

## **Federal:**

### **Legislative Checklist for the 115th Congress**

The National PTA's Legislative Checklist for the 115th Congress outlines the policy priorities National PTA and its constituent associations believe are critical to ensuring all children reach their highest potential. The checklist features the following policy areas:

- Elementary and Secondary Education
- Special Education
- Federal Investments in Education
- Early Learning and Childhood Education
- Child Health and Safety
- Gun Safety and Violence Prevention
- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
- Education Technology and Student Data Privacy
- Postsecondary Access and Opportunity

Visit <http://www.pta.org> to download a more detailed checklist the National PTA supports. Read statement from National PTA President Laura Bay on appointment of U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos.

To follow is taken from the U.S. Department of Education Website covering the legislation that the federal government covers in education. It is important to understand the federal role in education. You may have recently heard many of these terms. Go to <https://www.ed.gov> and learn more.

## **Laws & Guidance -Overview**

Legislation, regulations, guidance, and other policy documents can be found here for the **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**, and other topics.

Please note that in the U.S., the federal role in education is limited. Because of the Tenth Amendment, most education policy is decided at the state and local levels. So, if you have a question about a policy or issue, you may want to check with the relevant organization in your state or school district.

### **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**

- [ESSA Information page](#)
- [ESEA Flexibility](#): Information about flexibility from certain No Child Left Behind requirements that ED is offering to states.
- Text of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by ESSA:  
[Introductory materials](#) — [Title I](#) — [Title II](#) — [Title III](#) — [Title IV](#) — [Title V](#) — [Title VI](#) — [Title VII](#) — [Title VIII](#)
- [Text of No Child Left Behind Act](#): For certain ESEA programs, the requirements of NCLB apply through the 2016-2017 school year.
- [Guidance and Regulations](#)

### **FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)**

- [Overview](#)
- [Guidance for Students](#)
- [Guidance for Parents](#)
- [Regulations](#)

## Civil Rights

- [Disability Discrimination](#) (Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act)
  - [Section 504 FAQ](#)
- [Sex Discrimination](#) (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972)
- [Race and National Origin Discrimination](#) (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964)
- [Dear Colleague Letters and Other Policy Guidance](#)

## IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

- [IDEA Information Page](#) **Disclaimer**
- [Text of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#) (PDF, 432KB)

## WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act)

- [WIOA Information Page](#)
- [Text of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act](#)

## Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended through P.L. 114-95

- [Text of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#) (PDF, 505KB)

## Higher Education Act

- [Text of the Higher Education Opportunity Act](#)
- [Higher Education Opportunity Act Information Page](#)
- [Postsecondary Policy Initiatives](#)
- [Dear Partner/Colleague Letters](#)
- [Negotiated Rulemaking](#)

## Regulations and Rulemaking

- [Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review](#)
- [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations \(eCFR\), Title 34, Education](#)
- [Recent Federal Register Documents](#)

## Guidance

- [Types of Guidance Documents](#)
- [Recent Guidance](#)
- [Significant Guidance](#)
- [Key Policy Letters](#)

## **Key Federal Education Issues: Watch for:**

- Suspension of transgender student protections – Feb 2017 – California continues to support rights of transgender students- AB 1266 (2013)
- School voucher/ school choice proposals – at this point, California does not expect any changes
- H.R. 610 – repeal ESEA, establishes voucher program & repeals nutrition standards for school lunch/breakfast programs funded by federal government.

## **STATE:**

California's new school accountability Dashboard is going on line this month. The new dashboard uses a color-coded system that will be used to A website where you will be able to see the new Dashboard results for your school.

Last Month, the report was Governor Brown was going to hold up Prop. 51 school bond funding until new auditing procedures could be in place. Now, the state will start selling bonds and disbursing funds in the fall to school districts with matching funds. K-12 schools are slated to receive \$6 billion from Prop 51, with the remaining going to community colleges, charter schools, and career and technical education facilities. To qualify for state funds, most districts must provide matching funds to cover 50 percent of costs for new construction and 40 per cent for modernization projects. In November, school districts (not CUSD) passed \$16.5 billion in local school construction bonds. Since this is almost three times as much as the state bond of \$9 billion, it will be impossible for all districts to get Prop. 51 matching funds.

On February 27 & 28, a team of CUSD PTA Advocacy Representatives traveled to Sacramento for a two day intense filled Sacramento Safari. There was a total of about 75 reps from school districts within the Fourth District PTA. The speakers included all aspects of education including **newly elected Assembly and Senate** members. We advocated for changes in the LCFF, teacher shortage, and asked many questions regarding education and Sacramento. A full report will be sent out – waiting for official notes from the Fourth District. – Stay Tuned!

## **LOCAL:**

### **CUSD School Board update**

#### **February 22, 2017 Board Meeting**

- Trustee Hatton-Hodson was present to confront the online bullying and rumors swirling around her illness. She disclosed that she was diagnosed with Chagas disease in a very rare form, which at present only the CDC holds medication to treat. She is undergoing treatment for the disease and also the complications that arise from this disease. She is committed to being at School Board Meetings, but when she is absent it is due to illness and no other reason. She also reaffirmed that this disease has made her more committed than ever to focusing on the needs of students and teaching and learning and that needs to be the driving focus of the Board and all activities the Board undertakes.
- All discussion regarding Esencia School Site was pulled and a special Board of Trustees Meeting will be held on March 15, 2017 at 7pm to discuss only this issue.
- GATE – the district is committed to this program and has hired Hanover Research Partnership to conduct research into how we can use best practices to improve this program and widen out access to accelerated classes and honors to more students in middle school to better prepare them for the AP and IB classes of high school. The Board would like the district to bring this research in-house and utilize the highly trained teachers within the district to improve the GATE program, rather than hiring outside consultants moving forward at the end of this contract with Hanover Research.
- #CAPOFORWARD – the rebranding and marketing of 7 schools within the district – The Board of Trustees likes how this is creating outreach to the communities and also producing the marketing needed to compete with some of the private schools in the area. This is a great step forward and will hopefully be expanded out to other school sites beyond these original 7 pilot schools.

- The new school “Dashboard Accountability System” will be up and running in March. CA State PTA was involved in creating the system and the areas to be monitored in hopes of presenting a more holistic picture of how a school is functioning, not simply a single number API score.

### **Upcoming CapoUSD Dates to know:**

**March 13 – 9AM – CUCPTSA Council Meeting – District Office**  
**March 13-14 CAPTA Legislative Conference - Sacramento**  
**March 15 – 7PM – School Board Meeting**  
**March 16 – 9:30AM – Special Education CAC Meeting – District Office**  
**March 21 – 9:30 – 4<sup>th</sup> District PTA Advocacy Forum**  
**March 22- 7PM – School Board Meeting**  
**March 27 – 9AM – Parent Advisory Council**  
**April 3-7 Spring Recess – recharge your batteries!!!**  
**April 12 – 7PM – School Board Meeting**  
**April 14 – 9AM - CUCPTSA Legislation/Advocacy Meeting – District Office**  
**April 17 – 9AM - CUCPTSA Council Meeting – District Office**  
**April 19 – 7PM – School Board Meeting**  
**April 20 – 9:30AM - Special Education CAC Meeting – District Office**  
**April 20 – time TBD Special Education Sunshine Awards**  
**April 28-30 CA PTA State Convention**  
**May 5 - 9AM - CUCPTSA Legislation/Advocacy Meeting – District Office**  
**May 10 – 7PM – School Board Meeting**  
**May 15 – 9AM - CUCPTSA Council Meeting – TBD**  
**May 17 – 7PM – School Board Meeting**  
**May 22 – 9AM – Parent Advisory Council**  
**May 24 – 7PM – School Board Meeting**  
**May 29 – Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL**  
**June 1 – Last Day of School**  
**June 14 – 7PM – School Board Meeting**  
**June 28 – 7PM – School Board Meeting**

## 4<sup>th</sup> District Update:

### **From the 4<sup>th</sup> District Communicator - February 2017**

<http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Advocacy-Communicator-FEB-2017-003.pdf>

#### **How has Prop 98 affected education funding?**

It has been 25 years since California voters passed Prop 98, a measure that was intended to ensure that a "minimum guarantee" of each year's state budget would be spent on public schools. It was also supposed to take politics out of the school funding process. How has that worked out for the state's education system?

A new report by the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office attempts to answer that question. Here are some key points:

- The original version of Prop. 98 had two tests or formulas for calculating school funding in a given year. Due to the passage of Prop 111 and legislative action, the minimum guarantee is now determined by eight interacting formulas and nearly a dozen different inputs.
- Prop. 98 tried to guarantee that 40 percent of each state budget went to education. In all but one of the past 25 years, the legislature has found ways to suspend Prop. 98, shift revenues or make other adjustments to move the guarantee up or down.
- In times of economic downturn, the state has paid schools less than the Prop. 98 requirements, creating a "maintenance factor" that must be repaid to school districts in subsequent years. The legislature has done this eight times. In 2008-09 the state owed school districts \$11.2 billion. Most of that has been repaid, but the state still owes districts more than \$800 million.
- Key issues regarding how Prop. 98 is implemented have not been resolved, in spite of continuing debates, lawsuits and court rulings.
- The school funding formulas "have shown repeatedly that they are unable to react well to real world developments."
- There is no evidence that school funding is higher or that school funding decisions are less political due to Prop. 98.
- Prop. 98 formulas "have muddled the budget process, requiring legislators to dedicate considerable time to understanding a plethora of formulas and their often counterintuitive results, while leaving less time for legislators to focus on the education system's overall effectiveness and efficiency."
- "All these factors suggest the state should be extremely cautious about adopting new budget formulas in the future."

## **CAPTA Legislative Conference**

This year's Conference will be held March 13 and 14, with overnight stay at the Embassy Suites Hotel. Registration is \$210 for adults and \$105 for students. Hotel and travel costs are separate and reservations must be made by participants. Special PTA rates at the hotel are available until February 18. Conference registration closes on March 9. For more information and registration, go to [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org) under Programs and Events.

### **Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, February 2017**

Details are in the February issue of the Fourth District *Advocacy Communicator*.

- Governor Brown has proposed a very cautious state budget that would increase education funding by only 2.1 percent. Schools still won't be back to 2007-08 funding levels, adjusted for inflation. The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office is predicting higher tax revenues than the governor, which would mean more money for schools.
- A lot of the money that the schools get from the state will not be spent on education programs. This is because Governor Brown and the legislature came up with a program to fund the teachers' retirement system, which had a \$74 billion unfunded liability. Each year school districts have to pay a larger percentage of their payrolls into the retirement system.
- The *Communicator* has a response to the Governor's budget from California State PTA President Justine Fischer, who says that the state still has inadequate funding for education. She also asks for funding to support family engagement in schools.
- Prop. 98, which was passed 25 years ago, was supposed to ensure that public schools got 40 percent of every state budget. According to a new report by the Legislative Analyst's Office, it hasn't worked out that way. In 24 of those years the state legislature has found ways to shift the funding guarantee up or down. The LAO says there is no evidence that school funding has increased under Prop. 98.

The next Fourth District Advocacy Forum will be held on Tuesday, March 21 at Orange County Hall. Five Orange County Superintendents will talk about how their school districts are dealing with current education issues. Fourth District PTA has presented these superintendent panels in the past and they are always very interesting and informative! I'll have more information soon.

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