



**CUCPTSA LEGISLATION/ADVOCACY TEAM
May 2019 Report**

In Local News:

I want to start with saying thank you for making this an amazing year for advocacy in CUSD and for all the work you do on behalf of the students and CUCPTSA. Please bring your ideas for topics you want to learn more about for the 2019/2020 year to our May meeting.

We started our letter writing campaign in support of AB-8 Mental Health in March. I mailed 160 letters to both Senator Bates and Assemblyman Brough. We can continue to collect additional letters and I will send them on as well at least once a month until the end of this school year. Please bring any signed letters you have to the meeting or contact me and I will meet with you to pick them up and send them on to the appropriate people. I look forward to continuing our letter writing campaigns in the fall. We will keep looking at what issues are directly relevant to the students of CUSD and our communities to support.

We are very fortunate to have both Kevin Gordon and Barrett Snider of Capitol Advisors Group, LLC with us once again. I am excited to hear about what is happening in Sacramento with regards to legislation that should positively impact the children of CUSD. In particular, I am looking forward to hearing about what they think will happen with the May Revise of the budget, potential for further STRS/PERS relief for districts, and potential for increases in funding for special education with regards to AB428 Special Education Funding. As a hint to next year, I am excited to announce that we will have the pleasure of hearing from Capitol Advisors at 3 of our meetings during the 2019/2020 year – I greatly appreciate the support of CUSD in providing us these opportunities.

At the April 25, 2019, School Board Meeting, Trustees passed a resolution of support of AB428 Special Education Funding. This legislation is also supported by the California PTA. It would greatly increase the funding for special education across the state and could result in an additional \$11.5 million in funds available to CUSD annually. The one concern is how AB428 funding would be calculated with relation to Prop 98 – would it mean an increase in Prop 98, or would they try to say that you must use existing Prop 98 dollars to fund this mandate. As I read it, it should result in an increase to Prop 98 funds and ongoing funding for Special Education. This would be significant for all children, not just our special education populations.

On Wednesday, May 8, 2019, at 6pm will be the next Board Workshop. They are discussing potential Facilities Improvement measures in both the Southern and Western regions as well as MTSS. Board Workshops are a great time to interact with the Board of Trustees, they are less formal, and allow for conversations about the topics to be held. It is not just a one-way

statement, but rather the interaction between parties that makes these workshops so informative. I encourage you to attend if you can.

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

May 8, 2019 – Special Board Meeting - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/1003380432679858147.pdf>

May 8, 2019 – Board Workshop - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/1124648096973691556.pdf>

April 25, 2019 – Board Meeting - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/4336189845333470454.pdf>

March 27, 2019 – Special Board Meeting – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/6005636663366795172.pdf>

March 27, 2019 – Board Workshop – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/8201067157337547576.pdf>

March 29, 2019 – Special Board Meeting - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/8150948757678085825.pdf>

Audio Recordings of Meetings in July 2018-June 2019 can be found at <http://cusd.capousd.org/cusdweb/2018-19audio.html>

From Fourth District PTA:

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, May, 2019 Details are in the May issue of the *Advocacy Communicator*.

- Charter schools are a hot topic in Sacramento. California has had charter schools since 1992, but they have led to some unintended consequences. When students transfer to a charter school, state funding goes with them, leaving less money for the home school. Some charters turned out to be money-making propositions for the people running them. This year lawmakers have already passed a law requiring charter school operations to be more open and transparent. Several other laws are being considered. So far, California State PTA has taken a support position on a bill that would stop charter schools from opening outside the school district that approves them.
- By the way, California State PTA supports charter schools if they are fiscally and academically accountable and involve parents in decision-making. (The complete position on charter schools is at capta.org under Focus Areas/Advocacy/Position Statements.)
- There has been a lot of controversy about the California Healthy Youth Act, which requires comprehensive sexual health education and information about HIV prevention to be taught at least once in middle school and once in high school. Parents can opt out their students. The *Communicator* has a short description of the law, which goes into effect next school year. You can go to the Orange County Department of Education website (ocde.us) to get answers to six common questions about the act and a link to the text of the law.

- Are we getting ready for PTA advocacy next year? We should be sure that there is a line item in our budget for advocacy and Sacramento Safari. There will be an advocacy session at the Fourth District PTA workshops on June 1.
- The last California State PTA advocacy conference call of the year is scheduled for Monday, May 28, at 7 p.m. Directions are in the *Communicator*.
- The Legislative Analyst's Office produces Cal Facts, with lots of information about California in colorful charts, including 11 pages on education. The link is listed in the *Communicator*.

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

California PTA holds monthly Legislation and Advocacy Conference Calls:

The upcoming conference calls are scheduled for:

- May 28, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Please see <https://capta.org/resource/legislation-conference-calls/> for information on how to dial in and participate in these calls.

In State News:

Efforts to restrict charter school growth in California inch forward in state

Legislature by Louis Freedberg, *EdSource* The Assembly Education Committee chaired by Assemblyman Keith McCarty, a former high school teacher, approved legislation that, among other things, would place a cap on charter schools in the state to approximately their current levels, and deny the State Board of Education the ability to approve a charter application after being denied by a school district or county office of education. Read the entire article at <https://edsources.org/2019/efforts-to-restrict-charter-school-growth-in-california-inch-forward-in-state-legislature/>

California plan for school construction bonds sparks debate for reform by John Fensterwald, *EdSource* For the past few years, a small group of advocates for equitable school construction has been examining how school districts with small tax bases and low-income families can get a bigger share of state funding to upgrade school facilities. Now, they say, there is an opportunity to make that happen. Read the entire article at <https://edsources.org/2019/california-plans-for-school-construction-bonds-sparks-debate-for-reform/>

Later school bells, alternative testing: California lawmakers try again on quashed

K-12 bills By Richard Cano, *CALmatters*, April 18 California hit the snooze button last year on legislation that would have let middle and high school students sleep in a little longer. The later—and, experts say, healthier—school start time would have been a national first had Gov. Jerry Brown not vetoed it. Read the complete article on several bills that are back again for a second chance at <https://calmatters.org/articles/school-start-teach-america-california-bills-brown-newsom/> note, not all of these bills the CA PTA has taken a position on yet.

THE BIG SQUEEZE: How unfunded pension costs threaten educational equity Pivot Learning examined financial data and conducted interviews with school board members and other stakeholders from 150 California school districts for a deeper look at how rising pension costs are affecting districts' ability to provide crucial services like counseling, offer higher teacher salaries and meet the needs of their most vulnerable students. **The Big Squeeze** is an interesting look at the unfunded pension liabilities in California and potential consequences and actions that can be taken. I have attached the pdf of this report to the May meeting notice. It is 20 pages of insightful reading, much of which we have talked about this year. All of which are things that CUSD is having to take note of and try to overcome. CUSD is currently operating under a structural deficit, as a result there have been almost \$4.5million made in budgetary cuts over the past 2 years. Ideas discussed in the *Big Squeeze* are why CUSD and other districts are facing these challenges. I encourage you to read this report.

Are Pension Costs Creating the Next Fiscal Crisis? by *Tom Chorneau* (Calif.) The number of school districts teetering on insolvency may be far higher than the most recent state data suggests, and the culprit appears to be swelling pension costs.

According to a new survey from Pivot Learning and the California School Boards Association, nearly 60 percent of districts may be forced into deficit spending before the end of this fiscal year.

Read the complete article at <https://k-12daily.org/budget-finance/are-pension-costs-creating-a-new-school-fiscal-crisis>

At the National Level:

Training teachers to be first responders to mental distress can avert tragedies by Amelia Harper Some schools in Virginia are offering a mental health first-aid course to help educators — and some students — spot early signs of trouble. Read the complete article at <https://www.educationdive.com/news/training-teachers-to-be-first-responders-to-mental-distress-can-avert-trage/> This ties into some of why AB8 in California is so necessary.

From the National PTA:

Advocacy letters for National PTA:







Please visit the Take Action site <https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/take-action> 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 National PTA has taken the time to contact Congress regarding the following topics. Links to the letters can be found at <https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/federal-legislation/letters-to-policymakers> current letters are in regard to fully funding IDEA, Child Nutrition, Education Technology and Student Data Privacy, Elementary and Secondary





Education, Federal Investments in Education, Gun Safety and Violence Prevention, Health and Safety, and Juvenile Justice.

The 116th 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) 
- 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 the stigmatization of children who are unable to pay for meals | 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 (2019-2020) 
- H.R. 865: To provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes. | 116th Congress (2019-2020) 
- 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 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. | 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 (2019-2020) 
- 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 (2019-2020) 

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

H.R. 8: Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019 | 116th Congress (2019-2020) 

H.R. 1236: Extreme Risk Protection Order Act of 2019 | 116th Congress (2019-2020) 

S. 42: Background Check Expansion Act | 116th Congress (2019-2020) 

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) 

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) 