed into law

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SB 291 (Newman) Schools are not allowed to restrict a student's recess for disciplinary reasons unless there is an immediate threat to the physical safety of a student.

SB 323 (Portantino) Requires each school site to have an Inclusive School Emergency Plan and to include additional accommodations for a pupil with exceptional needs.

SB 673 (Bradford) Law enforcement agencies are authorized to activate "Ebony Alerts" when Black youth, including young women and girls, are missing.

SB 760 (Newman) Requires every school to provide at least one all-gender restroom for pupil use by 2025.

For more information about new laws related to children and education, see this [blog](#) by Carl Kocivar at Ed100.org.

CAPTA advocacy goals for 2023-25

The California State PTA Board of Managers, with representatives from throughout the state, met recently to adopt State PTA advocacy goals for the 2023-25 term.

The members voted to advocate for legislation, policies, and measures that:

- safeguard the health, safety, welfare, culture, and well-being of children and families, including mental health services and support for vulnerable youth;
- promote evidence-based, informed family engagement;
- expand civic engagement, learning, and participation;
- enact common sense gun control.

In addition, the advocacy goals include providing programs, expertise, and resources to support and expand PTA advocacy at the local level.