



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

In Local News:

Come and support our local music programs at Merry Monarch! All funds raised go to support music programs in CUSD. **You are Invited: Merry Monarch 2019A Festive Tree Lighting Community Event with Performances by Capistrano Unified Students**

Join us as we celebrate the season and support CUSD schools at the Monarch Beach Resort in Dana Point. Enjoy a variety of musical performances by our students, complimentary hot cocoa and cookies, visits with Santa Claus, and the official lighting of the holiday tree, hosted by KTLA's on-air personality Henry DiCarlo.

Merry Monarch will feature performances by the Niguel Hills Middle School Chamber Choir and Jazz Band, Don Juan Avila Middle School Orchestra, Capistrano Valley High School Choir, and holiday carols with Anthony Small, Music Preserves Foundation.

December 15 from 3:00 – 5:00 p..m.

Tickets for this special event are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6 to 12, and free for children 5 and under. **All proceeds will benefit CUSD music programs.** Valet parking is complimentary. Tickets can be purchased in advance at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/merry-monarch-celebration-tickets-77914308795> or at the door with cash only.

At the November 20th Board Meeting the Trustees voted to again participate in the California Healthy Kids Survey. All questions will be available for parents to view online before the survey is administered in January 2020. The California PTA uses data collected across the state from the California Healthy Kids Survey to help us guide some of our advocacy work. For the 5th Grade survey, it is opt in, so please encourage your 5th grade parents to send back the slips. For grades 7, 9, and 11 – it is opt out. No matter if parents opt in or out, please encourage them to educate themselves as to the questions asked by viewing the surveys online at <https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/student-surveys>

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

November 20, 2019 – Special Board Meeting - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/3282742167715220187.pdf>

November 20, 2019 – Board Meeting – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/3035998923445952119.pdf>

October 16, 2019 – Board Meeting – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/4548345914124254951.pdf>

October 2, 2019 – Special Board Meeting – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/6738976160854703550.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=wi10b1qsopu12s 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:

Sacramento Safari February 24 & 25, 2020 – Registration is now open. Go to <http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org/2020-sacramento-safari-registration/> to register. Register by December 16, 2019 to take advantage of the discounted price.

Sacramento Safari is an amazing opportunity to advance your advocacy efforts, meet with other advocates, meet with electeds, and bring our message and issues to Sacramento. Please work with your unit to send a representative to Sacramento Safari this year.

Fourth District Advocacy Forum - Friday, Nov. 22, 2019

Bob Archuleta, CA State Senator, Serving 32nd District, Parts of Los Angeles and Orange Counties, Republican, Elected November 2018.

Ling Ling Chang, CA State Senator, Serving 29th District, Parts of Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernadino Counties, Elected November 2018.

Tyler Diep, CA State Assemblyman Serving 72nd District, North Orange County. Elected November 2018.

Our mission is to speak for all children, how can parents be effective in communication with our elected officials?

Archuleta: Involvement, remaining engaged in your child's education. Participate as much as possible within our PTA, together we are thousands of voices. Mr. Archuleta emphasized parents are welcome in his office and encouraged to write or email. Understands as parents, we are frustrated with dollars spent on education in our state.

Chang: Many non-profits, such as ourselves, CA PTA, do not have resources dedicated to solely campaign on a full-time basis for our children. Recognizing our elected officials by the PTA, such as awards. Calling attention to our elected officials can bring awareness and recognition whereas there might be no acknowledgement of a job well-done for education.

Diep: First, be organized. Second, be selective. Choose our top two or three priorities and communicate with our legislators. Being prepared goes a long way in relaying our objectives as parents.

What are the three top challenges in 2020?

Archuleta: Homelessness. Creating solution for our local homeless in each city. Allowing for affordable housing, entry-level people, housing – a master plan. Public safety continues to be on the mind of many parents.

Chang: Homelessness, Mental Health and Addiction. Housing and Energy rounded out Miss Chang’s concerns.

Diep: Homelessness/Mental Health, Utility/Wildfire and Prisons/Jails – mental health issues associated with being incarcerated.

Governor Newsom has made an investment in ages 0-5 early education, step in the right direction?

Archuleta: Education gives you an invitation to participate. Early education funding is necessary and long overdue. Education will help to end poverty. Investing in our school facilities, needs to happen as soon as possible. Gov. Newsom has helped but more needs to be done. Would like to see a bill allowing parents a two-hour window to visit, volunteer and/or somehow engage with their child’s school without fear of reprisal from their employers.

Chang: She is a co-author of Pre-k for all. Advocate for STEM in all schools with the latest 21st century technology. Modernization of public education.

Diep: Governor being cautious, most income to the state is from the wealthy. Stop pushing businesses out of California. Ensure high-quality, high-paying jobs as to keep families in California. Public schools in our state require much needed renovations and/or new buildings need to be planned and anticipated.

To conclude – all representatives spoke of the importance of parent involvement in their children’s education and how parents are the best advocates for education.

Please join us for the next 4th District Advocacy Forum on January 24, 2020, at 9:30am at the Fountain Valley Unified District Offices for the Superintendent Roundtable. More information regarding this event will come in at the start of January 2020.

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, November 2019

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

- A number of bills that California State PTA supported were passed and signed into law. One of them puts a \$15 billion school construction and modernization bond on the March, 2020, ballot. There were also bills dealing with school start times, civil suits by childhood sexual assault victims, smartphones in schools, charter schools, and immunizations, among other topics.
- California State PTA is co-sponsoring AB 39, which would set a new goal for the Local Control Funding Formula with the intention of bringing our state into the top ten nationwide in per-pupil funding. The bill was passed by the Assembly in the last legislative session and may be considered by the Senate in January.
- Registration is open for Sacramento Safari! Who is going?
- The *Communicator* has an explanation about the school boards that run each of our school districts and the County Board of Education, which oversees the Orange County Department of Education.
- The next CAPTA advocacy conference call is on Wednesday, November 6. Directions are in the *Communicator*.
- There will be a Fourth District PTA Advocacy Forum is on Friday, November 22, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. The guest speakers are a state Senator and two state Assembly Members. It would be interesting to hear what they have to say about education. It's free and open to all PTA members.
- There will be another Advocacy Forum on Friday, January 24. This one will feature a group of Orange County school district superintendents. It's always very interesting to hear what they have to say. Save the date!

Back issues of the Communicator can be found at:

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

CA PTA Monthly Advocacy Calls:

Join California State PTA Director of Legislation, Shereen Walter, and members of the Legislation Team for monthly calls discussing current info on what is happening in the area of advocacy at the local, state and federal level. Get a chance to hear from other local leaders around the state on how they are advocating in their school and community.

A conference call line has been reserved for every first Wednesday of the following months from 7 – 8 p.m.

- December 4, 2019
- February 5, 2020
- March 4, 2020
- April 1, 2020
- May 6, 2020

Dial-In Number: (605) 313-4821

Participant Access Code: 604265#

To mute or unmute during the session, press *6.

If you encounter any phone issues like dropped calls or long periods of silence, please

hang up and dial (805) 360-1075. This reroutes you to a different port in their system so you can enter our dial-in number directly.

Webinar with CA PTA in December!!! Join California State PTA Director of Legislation Shereen Walter and members of the Legislation Team on Wednesday, December 4 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. for a webinar. The group will be discussing the following topics:

- Visiting a legislator in their home office: how and why?
- School Facility Bond Measure
- Federal proposal to reduce number of families receiving food assistance
- Gun violence

We are doing a **webinar** this month instead of our usual conference call, so please take note of the new registration and log in details below:

Registration link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1717658567152378123>

Attendee PIN number: 683-252-202

Webinar ID: 902-105-899

If your computer does not have speakers or you otherwise have trouble hearing the audio once you've logged in, mute your speakers and call 415-655-0060 to hear the discussion. (**Note:** you cannot use this phone number to hear the webinar unless you are registered and logged in.)

In State News:

Schools keep hiring counselors, but students' stress levels are only growing: Fires, shootings, social media are taking a toll on students' mental health, and counselors are overwhelmed. By Carolyn Jones – "Every time something happens, people say, 'Why weren't this child's needs being met?' The reality is, school counselors and psychologists are saving thousands of troubled kids every day," said Shane Jimerson, a professor in the Counseling, Clinical and School Psychology Department at UC Santa Barbara who specializes in school crisis and trauma. "But the demand is increasing exponentially and it's harder and harder to keep up." Read the complete article at <https://edsource.org/2019/schools-keep-hiring-counselors-but-students-stress-levels-are-only-growing/>

'Moderate' funding increase predicted for California schools, community colleges in 2020-21: Not much of an extra \$3.4 billion to spare after paying pension expenses. By John Fensterwald – K-12 schools and community colleges can anticipate a "moderate" 4.2 percent increase in funding in the 2020-21 state budget, instead of a long-anticipated recession, the Legislative Analyst's Office predicted on Wednesday in its annual fiscal forecast. But school and college districts won't be feeling flush, the LAO said, mandated retirement contributions and a small cost-of-living increase will eat up most of the additional \$3.4 billion they can expect in revenue from

Proposition 98. That's the formula that determines the minimum portion of the state's General Fund that must go to K-14. Prop. 98 increased \$2.9 billion in the current budget from the previous fiscal year. Read the complete article at: <https://edsources.org/2019/moderate-funding-increase-predicted-for-california-schools-community-colleges-in-2020-21/>

For better or worse, school construction bond on March 2020 ballot will be Prop. 13: Nothing fishy: Number came up in 10-year cycle of assigning numbers. By John Fensterwald – You don't have to be superstitious to fear the number 13. Both supporters and opponents of a proposed \$15 billion school and college construction bond headed for the March 2020 state ballot are somewhat apprehensive now that the Secretary of State has designated it Proposition 13. Read the complete article at <https://edsources.org/2019/for-better-or-worse-school-construction-bond-on-march-2020-ballot-will-be-prop-13/619537>

State audit finds education money not serving high-needs students, calls for changes in funding law: Legislature urged to amend Local Control Funding Formula by John Fensterwald – In its first detailed examination of former Gov. Jerry Brown's landmark school funding law, the California State Auditor sharply criticized the Legislature and State Board of Education for failing to ensure that billions of dollars have been spent on low-income children and other students targeted for additional state money. – Read the complete article at: <https://edsources.org/2019/state-audit-finds-education-money-not-serving-high-needs-students-calls-for-changes-in-funding-law/619504>

California spending over \$13 billion annually on special education by Louis Freedberg – Spending on special education students in California has increased by just over 20 percent over the past decade – from \$10.8 billion to \$13 billion in inflation-adjusted figures, according to a new report (LAO: Overview of Special Education in California <https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/4110>) That's just one of the startling figures in the report from the Legislative Analyst's Office that provides a detailed overview of California's special education system, which now serves some 800,000 students with physical, cognitive and learning disabilities. Read the complete article at: <https://edsources.org/2019/california-spending-over-13-billion-annually-on-special-education/>

Census 2020 – In April 2020, the next US Census taking happens. It is important for an accurate count to occur. The results of the Census impact school funding from the federal level, apportionment of seats within the state and federal elected houses, and helps decide where new infrastructure is built. Here is a helpful site for all things Census: <https://occensus.org/>

Census Bureau launches Statistics In Schools program ahead of 2020 Census by Shawna De La Rosa – While part of the program's purpose is to encourage students to urge their families to participate in the 2020 Census, the statistics gleaned from the work unlock valuable – and interesting – data that can encourage deeper math exploration. Many math and science professionals believe schools need to teach more statistic and data analysis, with some saying statistics is more important than calculus.

Read the entire article at: <https://www.educationdive.com/news/census-bureau-launches-statistics-in-schools-program-ahead-of-2020-census/>

At the National Level:

The Power of a Wealthy PTA: Thanks to parents' donations, some public schools can afford shiny extras like coding classes, camping trips, and classroom iPads by Suzanne Cope – Parent-teacher associations, or PTAs, are generally considered quaint and charming at best, and innocuous at worst. Run by volunteers, they are known for organizing bake sales and holiday parties, and buying gifts for Teacher Appreciation Day. But PTAs, despite their wholesome reputation, can also wield significant financial power, helping determine which programs a school can afford to offer. A PTA at a well-off school might raise a million dollars or more to pay for additional teachers' salaries, band or orchestra instruments, a new library, iPads for classrooms, field trips, or other initiatives. Read the complete article at <https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2019/11/pta-fundraising-schools/601435/>

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 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) 
- H.R. 2599: Suicide and Threat Assessment Nationally Dedicated to Universal Prevention Act of 2019| 116th Congress (2019-2020) 
- 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) ✔
- 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) ✔
- 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) ✔
- S. 2548: A 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 (2019-2020) ✘
- H.R. 865: To provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes. | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✔
- H.R. 4220: Chronic Absenteeism Reduction in Every School (CARES) Act | 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) ✓
- 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) ✓
- 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 (2019-2020) ✓
- 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) ✓
- 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

- 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) ✓
- 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) ✓

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) ✓