

December 2014 Legislation Advocacy Report

LOCAL UPDATE

LCAP Parent Advisory Committee

There is an exciting new development on the LCAP front. On November 24th, CUSD announced plans to form a LCAP Parent Advisory Committee. This committee will meet twice a month and parents will have an opportunity to advise CUSD from a parent perspective on how to best improve student outcomes for all CUSD students.

The Local Control Accountability Plan also known as the LCAP, is a key component of California's new school funding model, known as the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). Signed into law by Governor Brown in 2012, this new school funding approach requires all California school districts to actively engage with parents and all stakeholders to set goals and intended outcomes for students, as well as determine resources that will be used to reach those outcomes.

Any and all CUSD parents are eligible to apply to be part of this important advisory committee. English and Spanish applications are available through the link below and are due by December 19, 2014.

http://capousd.ca.schoolloop.com/news/view?d=x&id=1416555756508&group_id=1218998864154&return_url=1417712184718

Single School Site Plans

At the December 10th school board meeting, Single School Plans for Student Achievement and Budgets (also known as SPSA) will be reviewed and approved for all CUSD schools. As required by Senate Bill 374, the purpose of each school's SPSA is to create a cycle of continuous improvement of student performance and to ensure students' success in reaching academic standards set by the State Board of Education and the CUSD Local Control Accountable Plan (LCAP).

The goals contained within each plan are aligned to the CUSD LCAP and follow a similar matrix and multi-page format of the LCAP. Each school plan is developed through the school sites advisory or Leadership committee. Each school's plan is then reviewed and approved by its School Site Council, which is composed of a balanced group representing parents, community members and staff.

CUSD Recovery Plan

After years of budget cuts, the state's budget and subsequently the CUSD budget is in stabilization mode. At the October 22, 2014 school board meeting, Superintendent Vital outlined the progress made in the current year school budget:

- Restoration of a 180 day school year
- Progress made towards restoration of smaller class sizes
- Elimination of furlough days

In addition, the Superintendent discussed a thoughtful, multi-year recovery based on the reality of State funding. After careful consideration of the current situation in our schools, Superintendent Vital outlined five recovery themes in the CUSD "Road to Recovery Plan". These five recovery themes will be reflected as priorities in the 2014-15 and subsequent year CUSD budgets.

1. Safety
 - a. Maintenance services

- b. Grounds keeping services
 - c. Campus supervision
 - d. Campus emergency supplies
2. Student services and support
 - a. Counseling, advising and guidance services
 - b. Library services
 - c. Student interventions
3. Curriculum/ Instructional technology
 - a. Chromebooks
 - b. Textbook adoption
 - c. Assessment system
 - d. Professional development
4. Parent and community outreach
 - a. Community support systems
 - b. School loop
 - c. School messenger
 - d. Naviance
5. Operational efficiency
 - a. Maintenance and operations coordination
 - b. Personnel systems
 - c. Business systems
 - d. Vehicle/equipment repair

December 10th CUSD School Board Meeting

As a reminder, CUSD school board meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Meetings open to the public and begin at 7:00 pm in the large boardroom, adjacent from the parking lot of the CUSD Education Center in San Juan Capistrano. Parents are encouraged to attend and participate. Meeting agendas are posted in advance on the CUSD website and audio recording of each board meeting is posted on the website within a few days of the meeting.

Highlights of the upcoming December 10th meeting:

- Oath of Office for new and re-elected Trustees McNicholas, Jones and Hatton-Hodson
- Reorganization of the board, including election of the Board President
- Preliminary budget news for 2014-15

STATE UPDATE

New Legislative Session Begins December 1, 2014

December 1 marks the beginning of a new two-year legislative session for California. Both the Senate and Assembly organize, elect officers and adopt rules for the upcoming session in December.

In the first year of the session, lawmakers meet from the first Monday in January to mid-September and then recess until the following January. During the second year the legislature meets from the first week in January until November 30 of the next even-numbered year, when the session is adjourned.

Jan. 5—Lawmakers reconvene to begin legislative work.

Jan. 10—Governor must submit a proposed State Budget

March 26 to April 6—Spring recess

Feb. 27—Last day to introduce a bill

June 5 —Last day to pass a bill out the house of origin

June 15—State budget bill must be passed by midnight

July 17 to Aug. 16—Summer recess.

Sept. 11—All bills must be out of the Legislature and sent to the Governor

State Board Of Education Achieves Major Milestone For Transparency And Accountability In Schools

The California State Board of Education has approved final spending regulations for the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and a revised template for Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAP), strengthening parent and community involvement in budget decisions and expanding local accountability measures to improve student achievement. The file vote marks a major milestone in the formal rulemaking process required of the State Board of Education and finalizes numerous revisions and improvements suggested by educators, parents, students, lawmakers, education groups and advocacy organizations since the LCFF became law in 2013. Thousands of public comments about the regulations and hours of public testimony before the Board led to the development of these final regulations and revised template.

LCFF links transparency and accountability directly to the local goal setting and budgeting process by requiring each school district, county office of education and charter school to adopt LCAPs. The Board approved a revised LCAP template that includes requested changes from county offices of education, local districts and education stakeholders.

To read the entire memo go to: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/nr/yr14sberel05.asp>

Guidance Offered on Career Preparation

Ensuring schools are adequately preparing students for careers is just as important as ensuring they prepare students for college, says a new paper that proposes districts add specific career-readiness measures, such as the number of students who complete work-based learning programs, to their accountability plans to the public.

“Developing strong, supportive pathways that incorporate both college- and career-ready skills is our best bet for ensuring students will find their way to a productive future,” said the paper, released Tuesday by the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education, or SCOPE.

The report provides three recommendations for career preparation measures that schools should include in their Local Control and Accountability Plans, or LCAPs. The plans, required under the state's Local Control Funding Formula for school districts, require districts to outline how they will meet eight educational priority areas mandated by the state. One of those areas requires districts to ensure that all students have access to classes preparing them for college and careers.

<http://edsources.org/2014/guidance-offered-on-career-preparation/70720#.VH-InWctDIU>

Eighty-nine School Bonds Passed in November

Voters in 89 school districts and community colleges passed construction bonds worth \$11.5 billion, including the four Ed-Tech Bonds, out of the 113 on Tuesday's ballot. Five more ballot measures were close enough that they may be approved when all the votes are counted, according to Michael Coleman, a fiscal policy expert and publisher of the California Local Government Finance Almanac. His election night tabulations [can be found here](#). The 80 percent approval rate was about equal to the historical average, Coleman said.

An additional 35 school bonds worth \$2 billion were passed in the June primary election, out of 44 on the ballot. The large combined total for the year – 124 bond measures worth \$13.5 billion – reflects local districts' recognition that they can no longer rely on the state to pitch in for school projects, said Ron Bennett, CEO of School Services of California, a consulting firm. The last state bond for school construction was in 2006, and Gov. Jerry Brown resisted efforts to place one on Tuesday's ballot. In the past, the state has paid for 50 percent of a district's new school construction and 60 percent of a renovation project. Brown has criticized the current criteria for funding projects and questioned whether the state should be responsible for school construction financing. Aides indicated he will propose new ideas in January.

<http://edsources.org/2014/districts-find-new-way-to-fund-technology/69727#.VH-KVWctDIU>

Interested in increasing your understanding of key K-12 education issues?

Parents play a key role in advocating for education. Through PTA's collaboration with Ed100, you can build your knowledge of education policy issues and become even more confident speaking up on behalf of children. Access free, highly informative lessons on topics from school finance to testing. [Take a look and get started today!](#)

<http://ed100.org/about-ed100/>

Healthy kids make good learners

California State PTA is pleased to be part of the ALL IN for Health campaign, which is aimed at informing millions of families in the school community who are uninsured about new health care options and enrollment. Starting now through February 15, 2015, individuals will be able to enroll in health coverage during Covered California's open enrollment. [Learn more](#) and make this Thanksgiving special by enrolling in health coverage.

Farm-to-cool' Grants Aim to Spur Healthy Eating

Eight California farm-to-school programs received federal grants on Tuesday with the goal of making broccoli cool on the North Coast, bringing traditional Karuk Tribe foods into Siskiyou County schools and supporting local farmers across the state, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced.

<http://edsources.org/2014/farm-to-cool-grants-aim-to-spur-healthy-eating/70843#.VH-H9WctDIU>

Strengthening parent involvement with School Smarts

California State PTA's School Smarts Parent Engagement Program continues to expand, with nearly 100 schools across more than 18 districts anticipated to offer our award-winning program this year.

School Smarts is a research-based, inclusive program that helps more parents learn about their schools and how to become more involved -- and it helps PTAs develop more leaders.

School Smarts is now available to all schools!

[Learn more](#) about how your PTA school and school district can partner to provide the program.

The future belongs to your child - Common Core in California

We don't know what the jobs of tomorrow will be, but we do know our future depends on a strong workforce - and today's schools must prepare our kids to be part of it.

California State PTA is working to inform and engage parents through a variety of new resources, including the Parents' Guide to Student Success. The guide offers parents key information about what their child will be learning at each grade level in Mathematics and English Language Arts with the new standards, and are co-sponsored by the California Department of Education.

Download and share great resources -

- Informational Fliers - [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [Tagalog](#) and [Vietnamese](#)
- Parents' Guide to Student Success - [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [Tagalog](#) and [Vietnamese](#)
- How to Support Learning at Home produced in partnership with the California Teachers Association - [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Arabic](#), [Armenian](#), [Cambodian](#), [Chinese](#), [Hmong](#), [Korean](#), [Tagalog](#), [Thai](#) and [Vietnamese](#)

A great web site for data charts:

For those of us that love the visual impact of a chart to clearly view statistics -

[http://www.ed-data.org/?utm_source=Erins+daily+email+Dec+1%2C+2014&utm_campaign=Daily 10-17-14&utm_medium=email](http://www.ed-data.org/?utm_source=Erins+daily+email+Dec+1%2C+2014&utm_campaign=Daily+10-17-14&utm_medium=email)

Examples:

FEDERAL UPDATE

Call to Action: Tell Congress to Fund our Schools

Congress will soon be voting on a spending bill for fiscal year 2015 and that means that Members of Congress must hear from constituents NOW about the funding priorities that are important to PTA.

PTA believes that federal investment in quality education is essential to the well-being and future of our children and our nation; however, education funding has been the target of dramatic cuts at the federal level since 2011. It is critical that Congress pass an appropriations bill that provides necessary increases to education and funds these programs through the remainder of the fiscal year.

Additionally, some interest groups are asking that Congress use the appropriations process as an opportunity to scale back nutrition in school meals, something PTA has been working to improve for over 70 years. Unfortunately, most of the outcry to Congress is NOT coming from students or their parents – the very people school meals are intended to serve. PTA members have long supported science-based nutrition for school meals and our schools are doing a great job—over 90% report that they are successfully implementing healthy school meals. PTA is asking members to tell Congress not to turn back the clock on school meals and help ensure that every child has access to healthy foods at school.

Visit the National PTA advocacy webpage and Tell Congress that PTA supports targeted increases to education programs and protected standards for healthy school lunches

FYI : PTA Position on States Adopting Common Core Standards

Does National PTA have a position statement or resolution that supports the Common Core Standards? Yes. National PTA volunteers have adopted several position statements and resolutions, beginning in 1981, in support of voluntary, clearer, higher academic standards for all students. You can read these documents on our website at PTA.org/resolutions.