

In Local News:

Our Board of Trustees have met multiple times over the last few months at both Regular and Special Board Meetings, some Closed Session only, to try and navigate a safe path forward for our district with regards to re-opening to in-person instruction.

Parents and students have many options for how to receive and access their education this year – whether in-person, hybrid, split between school and home, or online only. There is no single path for all students – families are doing what is best for their individual families. And as PTA we are here to support all families and students – both the ones returning to campus and the ones continuing to learn from home in an online only model.

In our advocacy work, we will continue to highlight the needs of all students, no matter what program, when talking with school administration, and state and federal elected representatives. There are common needs for all our students – access to education; appropriate funding for their schools; access to technology and the necessary infrastructure to promote and support computer-based learning; universal feeding for all students so no one ever goes hungry while trying to learn.

Universal feeding is so important to me as an educator and advocate – I know that students who are hungry or worried about where their next meal is coming from don't have the energy needed to focus on their learning. Even in our area, there are many families that face food insecurity – so this is an issue we will continue to address over the coming months. The current waiver from USDA expires on December 31, 2020, so we are starting in October to advocate for an extension of this waiver out through the end of the school year in June 2021.

We are well into "Silly Season", if you don't know this phrase, ask me what it means. I encourage everyone to check out the website <u>https://www.ocvote.com</u> and check your voter registration status, register to vote, find your local vote center or ballot drop box. Ballots will be mailed out starting on October 5, 2020, and the ballot drop boxes open on October 5, 2020, and vote centers open on October 30 – November 3, 2020.

As you read the report this month, things are changing fast and I compile this report over the time between the last one and the day I send the next one out. So, I have started in include the dates articles are written, so you can see what has changed, but also look for ideas and how they evolved over a period of a month. Life is happening fast and changes to what may or may not happen in education are happening even faster. I am hoping noting the dates helps people keep track of information.

A couple of websites that I am tracking at the moment are:

For COVID-19 cases in Orange County: https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc

California Blueprint for a Safer Economy: <u>https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/</u> This site updates every Tuesday with new data and updated county color coding.

Orange County COVID-19 Dashboard:

https://ochca.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/cc4859c8c522496b9f2 <u>1c451de2fedae</u> where you can track daily reported cases, deaths, cumulative numbers and other statistics specific to Orange County.

2020 Census -

Check how your community is doing with completing their Census forms at: <u>https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates/self-response.html</u> If you haven't completed your Census form, or know others who haven't – go to <u>https://my2020census.gov/</u> and complete your Census form, it only takes a couple of minutes and the information collected is completely confidential. On September 24, 2020, the court ruled that the Trump administration can not cut the time for the 2020 Census short, however the Administration is already appealing this decision. Under the current ruling, the Census will continue until October 31, 2020, unless the appeal is approved. So, please get yourself counted and fill out your Census form. Read more about the recent court decision at: <u>https://www.npr.org/2020/09/24/912071784/court-orders-censuscounting-to-continue-through-oct-31-appeal-expected</u>

Agendas from the most recent Board of Trustee meetings can be found here:

September 23, 2020 – Board Meeting - https://capousd-

ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/7979868979514202050.pdf September 16, 2020 – Special Board Meeting (Closed session only) - <u>https://capousdca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/4609614640101153735.pdf</u> September 2, 2020 – Special Board Meeting – <u>https://capousdca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/1702508484423436529.pdf</u> August 26, 2020 – Special Board Meeting (Closed session only) - <u>http://capousdca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/7070129615393525677.pdf</u> August 19, 2020 – Board Meeting – <u>http://capousdca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/1005129016990275329.pdf</u> August 5, 2020 – Special Board Meeting - <u>http://capousd-</u> ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/1005129016990275329.pdf August 5, 2020 – Special Board Meeting - <u>http://capousd-</u> ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/5897251669765963895.pdf July 15, 2020 – Board Meeting - <u>http://capousd-</u> ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/8738438337545314742.pdf Minutes and Audio Recordings of Meetings can be found at https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/pf4/cms2/view_page?d=x&group_id=1514016268888&vdid=wi10b1_gsopu12s_Minutes are listed once approved, audio is typically posted within a day or two of the meeting. Also, on this page are links to 2018-2019 minutes/agendas/audio and previous years.

From Fourth District PTA:

Teleconferencing Points for Legislative Chairs, September 2020

Details are in the September issue of the Advocacy Communicator.

- In spite of the pandemic and the unprecedented situation in our schools, the advocacy work of Fourth District PTA continues! Advocacy meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice. There will be no trip to Sacramento in February, but online events are being planned.
- You can get ready to vote in the November General Election by going to OCVote.com and making sure your voter registration is up to date. All registered voters will receive a ballot in the mail and there are several safe ways to return your ballot to the Registrar of Voters. It's very important to sign the outside of the return envelope so the Registrar can verify your identity.
- California State PTA supports Prop. 15, which would change the amount of property taxes paid by commercial and industrial real estate property while protecting homeowners and renters by maintaining tax protections for all residential property. This would raise as much as \$11.5 billion in additional funding, with 40 percent of that going to schools.
- State PTA also supports Prop. 16, which would repeal Prop. 209 and allow the use of race, gender and ethnic diversity as factors (but not decisive factors) in public education and government hiring and contracting.
- The Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan that replaces the LCAP this year includes an emphasis on the mental health and emotional well-being of students and staff. Parents should be involved in developing this plan. The *Communicator* has a link to an article at Ed100.org that has more information and resources.
- California State PTA is a member of the Education Coalition, which is urging state legislators to close a projected \$20 billion education state budget shortfall by adopting additional revenue streams.
- The State PTA Legislation Team will present Advocacy Webinars on the first Wednesday of each month (with a couple of exceptions) from 7 to 8 p.m. The schedule and link are in the *Communicator*. These webinars are a great way to get the latest information from our PTA advocacy leaders.

Back issues of the Communicator can be found at: <u>http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org/advocacy-communicator/</u>

CA PTA Monthly Advocacy Calls:

Join California State PTA Director of Legislation Shereen Walter and members of the Legislation Team on Wednesdays.

Here is the schedule of upcoming advocacy webinars through June 2021. The webinars generally take place the first Wednesday of every month, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. (with some exceptions):

- Oct. 7, 2020
- Nov. 11, 2020 (second Wednesday of month)
- Dec. 9, 2020
- January 2021 no webinar
- Feb. 3, 2021
- March 3, 2021
- April 7, 2021
- May 5, 2021
- June 2, 2021

To register for any or all of these webinars, click here: <u>https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/31940121174953740</u>

California PTA News:

The Election and Your PTA

The election season is underway. How can your PTA be involved?

PTA is non-partisan. We do not support or oppose political parties or candidates. We do encourage our members to become informed and vote. PTA does take positions on education issues, including propositions that impact our children and schools. Your PTA may:

- Host candidate forums.
- Develop and publish candidate questionnaires.
- Furnish voter information.

For guidelines on PTA involvement in elections, go to

https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/advocacy-resources/Election-Guides

Encourage your members and high school seniors to register to vote. The last day to register to vote in the November 3rd General Election is October 19th. You can register online at the California Secretary of State website,

<u>https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections</u>. If you are already registered, you can go to this site to check your status and make any changes needed. You will also find plenty of information about the upcoming election. Check with your county registrar of voters for information about elections for local offices such as school board and city council.



Get your members and the community excited about voting. Include articles about voting in your newsletter, talk to family and friends, and post messages on social media. National PTA has social media graphics that you can use in your get-out-the-vote campaign here: <u>https://www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/ptsa-resources</u>

California State PTA supports Propositions 15 and 16. Prop. 15 will change the way commercial and industrial real estate is taxed, while protecting all residential properties. It will raise as much as \$11.5 billion in additional revenues for schools and local governments.

Prop. 16 will repeal a previous proposition and allow the use of race, gender, and ethnic diversity as factors (but not decisive factors) in public education (including college admissions), government hiring, and government contracting. For information on both measures, go to https://capta.org/focus-areas/advocacy/state-ballot-measures

Be an informed voter. Here are some non-partisan websites to use and share:

- Voter's Edge
- Find your state legislators
- Information about campaign contributions

California State PTA Announces Support for Proposition 16

California State PTA is proud to support Proposition 16 to provide equity in state hiring, contracting, and education.

Unfortunately, racism and sexism still deny equal opportunities in California. Everyone deserves the opportunity to succeed regardless of their gender, what they look like, or where they were born.

This constitutional amendment, placed on the November 2020 statewide ballot by the legislature, asks the voters of California to vote on permitting the use of race, gender, and ethnic diversity as factors (but not decisive factors) in education including college admissions, government hiring, and government contracting. This measure repeals Prop. 209, which banned consideration of these factors in public employment, public education and public contracting.

California State PTA believes in equity in every aspect of life for all children and youth, and effective governance systems and practices that are rooted in social justice to serve the needs of children, youth and families.

PTA was established to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children, youth and families. We must address a legacy of unequal treatment of marginalized groups and promote fairness and advance upward mobility, pay equity, and racial wealth gap reduction.

To read National PTA's newly adopted position statement "Addressing Systemic or Institutional Racism," please see <u>https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/ptas-</u> <u>positions/Individual-Position-Statements/position-statement---addressing-systemic-or-</u> <u>institutional-racism</u>

To read more about this ballot measure on the California State PTA website, https://capta.org/focus-areas/advocacy/state-ballot-measures/proposition-16/

California Bans Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products

Thanks to the efforts of California State PTA and a broad coalition of health organizations and local municipalities, California just **outlawed the sale of flavored tobacco products**. Senate Bill 793

(<u>http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB793</u>) banned all sales of flavored tobacco and vaping products to both adults and children.

The tobacco industry waged a major opposition campaign making this a sweet victory. (<u>https://calmatters.org/health/2019/05/flavored-tobacco-ban-floundering-california-legislature-vaping-electronic-cigarettes/</u>)

California State PTA had strong PTA authority for this bill. It had just adopted a convention resolution this summer that specifically called for the prohibition of all sales of flavored tobacco, not just to kids.

Recognizing that tobacco companies were more than happy to prohibit the sale to kids as long as they could continue marketing and selling to adults, convention delegates voted to outlaw all sales. This was to ensure flavored tobacco would not be available as an entry level product to create a lifetime of addiction. In writing to the legislature, the PTA said:

"Flavored tobacco, and specially flavored e-liquids for vaping promote tobacco use by California's youth. Over 5.3 million kids in the U.S. now use e-cigarettes. 27.5% of high school students used e-cigarettes in 2019 compared to 11.3% in 2016. Flavors are driving the demand for use. 97% of youth e-cigarette users report using a flavored product, and 70% cite flavors as the reason for their use. While we understand the tax implications and potential loss of revenue as a result of this bill, we believe the health benefits to our children and youth should hold more sway when deciding the future of this legislation."

Several PTA districts drafted the resolution and worked with the California State PTA advocate in contacting key legislators and the Governor as the bill went through the legislative process. PTA worked closely with a range of state and national organizations to pass this legislation and used Action Alerts as well as the Advocacy Insider newsletter and social media to engage PTA members in this advocacy.

Governor Newsom said, "It will be a point of deep pride and personal privilege as a father of four and as someone who's had many, many family members die at the hands of the tobacco industry to sign that bill." (read more of this article at https://calmatters.org/health/2020/08/california-flavored-tobacco-ban/)

PTA Resolution and Background Statement: <u>https://capta.org/programs-</u> events/statewide-association-meeting-2020/business-of-the-association/resolution-a/

In State News:

California to require ethnic studies to graduate high school under bill headed to Gov. Newsom: Author agrees to delay the start and accept amendments from critics. By John Fensterwald – September 1, 2020 - California would become the first state to require that all high school students pass a one-semester ethnic studies course to graduate if Gov. Gavin Newsom signs a bill that the Legislature passed on Monday, the last day of the legislative session..... But in order to get Assembly Bill 331 out of a Senate committee and on to a final vote, the primary author, Assemblyman Jose Medina, D-Riverside, proposed one amendment and accepted several others. Read the complete article at: https://edsource.org/2020/california-to-require-ethnic-studies-to-graduate-high-school-under-bill-headed-to-gov-newsom/ CUSD is piloting a semester long ethnic studies course this fall and working to expand course offerings to be inclusive of all students cultural backgrounds.

School districts worry that legislators failed to protect them from Covid-19 lawsuits: They say litigation costs would sap their budgets. By John Fensterwald – September 1, 2020 – The Legislature adjourned Monday without having resolved what school districts say is a huge barrier to returning to in-school instruction: legal protection from Covid-19-related lawsuits. ... Without that safeguard, school officials warn, some districts will be skittish about opening up schools and instead continue in distance learning until they get it. Read the complete article at: https://edsource.org/2020/school-districts-worry-that-legislators-failed-to-protectthem-from-covid-19-lawsuits/

First big reform of California's education funding laws awaits governor's signature: Gov. Newsom's advisors urge vetoing a bill strongly backed by student advocacy groups. By John Fensterwald – September 16, 2020 – The first significant change to the state's 7-year-old K-12 funding system, the Local Control Funding Formula, is a signature away from becoming law. ... But if Gov. Gavin Newsom accepts the recommendation of his advisors at the California Department of Finance and ignores the Legislature's near-unanimous vote favoring the significant reform, he'll veto the legislation within the next few weeks. Hundreds of nonprofits and civil rights groups signed a letter last week urging him not to do that; signing it instead would ensure that funding for "our highest-need, most vulnerable students is actually directed to support them," the letter said. ... Assembly Bill 1835 would end what advocates for years have called a glaring loophole that undermines the funding law's cardinal purpose, which is to provide additional funding for four groups of underserved students: English learners, low-income students, homeless and foster children. Read the complete article at: https://edsource.org/2020/first-big-reform-of-californiaseducation-funding-law-awaits-governors-signature/ Governor Newsom has until September 30, 2020, to sign or veto all the legislation that passed the Assembly and Senate this past session.

For California's new head of special education, 'nothing is insurmountable'. Heather Calomese talks to EdSource about distance learning, social justice and the future of special education. By Carolyn Jones – September 18, 2020 – Special education in California may face vast challenges – funding shortfalls, teacher shortages and distance learning, to name a few – but Heather Calomese is undeterred. Calomese, the state's newly appointed director of special education, has an ambitious vision to improve equity and outcomes for the state's 800,000 students enrolled in special education. ... Social justice, enhancing online education and improving conditions for teachers are among her top priorities. Read the complete article at: https://edsource.org/2020/for-californias-new-head-of-special-education-nothing-isinsurmountable/

At the National Level:

We are in the midst of what I like to call "Silly Season". A partial result of this, is not much is happening in Washington. Our representatives are home more campaigning than working on behalf of the people at the moment. The single issue they are working on is trying to pass a continuing funding resolution prior to September 30, 2020, the last day of the current fiscal year. I don't expect we will see more than just keeping current funding levels the same for a short extension to try and get through the election and possibly even to the end of January. The other issue that will impact education is the replacement of Ruth Bader Ginsberg on the Supreme Court. I encourage everyone to follow this process for themselves. PTA as a whole has not taken a position on this, and won't, because we take positions on issues, not people.

From the National PTA:

How to Reduce Germ Spread and Illness in Our New Normal by Lysol, National PTA sponsor, August 26, 2020 – This back-to-school season is filled with uncertainty in our new normal. You are wondering how to keep your children healthy and safe as classes resume. And whether your school district is returning to in-person classes or continuing remote learning, helping to reduce the spread of germs and illness is as important as ever. Read the complete article at https://ptaourchildren.org/reduce-germ-spread/

National PTA Reflections contest for 2020-2021

Stay tuned for entry materials for the 2020-2021 Reflections Art Program, whose theme is **"I Matter Because..."** This theme was selected in 2018 and couldn't be more perfect for the times we find ourselves in today. Themes for Reflections are submitted by students from across the nation and selected by a committee at the National PTA. The theme "I Matter Because...." Was suggested by a student in California. Let's have our students create art this summer around this theme. School sites will have due dates in September and winning projects will be due to Council between September 28-October 2, 2020, look for more information from your Reflections Chair.

There are two take action letters up on the National PTA website at the moment relating to funding and COVID-19. Please take a moment to email your representatives – there is an easy link to click and send right on the website. You can find them at: https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/take-action/write-your-officials

Advocacy letters for National PTA:

Please visit the Take Action site <u>https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/take-action</u> to send a letter to your Congress members on the issues of the day/week/month. Here you can keep up-to-date on the latest issues the National PTA is supporting or opposing.

The 116^{th} Congress is considering the following legislation items. The National PTA is supporting (green checkmarks) or opposing (red x) the following items:

Child Health and Safety

H.R. 5: Equality Act | 116th Congress (2019-2020)

H.R. 662: REACH Act | 116th Congress (2019-2020)

H.R. 852: Get the Lead Out of Schools Act | 116th Congress (2019-2020)

H.R. 2311: Anti-Lunch Shaming Act of 2019 |116th Congress (2019-2020)

H.R. 2599: Suicide and Threat Assessment Nationally Dedicated to Universal Prevention Act of 2019 116th Congress (2019-2020)

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H.R. 3451: To protect children affected by immigration enforcement actions 116th Congress (2019-2020)

H.R. 3452: To amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that immigration status alone does not disqualify a parent, legal guardian, or relative from being a placement for a foster child, to authorize discretion to a State, county, or other political subdivision of a State to delay filing for termination of parental rights in foster care cases in which an otherwise fit and willing parent or legal guardian has been deported or is involved in (including detention pursuant to) an immigration 116th Congress (2019-2020)

H.R. 4019: To protect and educate children about the dangers of e-cigarettes and other electronic nicotine delivery systems, and for other purposes 116th Congress (2019-2020)

H.R. 4381: To effectively staff the public elementary schools and secondary schools of the United States with school-based mental health services providers 116th Congress (2019-2020)

H.R. 4742: To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a tax on nicotine used in vaping, etc. | 116th Congress (2019-2020)

H.R. 5463: To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require a study of the time and duration of school lunch periods, and for other purposes | 116th Congress (2019-2020)

H.R. 5611: Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act of 2020 | 116th Congress (2019-2020)

S. 788: A bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and for other purposes | 116th Congress (2019-2020)

S. 1119: A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to prohibit stigmatization of children who are unable to pay for meals 116th Congress (2019-2020)

S.1832: A bill to protect and educate children about the dangers of e-cigarettes and other electronic nicotine delivery systems and for other purposes 116th Congress (2019-2020)

S. 2097: Protecting Sensitive Locations Act 116th Congress (2019-2020) S.2492: Suicide Training and Awareness Nationally Delivered for Universal Prevention Act of 2019 116th Congress (2019-2020)

S. 2499: A bill to effectively staff the public elementary schools and secondary schools of the United States with school-based mental health services providers [116th Congress (2019-2020)

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S. 2548: À bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students 116th Congress (2019-2020)

S. 2600: A bill to promote minimum State requirements for the prevention and treatment of concussions caused by participation in school sports and for other purposes | 116th Congress (2019-2020)

Education Technology and Student Data Privacy

H.R. 1693: To require the Federal Communications Commission to make the provision of Wi-Fi access on school buses eligible for E-rate support|116th Congress 2019-2020 S. 558: CAMRA Act| 116th Congress (2019-2020)

S.738: A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to make the provision of W-Fi access on school buses eligible for E-rate support |116th Congress (2019-2020 S.1167: A bill to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish a State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program, and for other purposes | 116th Congress (2019-2020)

Elementary and Secondary Education

H.R. 69: Ending Common Core and Expanding School Choice Act | 116th Congress 8 (2019 - 2020)H.R. 865: To provide for the long-term improvement of public school Ø facilities, and for other purposes. | 116th Congress (2019-2020) Ø H.R. 3322: Renew America's Schools Act of 2019 | 116th Congress (2019-2020) H.R. 4220: Chronic Absenteeism Reduction in Every School (CARES) Act| 116th ⌀ Congress (2019-2020) 8 8 S. 5: Educational Opportunities Act. | 116th Congress (2019-2020) S. 213: A bill to amend the SOAR Act. | 116th Congress (2019-2020) S. 235: Teachers Are Leaders Act | 116th Congress (2019-2020) S. 266: A bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school Ø facilities, and for other purposes. | 116th Congress (2019-2020) S. 579: A bill to provide grants to eligible local educational agencies to help public schools reduce class size in the early elementary grades, and for other purposes. Ø 116th Congress (2019-2020) S. 1299: A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to local educational agencies to encourage girls and underrepresented minorities to pursue studies and careers in STEM fields 116th Congress (2019-2020) Ø S. 1890: Renew America's Schools Act of 2019 | 116th Congress (2019-2020) Ø S. 2784: Family Friendly Schools Act. | 116th Congress (2019-2020)

Federal Investments in Education

H.R. 2021: To amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and to establish a congressional budget for fiscal year 2020. | 116th Congress (2019-Ø 2020)

H.R. 2315: To require full funding of part A of title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Individuals with Disabilities Act. | 116th Congress (2019- \checkmark 2020) Ø

H.R. 3647: Impact Aid Infrastructure Act 116th Congress (2019-2020) S.1172: A bill to require full funding of part A of title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Individuals with Disabilities Act | 116th Congress (2019-2020)

Gun Safety and Violence Prevention

Ø H.R. 8: Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019 | 116th Congress (2019-2020) H.R. 674: Gun Violence Prevention Research Act of 2019116th Congress(2019-2020) 🧭 H.R. 1236: Extreme Risk Protection Order Act of 2019 | 116th Congress (2019-2020) Ø H.R. 1296: Assault Weapons Ban of 2019 | 116th Congress (2019-2020) Ø S. 42: Background Check Expansion Act | 116th Congress (2019-2020) Ø S. 66: Assault Weapons Ban of 2019 | 116th Congress (2019-2020) Ø S. 184: Gun Violence Prevention Research Act | 116th Congress (2019-2020) Ø S. 506: Extreme Risk Protection Order Act of 2019 116th Congress (2019-2020)

Post-Secondary Access and Opportunity

S. 874: Dream Act of 2019 116th Congress (2019-2020)

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Special Education

H.R. 1878: To amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part. | 116th Congress (2019-2020) H.R. 3086: To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide students with disabilities and their families with access to critical information needed to select the right college and succeed once enrolled 116th Congress (2019-2020) H.R. 4107: To authorize funding for section 619 and part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 116th Congress (2019-2020) S.866: A bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding for such part. | 116th Congress (2019-2020) S. 1585: RISE Act of 2019 116th Congress (2019-2020)