



CUCPTSA LEGISLATION/ADVOCACY TEAM April 2020 Report

In Local News:

CUSD is doing distance learning for the rest of the 2019/2020 school year. Trustees will vote on an Emergency Board Policy regarding grades and grading at the April 19, 2020 Board Meeting. The upcoming Board Meetings will be live streamed for audio in real-time. Additionally, the public will be able to participate remotely. One only needs to register if they plan on speaking on one of the agenda items, if you wish to only listen – just tune in on the district website under Board of Trustees.

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>

For 2020 Census participation:

<https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html> With regards to the Census, please encourage everyone to participate – one it is the law to complete the Census form, but more importantly, we need everyone counted. Federal funding is determined by population counts – the data gathered through the Census will dictate how Federal dollars are distributed across the country for the next 10 years. Everyone counts and everyone matters, please encourage your neighbors to go to <https://2020census.gov> and complete theirs today.

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

April 15, 2020 – Special Board Meeting - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/5210805380104248516.pdf>

March 25, 2020 – Special Board Meeting - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/68990350302575237.pdf>

March 18, 2020 – Special Board Meeting - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/5029636223743432338.pdf>

March 18, 2020 – Board Meeting - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/5072411392549432146.pdf>

March 13, 2020 – Special Board Meeting - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/2548944131925432569.pdf>

March 4, 2020 – Special Board Meeting - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/1693859489181012347.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:

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, March 2020

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

- “Good news and tough times wrapped into one.” That is how one of the Sacramento Safari speakers described the current state of education in California. We’ve had several years of funding increases but those have only brought our schools back to the funding levels they had before the Great Recession. School districts are facing a number of financial challenges, including lower student enrollment, higher costs for special education, and increasing contributions to the state retirement system.
- Sacramento Safari participants split into small groups and visited the offices of 12 state lawmakers. They brought three messages:
 - Please continue to increase education funding. PTA supports AB 39 which would raise the base funding in the Local Control Funding Formula to equal the nation’s average per-pupil funding level.
 - School districts need more financial support to provide special education services.
 - There is a lot of concern about vaping by our children. PTA supports legislation to regulate vaping, study the long-term effects, and provide information to families and others.
- National PTA President Leslie Boggs responded to President Trump’s proposed education budget for the next fiscal year. The budget cuts public education programs by \$6.1 billion while including a \$5 billion annual investment in private school options.
- California State PTA is now doing Advocacy Webinars instead of conference calls. There’s more information in the *Communicator* and at capta.org.

Teleconferencing Points for Legislative Chairs, April 2020

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

- Schools are closed and the State Legislature is shut down but the work of the PTA goes on. The April *Communicator* has a list of bills that California State PTA is supporting. Did you know that Kindergarten currently is not mandatory?
- The federal relief package recently signed by the President includes billions of dollars for higher education, school districts, child care, Head Start, and food programs.
- Since we’re all stuck at home, this is a good time to go through all the lessons at Ed100.org and become educated advocates. You might win \$1,000 for our PTA!
- A state audit found that the Lottery has underpaid its contribution to education for several years. The Lottery owes schools \$36 million for the 2017-18 year alone. A bill was introduced to require the Lottery to pay that amount and any other shortfalls. California State PTA supports that bill.
- By the way, a lot of people think that the Lottery is the solution to school funding, but it isn’t. It only provides about 1 percent of the annual state education budget.
- Our Orange County school district superintendents are staying in touch with each other and with the Orange County superintendent of schools as they deal with the Covid-19 crisis and make decisions about school closures.
- Did you get your 2020 Census notification in the mail? Be sure to go online and submit your information. Census data will determine how much federal funding we get for schools and will be used to draw the lines for legislative districts.
- California State PTA Advocacy Webinars are continuing. The next two are scheduled for April 1 and May 6. Details are in the *Communicator*.
- The April 3 Advocacy Forum and the State PTA Convention have been cancelled.

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 on **Wednesday, May 6th** from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. for a webinar. The group will discuss a variety of topics.

Please watch for an email from the California PTA with Webinar details.

In State News:

CAPTA Response to Gov. Newsom's Announcement: Dear PTA Leaders, Members and Families:

In a press conference earlier today, Governor Newsom made some important announcements that directly impact children and families affected by the coronavirus outbreak. (You can read the press release from the Governor's office, which includes a statement from California State PTA, at <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2020/04/01/governor-newsom-announces-agreement-between-teachers-classified-employees-and-school-system-management-to-support-student-instruction-during-covid-19-outbreak/>)

He said that schools will remain physically closed through the end of the academic year, however instruction and learning will continue. The state will offer guidance to school districts on how to handle remote instruction and distance learning. The state will also continue to ensure free- and low-cost meal programs, and is taking steps to ensure that parents, in particular those who are critical infrastructure workers, have access to child care and supervision.

Addressing the digital divide, the Governor announced a partnership with Google to provide 100,000 internet access points across the state and thousands of free Chromebooks for those who do not have home internet access and/or personal computers.

We at California State PTA stand behind the Governor in his efforts to keep children, families, and school staff safe during this crisis. We concur with the Governor that quality distance learning, meals for students, and the care and supervision of children are top priorities in the coming months. Efforts to provide internet access are particularly important for our underserved communities. Parents and caregivers throughout California are performing multiple roles during this outbreak, and the Governor's expression of appreciation for their extraordinary efforts is very well received by PTA.

We will continue to update you with relevant information about the coronavirus outbreak as we hear it. Please also visit the COVID-19 pages on our website at www.capta.org, where we have compiled a number of helpful resources for parents, families and PTA leaders. You are each in our thoughts and we are here to support you, your families and your schools.

Yours,

Celia Jaffe, President - California State PTA

California schools chief recommends that schools prepare for distance learning for rest of school year by Louis Freedberg and John Fensterwald – Affirming a prediction that Gov. Gavin Newsom made exactly two weeks ago, California's schools chief Tony Thurmond is recommending that the state's public schools plan to provide distance learning to students through the end of their school year. Read the complete article at: <https://edsources.org/2020/california-schools-chief-recommends-that-schools-prepare-for-distance-learning-for-rest-of-school-year/>

Coping with stress of coronavirus crisis a challenge for California's students by Patrick Hoge – The mental toll of the coronavirus pandemic is unfolding inside homes throughout California, as students, parents, and teachers learn to deal with a new normal of social distancing and remote learning. – All of California's four-year public universities and community colleges have

shifted most in-person classes online, and nearly all of the state's K-12 school districts have closed, teachers across the state scramble to learn how to provide instruction remotely. Already-stressed parents overnight have become homeschool teachers. Students, meanwhile, are coping with missing major milestones like commencements and SATs while those in college are preparing to postpone plans for the future. Read the complete article at: <https://edsource.org/2020/coping-with-coronavirus-crisis-a-challenge-for-californias-students/626683>

Coronavirus could delay standardized testing until later in school year for California by Sydney Johnson – A Northern California school district that requested that California suspend its statewide standardized testing in response to growing concerns about coronavirus quickly heard back from the state: Not so fast. – State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond on Monday spoke directly with Palo Alto School District officials, after the district announced plans that morning to cancel the annual statewide standardized tests for math, English Language arts and science. Instead, the district, which originally planned to administer the tests in March and April, will delay testing until late April or May. Read the complete article at <https://edsource.org/2020/coronavirus-could-delay-standardized-testing-for-california-students/>
UPDATE – President Trump signed an executive order on Friday, March 20, 2020, cancelling all K-12 standardized testing for the 2019-2020 school year.

University of California suspends SAT/ACT requirements for 2021 applicants: The one-year UC change does not mean a permanent end to test mandate, officials say. CSU may follow by Larry Gordon – The University of California is drastically relaxing its fall 2021 admissions standards for applicants who are currently high school juniors, including suspending the requirement that they take standardized tests and allowing pass/fail grades for this spring's classes affected by the coronavirus pandemic, according to a university announcement Wednesday. Read the complete article at: <https://edsource.org/2020/uc-suspends-sat-act-requirements-for-2021-applicants/>

California State University suspends SAT/ACT testing for 2021-22 admissions, joining UC – CSU officials say the move does not mean testing is dropped permanently by Larry Gordon – Applicants to the 23-campus California State University won't have to submit scores from the SAT or ACT for admission in fall 2021, nor for the following winter and spring terms, according to an announcement released Friday. Read the complete article at: <https://edsource.org/2020/california-state-university-suspends-sat-act-testing-for-2021-22-admissions-joining-uc/>

SAT and ACT plan at-home college admissions exams for fall if crisis keeps schools closed – Exams will include high-tech proctoring to discourage cheating. UC temporarily has dropped test requirements. By Larry Gordon – The SAT and rival ACT, the nation's most important college entrance exams, are taking steps to offer their tests online and at student's homes later this year in an unprecedented move that will require massive amounts of digital proctoring to prevent cheating, officials announced Wednesday. Read the complete article at: <https://edsource.org/2020/sat-and-act-plan-at-home-college-admissions-exams-during-health-crisis/>

Much shorter Advanced Placement tests welcomed by some students, criticized by others – Despite health crisis, students still want to earn college credit with good test scores. Anti-cheating measures will be in place. By Larry Gordon – Brandon Tran, a senior at Valley Christian High School in San Jose, has been preparing all school year to take four Advanced Placement exams this spring. His goal was to get scores high enough to earn a semester's worth of college credits, finish college early and save on tuition money that he could then apply to graduate school. – But his plans, like those of an estimated 2.8 million students across the country in AP classes, now have to adapt to significant changes in the AP testing program due to the

Coronavirus crisis. Read the complete article at: <https://edsource.org/2020/much-shorter-advanced-placement-tests-welcomed-by-some-students-criticized-by-others/>

Gov. Newsom assures school districts they'll be funded during coronavirus closures – California districts confused by about the requirements to get the money by John Fensterwald – Gov. Gavin Newsom has given school districts some reassurance they have been waiting for: They will be paid for days they shut down to prevent further spread of the coronavirus. – Newsom's executive order late Friday, covering reimbursement for lost school days, includes conditions, including continuing to provide subsidized meals to low-income students, that some education officials say must be quickly clarified. The announcement came hours after dozens of school districts announced they would be shutting starting Monday. Read the complete article at: <https://edsource.org/2020/newsom-assures-districts-theyll-be-funded-during-coronavirus-closures/>

\$31 billion in federal coronavirus relief coming soon to schools, college students and universities: Education aid is a piece of record \$2.2 trillion in coronavirus relief; Senate acts, House to follow by John Fensterwald – The \$2.2 trillion in coronavirus relief that the U.S. Senate unanimously approved late Wednesday will include \$31 billion nationwide in assistance for K-12 and higher education and more than \$4 billion for child care and Head Start. That should translate into at least several billion dollars for California schools and colleges. – The final amount for education grew by about half during final negotiations – and California will need every cent, if early predictions of a bleak state budget next year hold true, with billions of dollars in likely cuts for education. Read the complete article at: <https://edsource.org/2020/31-billion-in-federal-coronavirus-relief-coming-soon-to-schools-college-students-and-universities/627145>

California schools, child care centers to get \$100 million to disinfect for coronavirus: Legislators also guarantee full funding during school closures. By John Fensterwald – The Legislature hurriedly approved emergency financial relief to help school districts cope with the costs of the coronavirus on Monday before adjourning for a month to comply with state and federal orders limiting gatherings to stem the spread of the contagion. – Legislators approved an initial \$100 million for K-12 districts and child care centers to cover school cleaning expenses and adopted waivers that will ensure funding for school districts and state-funded child care during school closures. In a second bill, they approved spending up to \$1 billion on emergency medical costs, including leasing two hospitals, to expand the capacity to respond to the pandemic. Read the complete article at: <https://edsource.org/2020/california-schools-child-care-centers-to-get-100-million-to-disinfect-for-coronavirus/>

List: Many California K-12 schools closed for in-person instruction due to coronavirus by Sydney Johnson – This article is being updated regularly. As the number of confirmed coronavirus cases continues to grow, EdSource is tracking how California K-12 schools are responding. There are 247 confirmed cases of the coronavirus in California as of March 13, and five deaths caused by the virus. <https://edsource.org/2020/california-k-12-schools-closed-due-to-the-coronavirus/>

15,000 L.A. high school students are AWOL online, 40,000 fail to check in daily amid coronavirus closures by Howard Blume and Sonali Kohli – March 30, 2020 – About 15,000 Los Angeles high school students are absent online and have failed to do any schoolwork while more than 40,000 have not been in daily contact with their teachers since March 16, when the coronavirus force campus shutdowns, district officials disclosed Monday. Read more about what is happening in the nation's 2nd largest district at: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-03-30/coronavirus-los-angeles-schools-15000-high-school-students-absent>

LA Unified shows progress with distance learning but has challenge connecting elementary students – Many elementary school students won't be connected until May. Nine out of 10 high and middle school students are connected. By Michael Burke – As it

grapples with a challenge facing every district in California, Los Angeles Unified is making significant progress increasing the number of students connected to distance learning, but problems and wide gaps still exist, especially for elementary school students, Superintendent Austin Beutner said Monday. Read the complete article at: <https://edsource.org/2020/la-unified-shows-progress-setting-up-distance-learning-but-faces-biggest-challenge-connecting-elementary-students/>

California students enrolled in special education face unique burdens during school closure: Loss of specialized services, daily routine poses challenges for California's 800,000 students in special education by Carolyn Jones – JoAnna Van Brusselen's 11-year-old daughter, Iolani, loves school and has been making great progress in her occupational and physical therapy. While living with cerebral palsy, hemiplegia, visual impairment and hydroencephalitis, she can walk. She can use her right hand, and she's a whiz at reading and learning languages. – But now that her school, Leonard Flynn Elementary in San Francisco Unified, is closed for at least three weeks, Van Brusselen is worried her daughter will regress, losing the mobility and academic skills she had worked so hard to master. -- State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond issued guidelines this week for how schools should address the needs of special education students. While the federal government has not waived the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which mandates that students with special needs receive the same high-quality education as non-disabled students, the federal Office of Special Education Programs is apparently allowing districts some flexibility. Read the complete article at: <https://edsource.org/2020/california-students-enrolled-in-special-education-face-unique-burdens-during-school-closure/>

Proposed coronavirus federal aid package could disrupt special education: U.S. Senate bill could open the door for districts to waive special education law, advocates fear. By Carolyn Jones – Tucked inside the U.S. Senate's coronavirus aid package is a provision that advocates say could upend special education for million of students with disabilities. – The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, introduced Thursday by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, gives U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos 30 days to suggest a plan to Congress for waiving portions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the 45-year old federal law that guarantees students with disabilities a free public education. – Disabilities rights advocates called the proposal an attempt to permanently weaken – or eliminate – protections for students with autism, cerebral palsy, learning disorders and other special needs. Read the complete article at: <https://edsource.org/2020/proposed-coronavirus-federal-aid-package-could-disrupt-special-education/626718>

California Smarter Balanced Test Results: 2019 by Justin Allen Daniel J. Willis, Yuxuan Xie, John Fensterwald, Theresa Harrington – The California Department of Education (CDE) released test score results from the 2019 Smarter Balanced assessments of math and English language arts on Oct. 9 for tests taken by students in the spring of 2019. This was the fifth year of testing based on the Common Core State Standards. The tests form part of the state's California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, or CAASPP. Student scores are categorized in four achievement levels that indicate whether a student has exceeded, met, nearly met, or did not meet the standards, in grades 3-8, and 11. View the statewide results and work through the database at: http://caaspp.edsource.org/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=caaspp

California districts complain proposed state budget won't cover expenses – Cost of living adjustment is smaller than they had assumed. By John Fensterwald – A fraction of 1 percent is creating stress for school superintendents. California districts have been building their budgets for next year under the assumption they'll get a 3 percent cost of living adjustment. Instead, Gov. Gavin Newsom has included an adjustment of only 2.29% for K-12 schools in 2020-21. Read the entire article at: <https://edsource.org/2020/california-districts-complain-proposed-state-budget-wont-cover-expenses/>

When California schools reopen, Gov. Newsom envisages major changes in how they are run – Newsom describes changes like staggered classes and no assemblies. By Louis Freedberg – Gov. Gavin Newsom says it is too soon to ease up on restrictions keeping millions of students out of school, but when they do return, possibly in the fall, they would likely come back to schools organized in radically different ways in order to protect students, staff and families. Read the complete article at: <https://edsources.org/2020/when-california-schools-reopen-gov-newsom-envisages-major-changes-in-how-they-are-run/>

California State PTA Disappointed by Prop 13 Election Results – Looks to November Ballot to Secure Much-Needed Funding For Schools - SACRAMENTO, March 5, 2020
California State PTA announces disappointment over the defeat of Proposition 13, which was not approved by voters in the state primary election on March 3rd. The passage of this initiative would have authorized state funding of \$15 billion to K-12 public schools, community colleges, and universities for the construction and modernization of school facilities.

“We are disappointed Prop 13 did not pass as it would have helped our school districts respond to critical needs for funding to improve school facilities and modernize classrooms” said Celia Jaffe, President of California State PTA. “California State PTA will continue its long history of support for state ballot measures and legislation that provide much needed school facility funds for the safety and health of California’s children.”

In addition to providing an unprecedented \$9 billion for the K-12 system and \$2 billion for each of the three higher education segments (UC, CSU, and Community Colleges), this bond measure would have included important stipulations to create more equity in how funds are distributed between wealthy and poorer districts, and provided for natural disaster assistance, remediation of lead in water, protections for smaller districts, and funds for preschools.

“Fortunately, voters will have another opportunity to secure on-going classroom funding this November by supporting the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2020, which commits 40% of the projected revenue raised to increase funding for K-12 schools and community colleges,” said Jaffe. “Our hope is that this new initiative will have a positive impact on the ability of school districts to hire more teachers and diversify their curriculum to ensure a complete education that includes science, technology and arts education for all students.”

The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2020 aligns with PTA’s mission to advocate for the education, health and safety of children and families. California State PTA recognizes that appropriate and adequate funding directly impacts the success of students and communities across the state.

Counting all California kids for census a new challenge under stay-at-home order – by Zaidee Stavely – As thousands of California residents stay home in response to the coronavirus pandemic, children’s advocates, preschool teachers and social workers have had to get creative to make sure everyone gets counted in the census. – It is estimated that over 210,000 children under the age of 5 were not counted in the 2010 census in California, it is important that all children are counted this time. Read the complete article at: <https://edsources.org/2020/counting-all-california-kids-for-census-a-new-challenge-under-stay-at-home-order/>

Why the Census is Important to PTA – By CAPTA - 2020 is an important year for the state and the country ♦ it’s the once-per-decade time that every person in America is counted in the U.S. Census. Census-taking starts in **March 2020**.

Why is this important to you as a PTA member or leader? In a nutshell, responding to the census helps your community get its fair share of funding for the next 10 years. Census data guides how more than \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed for the following:

- Schools
- Health care facilities
- Roads and transportation
- Recreation centers
- Social services
- And much more!



In terms of education and schools, the census count impacts the next 10 years' worth of funds that your community's schools will receive for special education, classroom technology, teacher training, after-school programs, school lunch assistance, and so on. If your child is in second grade now, the census count will have an impact on her education until she graduates from high school!

To help children understand the importance of the census, the U.S. Census Bureau has created a program called **Statistics in Schools**. The program features activities and lessons for grades K-12 which bring school subjects to life using real-world Census Bureau statistics.

We encourage you to promote Statistics in Schools at your school in order to teach students about the census and why it's crucial that every person is counted. To learn more about the program visit <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis.html> .

You have the power to shape the future for the children of California by helping to ensure that everyone in your community is counted in the 2020 Census.

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:

Extend the school year into the summer – online by Jeff Camp and Carol Kocivar – Unfortunately, the CARES Act falls short not only for the needs of the summer, but for the school year that comes after it. The California Legislative Analyst Office estimates that California will receive an amount in the neighborhood of \$1.6 billion for all of K-12 education. This is budget dust – less than 1 percent of the total CARES package, and on the order of less than \$500 per high-need student. It's far too little to help states sustain schools in a pandemic. Students deserve better than budget dust. Read the complete article at: <https://edsources.org/2020/extend-the-school-year-into-the-summer-online/>

Some US Public Schools Shut Their Doors for the Remainder of the Academic Year – podcast on NPR program Here and Now broadcast on April 17, 2020 – Discusses what is happening nation-wide with district learning and also on the financial impacts of the school closures, and need for additional federal funding for schools. Listen at: <https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2020/04/17/public-school-closings-pandemic>

Coronavirus School Closures Expose Digital Haves and Have-Nots: As schools from Seattle to New York start closing, educators face challenges of remote learning by Julie Jargon – The ability of schools across the country to hold classes remotely is being tested as more close in an effort to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus. Also being tested: the ability of families to get their homes tech-ready so children can log in to virtual classrooms. Read the

complete article at: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/coronavirus-school-closures-expose-digital-haves-and-have-nots-11583714299?>

House coronavirus response act passes with school meal assistance proposals by Naaz Modan – Update: March 14, 2020: After discussion among lawmakers, all three pieces of legislation for meal assistance for schools closed or transitioned to remote learning due to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak were included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, a larger package the House voted on early Saturday morning. The package passed and will now head to the Senate. Read the complete article at: <https://www.educationdive.com/news/house-committee-introduces-meal-assistance-bills-for-schools-affected-by-co/573938/>

Third coronavirus assistance package could include additional \$3B for schools by Naaz Modan – The House and Senate have introduced bills that would provide \$3 billion in the form of mandatory grant programs and flexibilities for early childhood education programs and K-12 schools. – The funds are meant to help districts maintain operations during building closures and re-open sooner by providing financial support for technology like 1:1 devices, funding for continued operations like school meal distribution and building cleanings, and mental health support. Read the complete article at: <https://www.educationdive.com/news/a-third-coronavirus-assistance-package-could-include-additional-3b-in-scho/574220/>

Testing disruption could have short- and long-term impacts: Extending testing windows and holding schools harmless in accountability systems for this year are among the scenarios states are facing by Linda Jacobson – In recent years, states and districts have worked to reduce the number of tests students take – but this wasn't what they had in mind. – As more schools close for the next few weeks due to the spread of the coronavirus, spring testing is one part of this school year likely to be lost. – Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine said in his press conference Thursday that the three-week closure might mean mandated state tests won't occur this year. And in Washington state, Gov. Jay Inslee suggested the same during a press conference last week. Read the complete article at: <https://www.educationdive.com/news/testing-disruption-could-have-short-and-long-term-impacts/574149/>

Push to close homework gap grows as coronavirus necessitates virtual learning: The FCC and federal lawmakers are moving on efforts to increase families' home internet access and facilitate remote learning. By Naaz Modan – When Seattle Public Schools announced it was closing schools for a minimum of two weeks, after a staff member became infected with COVID-19, students were set home with no distance learning option. State Superintendent Chris Reykdal advised districts it was better to close schools rather than continue inequitable e-learning. Nationally, approximately 12 million students fall into the homework gap because they don't have internet access at home, according to the Federal Communications Commission. – “Now with schools closing their doors and migrating to online instruction, we are going to magnify this problem,” FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel said. “We're at risk of leaving too many kids behind.” Read the complete article at: <https://www.educationdive.com/news/push-to-close-homework-gap-grows-as-more-schools-go-virtual-due-to-coronavi/574136/>

Disability rights groups, school administrators spar over possible changes to special education laws – Education Secretary Betsy DeVos may recommend changing special education laws. By Carolyn Jones – As schools scramble to teach students with disabilities during the school closures, a coalition of more than 70 disability rights organization is urging the federal government to uphold special education laws despite the challenges of online education. Read the complete article at: <https://edsources.org/2020/disability-rights-groups-school-administrators-spar-over-possible-changes-to-special-education-laws/>

New website offers tips for teachers about virtual special education – teachers can share ideas online for serving students with disabilities during the pandemic - by Carolyn Jones

- To help teachers better serve special education students during the school closures, a coalition of more than 30 disability and education groups has created a digital one-stop shop of teaching resources. - <https://EducatingAllLearners.org> includes specific guidance on how teachers can deliver lessons online to students in special education, which has been a challenge as schools transition to online learning during the coronavirus pandemic. Special education students include those with physical disabilities, emotional challenges and dyslexia. Read the entire article at: <https://edsources.org/2020/new-website-offers-tips-for-teachers-about-virtual-special-education/>

From the National PTA:













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 <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) 
- 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) 
- 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. 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)

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) ✓