



Sacramento Safari

Advocacy in Action

Fourth District PTA represents...

- All of **Orange County** & southeast Los Angeles County
- **Half a million** public school students – 8% of the entire state – in 400 schools
- More than **90,000 members**

✦ Please feel free to use PTA as a resource when you are seeking input on issues affecting the welfare of California's children, youth, and families. ✦

We have 80 people in the Capitol today!
We represent the nation's largest PTA district!

- **Thank you for improving public education for our kids.**
We have noticed the improvements: California's per-pupil funding is at the national average. Early education gives kids a stronger start. Schools serving high-needs students are getting extra resources to help bridge the achievement gap. Post-pandemic recovery efforts have continued. We want you to know that we acknowledge and sincerely appreciate these accomplishments!
- **Mental health and safety issues remain challenging.**
Roughly half of our students report mental health concerns, so access to services remains critical. Hiring more counselors has helped, but the ratio of counselors to students falls short. Safety concerns such as bullying, social media pressures, and fears of gun violence persist. Addressing these matters will involve special efforts to reestablish connections between students and schools and bolster engagement with their families, and we must protect students from those who would persecute them in hate and discrimination.
- **Please prioritize children and youth.**
When addressing California's anticipated budget shortfall, please prioritize the needs of children, youth, and families by sustaining those measures that help them the most and give them hope for their future. Safeguard their health, safety, welfare, culture, and well-being – especially those who are most vulnerable. And finally, please consider solutions that will eventually provide for the long-term stability of public education with less-volatile funding sources.

Fourth District PTA

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About our members...

► We are parents, grandparents, community members, students, school board trustees, school administrators, educators, and school site staff members. We come from varied ethnic communities, socioeconomic backgrounds, religious beliefs, and political persuasions.

► Our members are on the front lines daily, volunteering in the public schools in our county. Our local members spend almost 4 million hours volunteering in our public schools annually, a donation in services of over \$100 million.

► We speak for all children with one voice. We have no ulterior motives or agendas. Our advocates are committed volunteers, dedicated to **speaking up on behalf of all children and youth.**

Thank you so much for meeting with us today!