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CUCPTSA LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY BRIEF
October 6, 2017

Federal Update

National PTA Applauds Family Engagement Investments in House FY2018 Appropriations Bill but continues to fight for additional funding

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a spending bill that would fund federal programs and services for Fiscal Year 2018. The bill includes \$10 million in funding for the Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFECs) program.

The SFEC program is included in Every Student Succeeds Act—the law governing the federal role in K-12 education. The program will provide states and districts with the capacity to support effective implementation and enhancement of meaningful family engagement policies and initiatives.

Although National PTA is pleased that the SFECs program is funded in the bill, the association is concerned that the bill cuts funding for education overall by more than \$2 billion.

“Funding for education has remained at 2% of the federal budget for decades. Cutting funding further undermines opportunity for all children,” said Nathan Monell, CAE, National PTA executive director. “It is critical that Congress stop cuts to classrooms and invest more in education programs for children and the nation’s long-term success.”

With its passage, the House spending bill must now be reconciled with the U.S. Senate’s appropriations legislation. The Senate bill that would fund education programs for FY2018 does not include funding for the SFECs program and offers minimal increases in funding for education overall.

“Although the Senate bill increases funding for education, it is not enough to adequately invest in our children and the future of our nation,” added President Accomando. “Across the country, there are large disparities in available resources and access to quality education programs. It is essential that members of Congress work together to pass a spending bill for FY2018 that invests in education and family engagement to strengthen our economy and ensure every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.” <https://www.pta.org/newsevents/newsdetail.cfm?ItemNumber=5374>

National PTA Urges Congress to Pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform

On September 5, the U.S. Department of Justice announced that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program will be terminated March 2018. With the six-month delay in enforcement, Congress now has the opportunity to address the issue of immigration in a fair, appropriate and equitable way.

“With the announcement that the DACA program will be rescinded, our attention turns to Congress to urge bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform. Now, policymakers have a momentous opportunity to work together to provide real solutions that benefit our nation’s diverse and talented youth and their families,” said Jim Accomando, president of National PTA. “National PTA encourages our 4 million members to mobilize by reaching out to their members of Congress, urging them to pass legislation that provides the young immigrants who have received protection under DACA the ability to reach their fullest potential. Their future and our nation’s future depend on it.” <https://www.pta.org/newsevents/newsdetail.cfm?ItemNumber=5363>

Other Federal Legislation of Interest:

H.R. 2475: Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2017: To provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes. This bill will provide Grants to public schools for items such as: the facility; roof, lighting, windows, plumbing, a/c, lead removal, etc. The State will be required to match funds received by the Federal govt. It appears low income schools would have priority. It was introduced in the House in May 2017 and sent for budget review

S. 786: Student and Student Athlete Opioid Misuse Prevention Act: A bill to establish a grant program relating to the prevention of student and student athlete opioid misuse. The amount allocated would be \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2018; and such sums as may be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.

A full list of federal legislation supported and opposed by National PTA can be found at: <https://www.pta.org/advocacy/takesaction.cfm?vvsrc=%2fbills&navItemNumber=4697>

State Update:

Waiver from science test: the U.S. Department of Education has granted the state of California a retroactive waiver from administering outdated science tests, instead allowing it to give students pilot tests based on new science standards. The department granted the waiver only for the just completed school year. It made it clear that the waiver doesn’t apply to the current school year’s tests which will be taken in the spring of 2018. If California did the same thing it did last year it could run afoul of the law and risk penalties that could include losing federal funds.

The pilot tests based on the Next Generation Science standards were administered last spring. Different from past standardized science tests, the pilot was a computer-based exam of 15 to 22 questions that took 1 to 2 hours to complete. A longer field test is planned for this spring. The Next Generation Science Standards, which has been adopted by 18 other states, focuses on critical thinking and hands-on science projects, along with a far more interdisciplinary approach to science instruction than the earlier standards.

Regardless of what happens, California is not planning to administer the old California Science Test this spring. Instead, it will administer a longer field test of the new version, with full implementation planned for the 2018-19 school year. Score reports are not available for those who took the pilot test last year. Standardized science tests are administered to students in grades 5, 8, and 10. For More: <https://edsources.org/2017/california-gets-waiver-from-administering-old-science-tests-but-only-for-last-year/587259>

The Legislative Session ended on September 15 with many bills being passed along to the Governor to sign (or veto) and some remaining in committee, some being defeated, and some being pulled by

their authors to re-introduce next year. Here are results for some of these bills that CA State PTA took a position on.

Late Start to school (SB 328 Portantino) Failed – (PTA Support) This bill would have required the school day for middle schools and high schools, including those operated as charter schools, to begin no earlier than 8:30 a.m. by July 1, 2020.

CA State STEM School (AB 1217) Stalled – (PTA Oppose) This bill would compel the state to open a charter school focused upon STEM in Los Angeles which would offer preferred enrollment to low income, foster kids, and English language learners and would report to the state superintendent of education contrary to customary practice. For more on PTAs opposition to this bill: <http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/soapbox/article172138147.html>

Ending Meal Shaming (SB 250 Herzberg) -- Passed (PTA Support) Requires certain school districts, that provide school meals through the federal National School Lunch Program or the federal School Breakfast Program to ensure that a pupil whose parent or guardian has unpaid school meal fees is not shamed, treated differently, or served a meal that differs from what a pupil whose parent or guardian does not have unpaid school meal fees would receive under that local educational agency's policy.

Reserve Cap (SB 751 Hill) Enrolled – (PTA Support) The bill was a response to a budget trailer bill approved in June 2014 as part of the state budget which included a provision that has come to be known as the school district reserve cap. It is a requirement that limits school districts' rainy day reserves and their ability to respond to fiscal crises. The reserve cap requirement is triggered once the state makes a deposit into the Public-School System Stabilization Account, which only occurs when certain conditions are met. This cap was of concern to small school districts and basic aid districts; however, SB 751 fixes both problems by exempting small and basic aid districts from the cap.

Teacher Tenure (AB 1220 Weber) Held by Author -- (PTA SUPPORT) Increases the time needed for permanent status from 2 years to 3 years and possibly 4 or 5 years under specific circumstances.

English Learner Reclassification: (SB 463 Lara) Held by author (PTA Support) Would standardize the four current reclassification criteria: performance on the state assessment of English language proficiency; evaluation by teachers; consultation with parents; and the mastery of basic skills, comparable to English-only students, on the Smarter balance assessment.

Fiscal Transparency: (AB 1321Weber) Stalled in Appropriations Committee – (PTA Support) Would require school districts to establish a uniform reporting criteria so that all schools' revenues can be easily compared.

An interesting summary of the results of these and other state education bills is available at EdSource: https://edsources.org/2017/legislation-roundup-stem-school-later-school-start-meal-shaming-budget-reserves-what-passed-and-whatdidnt/587577?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email

New Primary Date for California: Governor Gerry Brown signed a bill that would change the date of the state's primary election in 2020. The date of the statewide direct primary and the presidential primary will be the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March and would continue the requirement that those elections be consolidated.

Local Update:

Trustee Bullockus will join us at our November 3 meeting so we can get to know her better.

Negotiations: Capistrano Unified and the CUEA (the association that represents teachers) have not reached an agreement on their employment contract for the 2017/2018 school year. In late June, the district and the teachers agreed that they were at impasse and will be working with a mediator in the hopes of coming to an agreement on the employment contract. The mediation process can take weeks or months. We will share information as more becomes available. CUSD has posted a page on their website with more information about this process. Go to: https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/cms/page_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1498723055047

Board Meeting Update: Sept 13, 2017

Dress Code Policy: During open comments students and parents spoke about the frustration with the current dress code policy as implemented at their school site. Superintendent Vital reported that a task force was being formed to review the dress code and suggest revisions for the board to consider at a future board meeting. The district is including the voice of all groups including, parents, students, site employees and administrators in creating a dress code policy to support equitable educational access and is written in a manner that does not reinforce stereotypes. The current policy is BP 5142(a). Please feel free to share your opinion about what you like and/or would like to see modified in the student dress code by sending an email to all members of the board of trustees.

South Bus Yard Property: The board approved the recommendation of the advisory committee to declare the south bus yard property as “surplus” and solicit bids to lease this property. Potential revenue generated from leasing this property can be used for deferred maintenance projects and/or facilities improvements. Agenda item 31- Resolution 1718-17.

New STEM buildings at Aliso Niguel HS and Niguel Hills MS: The board approved the use of remaining 87-1 CFD funds and redevelopment funds to construct 2 STEM classroom buildings at Aliso Niguel High School and 1 at Newhart Middle School. In addition to providing needed classroom space aging portables at Newhart Middle School will be removed. Both Mission Viejo and Aliso Viejo City Councils passed unanimous resolutions in support of these projects. These funds can only be used for schools within the area of CFD 87-1 which includes parts of Aliso Niguel and Mission Viejo. If these projects receive matching funds from the state, the district will discuss how best to use those matching state funds. Agenda Item 33

August 23, 2017 School Board Meeting – Agenda and Exhibits – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1218998819331/1455438848279/4927771192592528781.pdf>

September 13, 2017 School Board Meeting– Agenda and Exhibits - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1218998819331/1455438848279/1116881583444410857.pdf>

Audio Recordings of the Meetings in July 2017-June 2018 can be found at <http://cusd.capousd.org/cusdweb/audio2017-18.html>

The Next School board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 10/11/17. The agenda for the meeting is available online at:

http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/cms/page_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1499162639654