

# Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

JUNE 2025

## Proposed federal budget cuts education funding

The federal budget recently approved by the House of Representatives includes more than \$12 billion in cuts to education nationwide, eliminating long-standing programs that serve migrant children, English learners, college-bound students and others. The biggest impact would be on children in high-poverty communities, which depend the most on federal funding.

The budget now goes to the Senate for consideration.

The only increase in federal education funding would be to charter schools, which are slated to receive \$500 million, an increase of \$60 million over the current year.

Special education funding would remain level, but seven programs would be consolidated and staff would be reduced to further the Administration's goal of "limiting the Federal role in education," according to Trump's "skinny budget." However, "maintaining a base of Federal funds means they can also be withdrawn from States and districts who flout parental rights." It should also be noted that the federal government has never come close to providing 40 percent of the costs to serve special needs children, as was promised in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), passed in 1975.

Title I (which provides support for low-income students) and other K-12 programs would receive a \$5 billion cut and funding would be consolidated and sent directly to states. "The new approach allows States and districts to focus on the core subjects—math, reading, science, and history—without the distractions of DEI and weaponization from the previous administration," according to the skinny budget.

Funding for all other education programs would be reduced or eliminated, including:

- Services to encourage and support low-income students who attend college
- English language acquisition
- Adult education
- Programs for migrant students
- Teacher training
- Child care for parents in college
- Federal support for Howard University
- The Office for Civil Rights

Children and families are also likely to be impacted by cuts to physical and mental health programs.

In California, about 10 percent of the total education budget comes from the federal government. This funding helps pay for school lunch and breakfast programs and teacher salaries for early education in disadvantaged communities.

The federal Department of Education, which President Trump plans to defund and dismantle, plays an important role in enforcing civil rights in education and disbursing funds for high needs children and special education. National PTA President Yvonne Johnson has [spoken](#) out against the closure of the department.

For more information, see this blog at [Ed100](#) and this article at [EdSource](#).

## Revised state budget proposal maintains education funding

In spite of a revenue forecast that is \$12 billion lower than it was in January, Gov. Newsom issued a "May revise" [budget](#) proposal that maintains K-12 funding, adds funding for some education programs, and includes a small cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).

The revised proposal designates \$114.6 billion in Prop. 98 funding for schools and community colleges for the next year. It would add \$200 million to the \$543 million in the earlier budget for literacy instruction. This would provide funding to implement AB 1454 (Rivas), which would require schools to teach literacy through evidence-based instruction programs (i.e., phonics). (California State PTA supports AB 1454.) The funding would be used for teacher training, instructional materials, and universal screening of students for learning difficulties.

The revised budget maintains revenue to fully implement transitional kindergarten for all 4-year-olds and to reduce the average student-to-adult ratio from 12:1 to 10:1 in TK classrooms. However, funding was dropped by \$300 million because enrollment in TK was not as high as expected.

Funding also would be provided for:

- Summer school and after-school learning programs in more districts.
- Recruiting teachers, stipends for student teachers, and grants for teachers who commit to working in under-served schools.
- A 2.3 percent COLA for community colleges and most TK-12 programs.

Other areas of the state budget did see proposed reductions in funding, including the Medi-Cal program, higher education, and in-home support services. New-

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## Student enrollment decreases create problems for school districts

Enrollment in California public schools has declined for the seventh year in a row, leading to funding problems for many school districts.

At the same time, the number of poor and homeless students has increased, while the percentage of students who are English learners went down. (This may be due to the fact that children in transitional kindergarten are not tested for English proficiency.)

This year enrollment declined by 31,469 students, or 0.54 percent, according to a state report. There were 5.8 million children in California schools, compared to 6.2 million in 2004-05. The only grade showing a statewide increase is transitional kindergarten, which added more than 26,000 students, a 17.2 percent increase.

The biggest drops in student numbers are in counties with higher housing prices, including Orange County, which saw a decrease of 2.4 percent. Some counties in Northern California and near Sacramento saw increases in student populations.

Why is this important? California public schools receive state funding based on student attendance. When attendance goes down, so does the amount of funding. As education experts like to point out, student populations do not decrease in convenient grade level groups. With students missing from various grades, schools still face the same costs for facilities and staffing. At the same time, school districts are dealing with the end of federal pandemic aid and potential cuts in other federal funding.

### May revise budget

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som's proposal does not include money to implement high school ethnic studies or to replace potential federal funding cuts for school health services, teacher training, Head Start, AmeriCorps or research grants for UC and CSU.

As he has in the past, Gov. Newsom proposes budget maneuvers, some of which are controversial. These include:

- Using the last \$540 million in the education rainy day fund, which once held \$8.4 billion.
- Deferring the payment of \$1.8 billion to schools from June 2026 to July 2026. This shifts the payment from one fiscal year to the next, creating a "maintenance factor," a debt that must be repaid to districts.
- Withholding \$1.3 billion due to schools and community colleges in the current fiscal year.

For more information about the proposed budget, see this [article](#) at EdSource and the [analysis](#) by the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office.

Two-thirds of California school districts will not get enough money this year because of drops in enrollment, said Kevin Gordon, president of Capitol Advisors, at a recent California State PTA advocacy call.

This includes Santa Ana Unified, where the board of trustees voted to eliminate 262 jobs to resolve a \$154 million budget deficit.

Dropping enrollment can also lead to local proposals to close or consolidate schools, always an emotional and contentious issue for the affected communities.

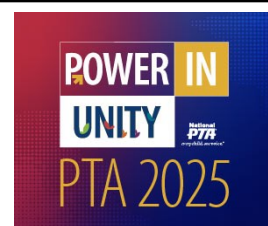
## Get ready for a new year of advocacy

Advocating for children, families and public education is central to PTA's mission. Make sure your PTA is ready to participate in this important role next year.

What can you do now to get ready?

- **Make sure your PTA picks an advocacy representative.** This can be an elected office or an appointed position.
- **Attend the National PTA Virtual Convention if you can.** Important things are happening at the national level.
- **Educate your advocacy representative about Fourth District PTA resources that make the job easy.** These include this newsletter, talking points to present at PTA meetings, free informative Advocacy Forums, and more!
- **Include advocacy in your PTA budget for next year.**
- **Plan to send a representative to Sacramento Safari,** scheduled for February 23 and 24 in 2026. Include about \$1,000 in your PTA budget for the trip.

### National PTA Virtual Convention June 25 to 28



Calling all PTA warriors! Join thousands of passionate parent leaders and educators from across the country at our **2025 Virtual Convention**. Experience three transformative days designed to strengthen your leadership, expand your network, and amplify your impact—no travel required! Also, members of the voting body will have the opportunity to participate in elections and voting on annual meeting business.

Registration fee: \$75

For more information go to [PTA.org](https://pta.org).