



**CUCPTSA LEGISLATION/ADVOCACY TEAM  
October 2018 Report**

**In Local News:**

We will have a representative from Capitol Advisors at our October 2018 meeting to share what is happening with regards to education policy in Sacramento. They will also provide insights into upcoming election, what enrolled bills the Governor signed, and which were vetoed.

In September, the Board of Trustees heard an update on the GATE program and acceleration programs throughout the district. They gave direction to staff to increase teacher training in methodologies of GATE instruction and certification of all teachers working in GATE clusters, and are looking forward to steps taken to insure all students who should be identified are. Questions were raised regarding identification (or lack thereof) twice exceptional students, and what can be done to insure they receive appropriate educational opportunities. Discussion also focused on differences between highly gifted, gifted, and high performing students and how each population has different needs. Here is a link to the agenda for the meeting tomorrow night. <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/7097896316263419595.pdf> The agenda for the meeting is 937 pages - the item on GATE and Acceleration are #30 and 31 with the detailed exhibits being on pages 727-751 of the linked pdf.

I want to thank Julie Colombero for attending the September 12, 2018 school board meeting. I have attached her notes from the meeting to the meeting notice email. They give an excellent summary of the night's events.

The Board of Trustees passed Resolution No. 1819-16 - RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT REGARDING THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION UNITS 2 AND 3 DECOMMISSIONING PROJECT with five yes votes, one no, and one Trustee absent. For all our families surrounding SONGS (San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station), it is reassuring that CUSD is working to ensure the safety of our children and families. A detailed presentation was held at the Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, September 26, 2018, regarding SONGS and the district plans if there is ever an issue/concern. The complete resolution is on pages 39-41 of the September 26, 2018, Special Meeting agenda located at <http://capousd->

[ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/1240234971004710962.pdf](http://ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/1240234971004710962.pdf) .

Three Board of Trustee areas were scheduled to have elections this year, however, only the incumbent Trustees filed papers to run in each area. As a result, the Orange County Registrar of Voters has declared all three the winners of their races and will not have the Board of Trustee elections appear on the November 2018 ballot. Congratulations to our Trustees continuing to work for the benefit of the students in CUSD.

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

August 22, 2018 – Regular Board Meeting - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/5802984024151074063.pdf>

September 12, 2018 – Regular Board Meeting – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/7097896316263419595.pdf>

September 26, 2018 – Special Board Meeting – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/1240234971004710962.pdf>

September 26, 2018 - Board Workshop – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/4573690826861935331.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, September 2018**

Details are in the September issue of the *Advocacy Communicator*.

- PTA is all about advocating for children. Fourth District PTA has a lot of resources to help us with advocacy work in our unit/council. There is an Advocacy Training on Friday, September 14. It's free and open to all PTA members. Who would like to join me?
- The California State PTA advocacy team has conference calls once a month and we all can participate in those too. The first one is on September 24 at 7 p.m. The phone number and directions are in the September *Advocacy Communicator*.
- Ed100.org is a great online resource to help us learn all about the education system in California. It's a full course of information divided into short units. We should all work through the course so we understand our schools *and*

earn a chance to win a cash prize for our PTA. In addition to the basic information, Ed100 also has a blog on current education issues. Some of the recent topics are suicide prevention, charter schools, the Supreme Court decision on teacher unions, and why our schools *still* don't have enough funding.

- California State PTA believes all students should have access to arts education at every grade level. To help us advocate for that, there is a new booklet on the CAPTA website called **Parents' Guide to the Visual and Performing Arts in California Public Schools**.
- For the past year, California State PTA has been working hard to make sure that AB 2878 is passed. This bill, which is sponsored by PTA, would provide a more detailed definition of family engagement in the state's Education Code, which will help schools to develop their Local Control and Accountability Plans. The bill has been passed by the Assembly and Senate, but another vote is needed to approve the amendments added by the Senate.
- Two people, Tony Thurmond and Marshall Tuck, are running for state superintendent of education. You can get a lot of information about both of them at EdSource.org. This website is also a great place to find basic information about the California school system as well as information and commentary on current education issues.

Back issues of the Communicator can be found at:

<http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org/advocacy-communicator/>

### **In State News:**

Governor Brown vetoed SB328, the late start bill for middle and high schools citing that it is an issue that should be decided in each local community and ignoring what science and studies over the past 3 decades have shown. It is expected that Senator Portantino, the bill's author, will reintroduce the bill in January 2019 at the start of the new legislative session. Read EdSource's analysis at <https://edsources.org/2018/rejecting-one-size-fits-all-approach-california-governor-vetoes-later-school-start-time-bill/>

Governor Brown did sign SB607 on expanding the ban on "willful defiance" suspensions through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This legislation seeks to prevent the suspension of primarily minority students for acts that are not violent towards staff or other students. The Legislative Counsel Digest for this bill states:

SB 607, Skinner. Pupil discipline: suspensions and expulsions: willful defiance.

Existing law prohibits a pupil from being suspended from school or recommended for expulsion, unless the superintendent of the school district or the principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled determines that the pupil has committed a specified act, including, among other acts, disrupting school activities or otherwise willfully defying the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties.

Existing law prohibits the suspension of a pupil enrolled in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 3, inclusive, and recommending the expulsion of a pupil enrolled in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, for disrupting school activities or otherwise willfully defying the valid authority of those school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties.

This bill, commencing July 1, 2019, would also prohibit the suspension of a pupil enrolled in grades 4 and 5 for disrupting school activities or otherwise willfully defying the valid authority of those school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties. The bill, commencing July 1, 2019, until July 1, 2023, would prohibit the suspension of a pupil enrolled in grades 6 to 8, inclusive, for those acts. The bill, commencing July 1, 2019, would also prohibit the suspension of a pupil enrolled in a charter school in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 5, inclusive, and recommending the expulsion of a pupil enrolled in a charter school in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, for those acts. The bill, commencing July 1, 2019, until July 1, 2023, would prohibit the suspension of a pupil enrolled in a charter school in grades 6 to 8, inclusive, for those acts. The bill would make other related changes.

As of when I am writing this report we are still waiting to hear if Governor Brown signs AB2657 – from the CAPTA advocate Donna Artukovic we see the following:

**[AB 2657](#) (Weber D) Pupil discipline: restraint and seclusion.** (Enrollment: 9/10/2018 [html](#) [pdf](#))

**Status:** 9/10/2018 - Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 3:30 p.m.

**Location:** 9/10/2018 - A . ENROLLED

**Position:** Support

**Advocate:** Donna Artukovic

**Reason for Position Change:** Support position taken at June LAC Meeting 061118

**Summary:** Existing law prohibits a person employed by or engaged in a public school to inflict, or cause to be inflicted, corporal punishment upon a pupil. This bill would authorize an educational provider, as defined, to use behavioral restraints, which includes physical and mechanical restraints, or seclusion, as defined, only to control behavior that poses a clear and present danger of serious physical harm to the pupil or others that cannot be immediately prevented by a response that is less restrictive, and if other specified conditions are met. The bill would prohibit an educational provider from using a behavioral restraint or seclusion in certain circumstances, including, but not limited to, using seclusion or a behavioral restraint for the purpose of coercion, discipline, convenience, or retaliation, and would prohibit the use of certain restraint and seclusion techniques. The bill would require a local educational agency that meets a specified federal definition to collect and, no later than 3 months after the end of a school year, report to the State Department of Education annually on the use of behavioral restraints and seclusion for pupils enrolled in or served by the local educational agency for all or part of the prior school year, as specified. The bill would require that the data collection and reporting requirements be conducted in compliance with

specified federal law, and would prohibit those requirements from being construed to impose a new program or higher level of service on local educational agencies or nonpublic schools or agencies.

This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Governor Brown signed AB406 Charter Schools: Operations. This legislation bans for profit organization from operating a charter school and was supported by the California PTA and the California Charter School Association.

Governor Brown signed Assembly Bill 2878, sponsored by California State PTA and co-authored by Assemblymember Rocky Chavez and Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, passed the Assembly and Senate on a bipartisan vote.

AB 2878 would put researched-based family engagement guidance and practice into the California Education Code.

The bill ensures that researched-based guidelines defining family engagement and involvement are provided to schools and districts to guide them in this important work.

Research demonstrates that when schools practice authentic family engagement, there is reduced absenteeism, decreased dropout rates, increased student achievement and increased graduation rates.

*"Decades of research have shown that through authentic family engagement, we have better attendance in schools, higher graduation rates and higher attendance in post secondary education,"* said California State PTA President Dianna MacDonald.

*"California State PTA has supported the eight state priorities delineated in the Local Control Funding Formula and believe that a clear definition in the education code will help support our local schools."*

Family engagement is a cost-effective way to increase student achievement. According to research, schools would need to increase spending by more than \$1,000 more per pupil to gain the same results as effective family engagement.

PTA sees this as a simple and powerful next step to ensuring we build positive long term relationships between families and schools especially with our next generation parents and families and those underserved.

[Read more about AB 2878 here.](#)

The California Dashboard is having a new design layout to ease reading of school progress, successes, failures, and communicating information to parents and community members. See the detailed article at EdSource at <https://edsource.org/2018/new-friendlier-look-coming-for-californias-school-dashboard>

## At the National Level:

Remember to Vote in November 2018! The last day to register to vote in California is October 22, 2018. Voting is one of our most sacred and important civic duties. Please take some time out of your busy schedules to make sure you are registered and then to vote, either in person or by absentee ballot.

## From the National PTA:








There are currently several items that the National PTA are speaking out about explicitly – all are related to Gun Control and Guns in Schools. Please take a moment to visit <https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/take-action> and send an email to your representative supporting the National PTA's agenda in keeping our schools and students safe. The specific topics are:

- Tell your senators to oppose the use of federal funds to purchase guns for schools
- Urge your members of congress to keep our children and our schools safe from gun violence!
- Tell your members of congress to invest in family engagement

**Advocacy letters for National PTA:** On PTA.org website under Advocacy tab, there are several letters that can be downloaded and sent to your Representative and/or Senator. Issues such as protecting transgender children, concern over Betsy DeVos and school vouchers, encouraging parent engagement (ESSA), protecting Federal nutrition programs, and many more.

The 115<sup>th</sup> 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. 2: Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018   115th Congress (2017-2018)  |  |
| H.R. 695: Child Protection Improvements Act of 2017   115th Congress (2017-2018)  |  |
| H.R. 1757: Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act of 2017   115th Congress (2017-2018)  |  |
| H.R. 1957: Safe Schools Improvement Act of 2017   115th Congress (2017-2018)  |  |
| H.R. 2160: Best to Use Safety Belts Act of 2017   115th Congress (2017-2018)  |  |
| H.R. 2401: To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to prohibit the stigmatization of children who are unable to pay for meals.   115th Congress (2017-2018) |  |
| H.R. 2926: REACH Act   115th Congress (2017-2018)   |  |

H.R. 3006: To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

H.R. 3024: Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

H.R. 3580: To promote State requirements for local educational agencies and public elementary and secondary schools relating to the prevention and treatment of concussions suffered by students. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

H.R. 5374: Student Non-Discrimination Act of 2018 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

H.R. 5992: Student and Student Athlete Opioid Misuse Prevention Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

H.R. 6775: Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

S. 705: Child Protection Improvements Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

S. 774: Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

S. 786: Student and Student Athlete Opioid Misuse Prevention Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

S. 1064: Anti-Lunch Shaming Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

S. 1401: Get the Lead Out of Schools Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

S. 1402: A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

S. 2572: Safe Schools Improvement Act of 2018 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

S. 3427: Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

### **Early Learning and Childhood Education**

H.R. 3773: Child Care for Working Families Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

S. 1806: Child Care for Working Families Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓



## **Elementary and Secondary Education**

- H.R. 627: Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 1511: Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 1864: To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to allow local educational agencies to use Federal funds for programs and activities that address chronic absenteeism. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 2475: Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 3246: To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a Teacher Advisory Committee and a Parents and Families Advisory Committee. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 5767: Teachers Are Leaders Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 383: Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 611: Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 1413: Teachers Are Leaders Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

## **Federal Investments in Education**

- S. 2542: A bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

## **Gun Safety and Violence Prevention**

- H.R. 1478: Gun Violence Research Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 1832: To authorize the appropriation of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 2598: Gun Violence Restraining Order Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 3464: Background Check Completion Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 4240: Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 4434: Fix NICS Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓



- H.R. 4909: STOP School Violence Act of 2018 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✔
- H.R. 5087: Assault Weapons Ban of 2018 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✔
- S. 834: A bill to authorize the appropriation of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✔
- S. 1212: Gun Violence Prevention Order Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✔
- S. 1923: Background Check Completion Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✔
- S. 2135: Fix NICS Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✔

### **Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**

- H.R. 1809: Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✔
- S. 866: Prohibiting Detention of Youth Status Offenders Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✔


### **Post-Secondary Access and Opportunity**


- S. 1615: Dream Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✔
- S. 1658: Mentoring to Succeed Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✔

### **Private School Choice and Vouchers**

- H.R. 610: To distribute Federal funds for elementary and secondary education in the form of vouchers for eligible students and to repeal a certain rule relating to nutrition standards in schools. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✘
- H.R. 895: Educational Opportunities Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✘
- H.R. 1387: To reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✘
- H.R. 4269: Public Funds for Public Schools Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✔
- H.R. 5199: Education Savings Accounts for Military Families Act of 2018 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✘
- S. 148: Educational Opportunities Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✘
- S. 2517: Military Education Savings Account Act of 2018 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✘

## **Special Education**

H.R. 2782: Respond, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 

H.R. 2902: To amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 

S. 1295: Respond, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 