

LOCAL CUSD UPDATE

NEW SUPERINTENDENT

CUCPTSA and the entire community of Capistrano Unified warmly welcome new superintendent, Kristen Vital, who began her tenure as Superintendent this summer. Superintendent Vital comes to CUSD from Alameda Unified School District, in Alameda, California, where she was Superintendent. In a "first" for CUSD, Superintendent Vital addressed the CUSD community in a back to school video and that message can be found

http://capousd.ca.schoolloop.com/cms/page_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1232963476040

LCAP ADOPTED

CUSD adopted its first Local Control Accountability Plan over the summer. The LCAP is part of a new California school funding law called the LCFF (Local Control Funding Formula), which requires all school districts to involve parents and students in planning and decision-making, as well as in developing Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs). The LCAP process requires school districts to focus on eight key areas that will help all students succeed. In addition, the new structure provides extra funding for students with greater challenges and the LCAP must include specific goals and metrics that outline how additional monies will be spent and results measured. The LCAP serves as a framework for all stakeholders, teachers, administrators, parents and students to work towards common goals and the LCAP will be reviewed annually, with continued, ongoing opportunities for input from the community. More information on CUSD's LCAP can be found http://capousd.ca.schoolloop.com/cms/page_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1392894044236

BUDGET NEWS

In June, CUSD adopted a budget for the 2014-15 school year that includes an approximately 2% increase over 2013-14 revenues and an approximately 2% increase in expenditures. Key changes in the adopted 2014-15 budget include:

- Restoral of a full 180 day school year (last year was 177 days, prior year was 175 days)
- Decrease of class size across all grades
- Increased books, supplies and capital outlay expenditures

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR:

The OC Register recently reported a shift in school start dates, county wide, with almost half of all Orange Country districts starting school before Labor Day. This shift is becoming more common so students can have more classroom and instructional time before key testing periods, especially high school students and teachers who are bound by national testing schedules with AP/IB and SAT/ACT tests.

While CUSD school doors opened after Labor Day this year with a September 4th start date, next year's calendar has already been approved by the Board of Trustees, which includes a pre-Labor day school start date of Tuesday, August 25, 2015. The complete CUSD 2014-15 and 2015-16 calendars can be found <http://capousd.ca.schoolloop.com/calendars>

STATE UPDATE

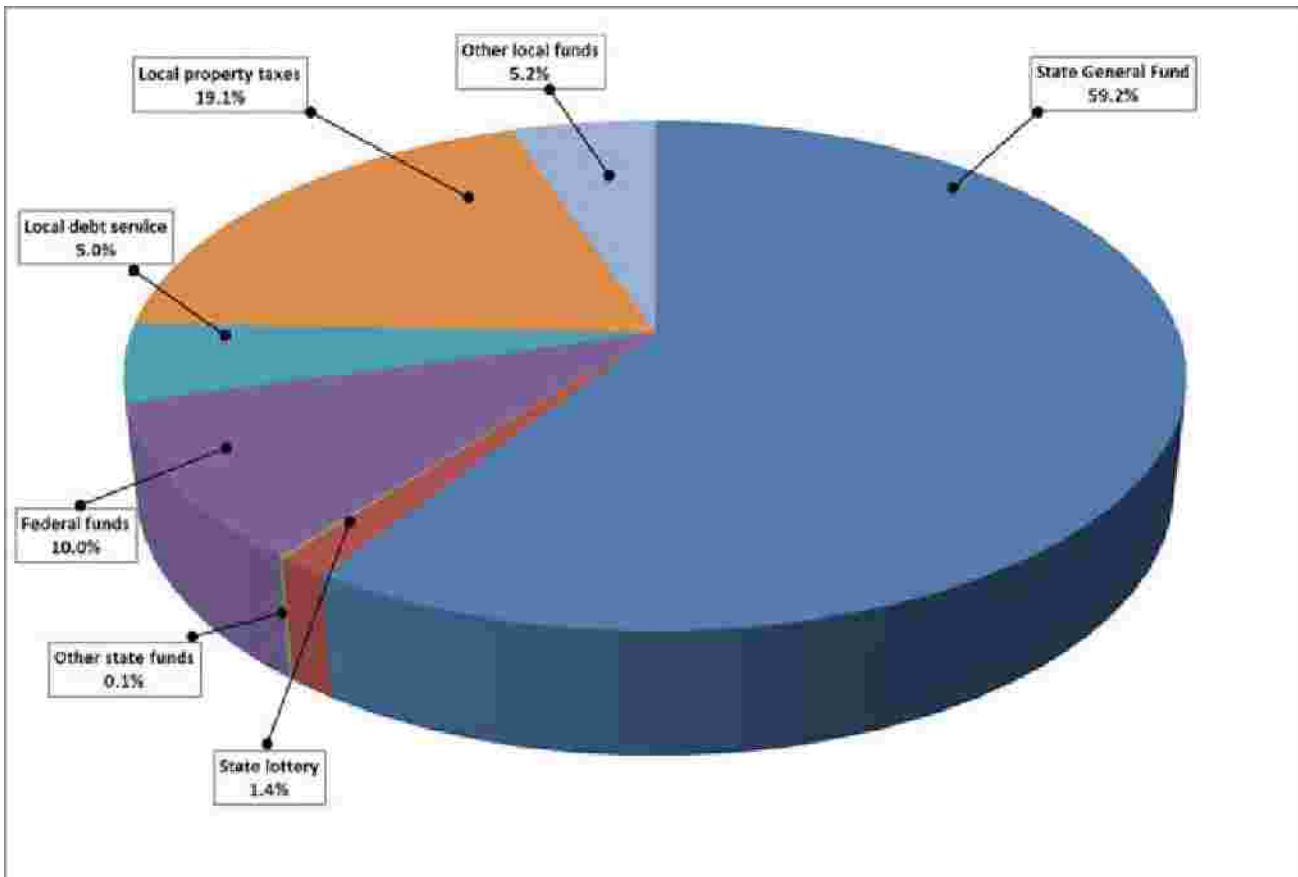
All K-12 Education Funding Resources for 2014-15

Summary of all funding sources and Proposition 98 for K-12 education in 2014-15 and corresponding pie chart.

Amounts in millions

Sources of Funding	Proposition 98 Sources	All Sources
State General Fund	\$40,092	\$45,341
State lottery	—	1,054
Other state funds	—	89
Federal funds	—	7,660
Local debt service	—	3,829
Local property taxes	14,089	14,660
Other local funds	—	3,983
Total	\$54,181	\$76,616

Note: Includes funds for California Department of Education state operations, state special schools, state school facilities bond repayments, state contributions to the State Teachers Retirement System, the State Library, and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.



STATE BOARD OF ED CLOSER TO SETTING LCAP RULES

The staff of the State Board of Education will decide in the next several weeks whether to tinker further with regulations governing the Local Control and Accountability Plans – the accountability and budget plans that school districts completed for the first time in June.

Board members heard testimony Thursday from those urging further changes and those saying in effect, “Enough – it’s time to move on.” Further tweaking would push off final adoption to January, creating uncertainty for school districts as they begin a year-long process of addressing the commitments they made in their initial LCAPs.

http://edsources.org/2014/one-maybe-final-step-closer-to-new-lcap-rules/67204#.VA0SVcsg_IU

STATE AWARDS COMMON CORE TEST CONTRACT

With the State Board of Education’s approval, California became the eighth state Wednesday to award a contract to the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium for the standardized tests in the Common Core State Standards that students will take next spring.

The state board’s unanimous consent was expected. California has been an influential governing member of Smarter Balanced, one of two groups of states that developed separate versions of Common Core tests over four years with a \$350 million federal grant. California has also become Smarter Balanced’s home. As of July 1, Smarter Balanced became an independent unit of UCLA’s Graduate School of Education and Information Studies in partnership with the the National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards and Student Testing (CRESST) at UCLA.

With federal money running out this year, Smarter Balanced is now self-funded. California will pay \$9.55 million annually for three years for a total of \$28.65 million. That works out to \$9.55 per student up to the first 1 million students, with no additional charge for the remaining 2.6 million California students who will take the online English language arts and math tests for grades 3 through 8 and grade 11.

http://edsources.org/2014/state-awards-common-core-test-contract/67158#.VA0Jocsg_IU

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM BILL FACES VETO THREAT

Legislation that would make it easier for the state and school districts to track chronic absenteeism, an early indicator of students at risk of dropping out, will soon reach Gov. Jerry Brown, where it faces an uncertain fate.

Assembly Bill 1866, by Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra (D-Pacoima), would require the state student data system, known as CALPADS, to add reports on chronic absenteeism using attendance data on individual students that districts would upload. Everyone agrees that it’s important to know which students are regularly absent. Districts are required to set goals to reduce chronic absenteeism as part of their Local Control Accountability and Plans, the budget and academic improvement plans that districts must write. But an analysis of 80 districts’ recently completed LCAPs revealed that only 18 percent included data on it and close to half either didn’t mention chronic absenteeism or made only vague references to it, according to a summary of the analysis.

Chronic absenteeism applies to students who are absent 10 percent or more school days per year (18 days for a standard year), including excused absences, suspensions and unexcused absences. An estimated one-quarter million elementary school children in California are chronically absent, according to a report in 2013 by state Attorney General Kamala Harris. Truancy applies to students who are absent three full days or absent more than a 30-minute period on three occasions in a school year without a valid excuse. Some districts confused the two on their LCAPs, officials from county education offices said.

An analysis by the Senate Appropriations Committee estimated that AB 1866 would add \$500,000 in annual costs to operate CALPADS and require more than \$1 million in one-time costs for districts to modify their systems. The Department of Finance, in registering its opposition to the bill, estimated the combination of one-time and ongoing expenses to be much greater: between \$2.5 million and \$75 million in state-mandated costs.

The bill runs contrary to the Brown administration’s view of CALPADS, the Department of Finance said. “CALPADS was implemented to meet federal requirements,” and the administration, in a desire “to minimize costs,” doesn’t intend to expand the data system beyond that purpose, the department’s analysis of the bill said. Districts already have a financial incentive to reduce absenteeism, because state revenues are based on student attendance, the department said. And they could collect chronic absenteeism data on their own. Sponsors counter that using CALPADS is a more efficient way to do so.

Harris included the bill as part of her anti-truancy initiative. The bill, awaiting final approval this week, has received strong support in the Legislature. If AB 1866 becomes law, school districts would be able to address chronic absenteeism in their accountability plans as the state law creating the LCAP intended, Lee said.

http://edsources.org/2014/chronic-absenteeism-bill-faces-veto-threat/66669#.VA0SI8sg_IU

VERGARA v. CALIFORNIA

California Attorney General Kamala Harris has filed a one-page notice of appeal on behalf of Gov. Jerry Brown and the state indicating that the state will appeal the Vergara ruling. Superior Court Judge Rolf Treu affirmed his ruling in a final review August 27, triggering the 60-day window for filing appeals

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Beatriz Vergara of Los Angeles and eight other students in five California school districts by Silicon Valley businessman David Welch. They challenged three statutes laying out the teacher dismissal process, two laws establishing tenure – the due process guarantees given teachers after two years on the job – and layoffs by seniority, known as LIFO for the “last in, first out” process.

After a two-month trial last spring in Los Angeles, Treu ruled that teacher protection laws disproportionately deny poor and minority students’ access to a quality public education. The judge agreed with the claims from nine students in five districts that teacher tenure and dismissal laws result in “grossly ineffective teachers” being hired and retained and that these teachers are “disproportionately situated in schools serving predominantly low-income and minority students.”

http://edsources.org/2014/brown-challenger-targets-ties-to-teachers-union/67191#.VA0Swssg_IU

BILL TO EXPAND APPRENTICESHIPS AWAITS GOVERNOR

High school students would have more access to apprenticeships in high-demand fields under a bill that was forwarded to the governor last week.

Senate Bill 923, by Sen. Fran Pavley, D-Agoura Hills, would create a grant program called the Educational Apprenticeship Innovation Prize, or EdPrize, to allow school districts and community colleges to expand apprenticeship programs. The grants would be made available under the California Career Pathways Trust, a \$250 million fund for career programs in schools. EdPrize applications would be given special consideration for funding under the trust fund, according to the bill text.

The grants would be tailored toward expanding apprenticeships in fields such as manufacturing, health care, biotechnology, early childhood education, and entertainment. Apprenticeships – where students are paid to work in their chosen field while simultaneously going to school to learn the craft – are common in the construction trades, yet few other industries have embraced the model.

SB 923 passed the Legislature on Thursday; Gov. Jerry Brown has until Sept. 30 to take action on the bill.

http://edsources.org/2014/bill-to-expand-apprenticeships-awaits-governor/67100#.VA0TCcsg_IU

LEGISLATIVE BILL UPDATE:

At the end of the school year, we reported that the California State PTA Legislation Action Committee met May 19-20, 2014. At this meeting, positions were taken on the 24 bills listed below. *To read the full bill, click on the individual bill numbers.* **Following each bill is an indication of the action taken by the Legislature and/or Governor over the summer.**

Chaptered – passed by both houses and is signed by Governor or made law

Enrolled – passed by both houses and being reviewed for accuracy prior to delivery to Governor.

Enrollment – passed by both houses, reviewed for accuracy, and delivered to Governor.

[AB 215](#) (Buchanan) ?School employees: dismissal or suspension: hearings. ?Support – Education ?Advocate – Donna Artukovic dartukovic@capta.org ??**6/25/14 -CHAPTERED**

[AB 1441](#) (Stone) ?Pupils in foster care: transfers between schools: educational record: course credit. ?Support – Community Concerns ?Advocate – Shereen Walter swalter@capta.org ??**DEAD**

[AB 1444](#) (Buchanan) ?Elementary education: kindergarten ?Support – Education ?Advocate – Carol Kocivar ckocivar@capta.org ??**9/3/14 ENROLLED**

[AB 1454](#) (Calderon, Ian) ?Care facilities: regulatory visits. ?Support – Family Engagement ?Advocate – Dianna MacDonald dmacdonald@capta.org ??**DEAD**

[AB 1455](#) (Campos) ?Pupils: bullying: counseling services. ?Approve – Education ?Advocate – Donna Artukovic dartukovic@capta.org ??**8/21/14 CHAPTERED**

[AB 1584](#) (Buchanan) ?Pupil records: privacy: third-party contracts: digital storage services and digital educational software. ?Support – Community Concerns ?Advocate – Shereen Walter swalter@capta.org ?**8/26/14 – ENROLLMENT**

[AB 1603](#) (Stone) ?Outdoor Environmental Education and Recreation Program. ?Support – Health ?Advocate – Cathy Hall chall@capta.org ?**DEAD**

[AB 1719](#) (Weber) ?Full-day kindergarten. ?Support – Education ?Advocate – Carol Kocivar ckocivar@capta.org ??**8/26/14 ENROLLMENT**

[AB 1801](#) (Frazier) ?Driver's licenses: provisional licenses. ?Support – Community Concerns ?Advocate – Shereen Walter swalter@capta.org ??**DEAD**

[AB 1882](#) (Cooley) ?CalWORKs: relative caregivers. ?Support – Family Engagement ?Advocate – Dianna MacDonald dmacdonald@capta.org ??**DEAD**

[AB 1950](#) (Campos) ?Career education: Career Education Incentive Program. ?Approve – Education ?Advocate – Donna Artukovic dartukovic@capta.org ??**DEAD**

[AB 2115](#) (Bradford) ?CalFresh: school meals. ?Support – Health ?Advocate – Cathy Hall chall@capta.org ??**DEAD**

[AB 2178](#) (Levine) ?Pupil instruction: Blended Learning Pilot Program. ?Watch – Education ?Advocate – Carol Kocivar ckocivar@capta.org ??**DEAD**

[AB 2198](#) (Levine) ?Mental health professionals: suicide prevention training. ?Seek Amendments – Community Concerns ?Advocate – Shereen Walter swalter@capta.org ??**9/2/14 ENROLLED**

[AB 2216](#) (Muratsuchi) ?Regional occupational centers and programs: funding. ?Support – Education ?Advocate – Donna Artukovic dartukovic@capta.org ? **DEAD**

[AB 2386](#) (Mullin) ?Care facilities: carbon monoxide detectors. ?Support – Family Engagement ?Advocate – Dianna MacDonald dmacdonald@capta.org ??**8/26/14 ENROLLMENT**

[AB 2560](#) (Bonilla) ?Teacher credentialing: applications: child abuse reporting. ?Support – Education ?Advocate – Donna Artukovic dartukovic@capta.org ??**7/9/14 CHAPTERED**

[AB 2602](#) (Eggman) ?Farm to School Program. ?Support – Health ?Advocate – Cathy Hall chall@capta.org ??**DEAD**

[SB 899](#) (Mitchell) ?CalWORKs: eligibility. ?Support – Family Engagement ?Advocate – Dianna MacDonald dmacdonald@capta.org ?**DEAD**

[SB 923](#) (Pavley) ?Educational apprenticeships: Educational Apprenticeship Innovation Act. Approve – Education ?Advocate – Donna Artukovic dartukovic@capta.org ?**9/4/14 ENROLLED**

[SB 1112](#) (Hueso) ?Fire protection: school inspection: fire alarm systems. ?Support If Amended – Community Concerns ?Advocate – Shereen Walter swalter@capta.org ??**DEAD**

[SB 1263](#) (Pavley) ?Charter schools: location. ?Support – Education ?Advocate – Carol Kocivar ckocivar@capta.org ??**9/4/14 ENROLLED**

[SB 1346](#) (Wyland) ?Schools: accountability: local control and accountability plans. ?Watch – Education ?Advocate – Cecelia Mansfield cmansfield@capta.org ??**DEAD**

[SCR 109](#) (Lara) ?National STD Awareness Month and National Youth HIV AIDS Awareness Day. ?Support – Health ?Advocate – Cathy Hall chall@capta.org **8/20/14 CHAPTERED.**

FEDERAL UPDATE

FEDERAL CALLS TO ACTION

Family Engagement in Education Act (Senate 1291/House 2662) – Support

Bill is meant to inform comprehensive reauthorization of ESEA; allow local flexibility to identify and implement best practices for effective family engagement. We need Congress to make sure that family engagement is a cornerstone of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Recognizing the importance of effective family-school partnerships, Senators Jack Reed (D-RI), Chris Coons (D-DE), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Congressman Glenn Thompson (R-PA) and Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) introduced the Family Engagement in Education Act of 2013 to improve family engagement capacity building at all levels. PTA is asking other members of Congress to join in cosponsoring the Family Engagement in Education Act of 2013.

Save School Lunches

The House of Representatives will be voting on the Fiscal Year 2015 Agriculture Appropriations Bill, which includes language that would allow a waiver from updated nutrition standards for some schools. Unfortunately, the call to Congress to scale back nutrition standards is *not* coming from students or their parents – the very people school meals are intended to serve.

Despite the fact that 90% of school districts are reporting implementing healthy school meals, Congress now wants to roll back nutrition goals around salt, whole grains, and access to fruits and vegetables and nutritious snacks. And they're attempting to do it through an appropriations bill. Instead, Congress should be working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to identify any necessary changes, or debate changes through a revision of the School Lunch Act, which is scheduled for reauthorization in 2015.

NATIONAL PTA CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

On June 22, 2014 at National convention, PTA passed two resolutions:

1. Inclusive Schools Build Stronger Communities

- Goal is to integrate children with special needs and their families in local public schools
- Local PTA associations to work with districts to research and advocate for implementation of most inclusive programs

2. Effects of Media on the Development of the Female Self Esteem

- Goal is to educate parents, schools and teens about how media images and messages readily damage young females' view of their bodies and encourage efforts to counter serious health issues that commonly result, including lower self-esteem, depression and eating disorders
- Large proportion of girls believe they need to lose weight as early as age 10; by age 17 the vast majority of American girls are unhappy with their bodies

NATIONAL PTA POLICY AGENDA

1. Education

- Family Engagement - establishment a Family Engagement and Responsibility Fund reservation in Title I funds (under Title I, section 1118)
- General Education - reauthorization of ESEA-NCLB which expired in 2007; proficiency standards in current law changed to measure growth as well as performance
- Funding
 - Increase in IDEA funding to at least 20% (was 14.9% in 2013, supposed to be 40% by law)
 - Maintain or increase funding for Head Start
 - Increase Title I funding level (to fully fund Title I would require \$35 billion while current funding is about \$15 billion)
 - Increase Title III and IV funding levels (in 2012 education funding amounted to only 2% of total government spending)
- Early Education – provide quality, public pre-K for all kids 0-5; promote family engagement from infancy; provide home visits to promote parental education in infant health and development
- Special Education – promote family engagement and start proper transition planning no later than age 14

2. Child Health & Nutrition

- Maintain nutrition standards for National School Lunch and Breakfast programs
- Implement nutrition standards for all food served on school campuses

3. School Safety

- Infrastructure improvements around schools as included in Safe Routes to Schools bill
- Bullying education for teachers, parents, kids and school employees to prevent and intervene

- Gun Violence Prevention (firearm-related deaths are second only to automobile crashes as cause of death for ages 1-19 in the US)
 - Require waiting period before purchase firearm
 - Prohibit non-sporting ammunition and large capacity magazine
 - Ban military-style assault weapons and weapons designed for military and police use including those with full or semi-automatic firing mode

4. **Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention** – update 1974 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) to keep non-criminal, truant kids out of juvenile detention centers and instead implement school/home-based interventions for such kids