



**CUCPTSA LEGISLATION/ADVOCACY TEAM
January 2020 Report**

In Local News:

At the December 2019, CUCPTSA Council Meeting, Resolutions in support of Measure H (formerly known as SFID #2 covering San Clemente and Capo Beach) and Measure (formerly known as SFID #3 covering Dana Point, Laguna Niguel, and Aliso Viejo) were unanimously adopted. Copies of both Resolutions and the studies that provide the background for the resolutions are attached to the email with this report. Additional copies will be available upon request.

On December 19th, the Capistrano Board of Trustees voted to ratify the 2019-2022 teacher contract. Both sides praised the other as willing participants and eager negotiators on behalf of the district administration and the teachers. Details of the contract can be found in the December 19th board agenda linked below.

At the December 11, 2019, Board of Trustees meeting, the board was reorganized. Congratulations to President Reardon, Vice President McNicholas, Clerk Jones, and all the Trustees as they start another year of important work on behalf of all the children of Capistrano Unified.

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

December 19, 2019 – Board Meeting – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/4717188557690851631.pdf>

December 16, 2019 – Special Board Meeting – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/6228023067780086596.pdf>

December 11, 2019 – Facilities Corporation Meeting – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/654019245183574119.pdf>

December 11, 2019 – Board Meeting – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/7813118587514162218.pdf>

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>

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 January 27th to attend.

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.

Please join us for the next 4th District Advocacy Forum on January 24, 2020, at 9:30am at the Fountain Valley Unified District Offices (10055 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley, CA 92708) for the OC School Superintendents Roundtable. Superintendents from Anaheim Elementary, Orange County Superintendent, Buena Park, and Irvine Unified will be in attendance. Discussion will include issues in the various school districts, daily challenges, changes they would like to make, solutions they have found, and how parents can get involved.

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, December 2019

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

- California State PTA is supporting two state initiatives dealing with school funding:
 - One is a \$15 billion school facilities bond that will be on the March 2020 ballot for approval by voters.
 - The Schools and Communities First initiative would require commercial and industrial real estate property to be taxed at the current market value. This would raise between \$6.5 billion and \$11.5 billion a year, and 40 percent of that would go to schools. California State PTA is urging members to help collect signatures to get this on the November 2020 ballot.
- If our school district is running a local school facilities bond our PTA can be actively involved in supporting it, if our members vote to approve it. There's more information in the *Communicator* and at fourthdistrictpta.org
- The Orange County Department of Education has submitted two budgets to the State Department of Education, one signed by the county superintendent and the other submitted by three county school board members. Neither one was approved by the State Department of Education, putting the county in an unprecedented situation.
- The Fourth District PTA Advocacy Forum on January 24 will have a panel of superintendents from four Orange County school districts and Orange County

Superintendent Al Mijares. It's always very interesting to hear from our local superintendents. This is free and open to all PTA members.

- The next California State PTA advocacy conference call is on Wednesday, February 5. Directions are in the *Communicator*.
- Register for Sacramento Safari by January 27th. We should register now!

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.

- 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.

In State News:

Help Us Secure the funding we need to support our children – from the California PTA:

In 2020, two important school funding measures are facing California voters. We urge you to vote for both of them, because the billions of dollars they will raise will not only improve the safety and infrastructure of school facilities, but will also allow districts to fund a full curriculum, which includes science and arts education.

The Public Preschool, K-12, and College Health and Safety Bond Act of 2020 (also known as Proposition 13-2020) will raise \$9 billion for the K-12 system and \$2 billion for each of the three higher education segments (UC, CSU, and Community Colleges) to construct and modernize school facilities. It will appear on the March 3, 2020 ballot. Click <https://capta.org/focus-areas/advocacy/state-ballot->

[measures/prop-13-2020/](#) to read more about it on the CAPTA website ♦ you'll find a summary of the measure and links to useful documents, including the full text of the measure and the California State PTA Study Committee Report.

The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2020 (also known as the “split roll” initiative), will raise approximately \$12 billion in annual funds for public education, local governments and community services by reassessing and taxing certain commercial properties at current market value. The initiative will appear on the November 2020 statewide ballot if it gets enough signatures to qualify by April 14. Click <https://capta.org/focus-areas/advocacy/state-ballot-measures/split-roll-initiative/> to read more about the initiative on CAPTA's website, including how to sign the petition and how to volunteer to collect signatures.

Gavin Newsom’s 1st-year K-12 scorecard: good grades on priorities and some incompletes: He funded beyond the minimum, struck deals on charter schools and building aid by John Fensterwald – But in his first year in office, Newsom partially made good on education positions he highlighted on his website and in a questionnaire for EdSource. These include making early education a priority, funding incentives to hire more teachers and creating the framework for a database to track students from pre-K to higher ed. In 2019, he also made decisions that sometimes surprised, and largely pleased, education groups and advocates and that distinguished him from his predecessor, Gov. Jerry Brown. Read the complete article at: <https://edsource.org/2020/gavin-newsoms-1st-year-k-12-scorecard-good-grades-on-priorities-and-some-incompletes/>

California education issues to watch in 2020 – and predictions of what will happen: Gov. Newsom will fight for school bond but not for ‘split-roll’ tax reform by John Fensterwald – You can wager on anything in Las Vegas. Well, almost. I have yet to see the over/under on whether the State Board of Education will pass the next LCAP revision. That’s why I created my own currency, the Fenster – redeemable in EdSource swag if we open an online store. For now, Fensters are only worth bragging rights on my annual predictions column. Continue reading John’s California education predictions for 2020 here: <https://edsource.org/2020/california-education-issues-to-watch-in-2020-and-predictions-of-what-will-happen/>

‘Tax exhaustion’ may be on the horizon by Dan Walters – California’s local governments – cities especially – and school districts have been packing ballots with tax increase measures in recent years and another batch is on tap for the next year. Voters have, more often than not, bought into officials’ pleas for more revenue and promises to spend it on popular services and facilities. Read the entire article at <https://calmatters.org/commentary/taxes-voters-schools-pension/>

How to Create a Classroom That’s a Safe Space for Failure by Michael Bycraft – Over the last five years, I have worked hard to teach my students that failure is a gift. Setbacks, changes and struggles are an essential part of learning. Things can always be improved. This isn’t a new idea, but we still struggle with the idea that failure is a necessary component of success. Embracing failure can seem counterintuitive to students. If we have always taught our kids that every test must be an A+, then how

do we support them when it isn't? – a continuing look at growth mindsets vs. a fixed mindset. Read the entire article at <https://www.edsurge.com/news/2019-11-26-how-to-create-a-classroom-that-s-a-safe-space-for-failure>

Helping students develop metacognitive skills to understand the 'why' of learning by Lauren Barack – Real-world learning, particularly for middle and high school students, is key for helping them develop skills and absorb knowledge that will eventually apply to their life outside the classroom. School may prepare students for higher education, but it should also prepare them for practical situations like how to balance a checkbook, how to collaborate with peers, or how to write a cover letter that lands them the first job in their hoped-for career. Read the entire article at: <https://www.educationdive.com/news/helping-students-develop-metacognitive-skills-to-understand-the-why-of-le/>

L.A. Unified's ban on willful defiance suspensions, six years later – Some schools report dramatic improvements in campus culture. By Carolyn Jones – Long before California banned suspensions for "willful defiance" or disruption of school activities in K-8 classrooms, Los Angeles Unified embarked on an even more ambitious goal: eliminate defiance suspensions entirely. Six years after it implemented the policy, L.A. Unified officials, advocates and students say they've seen dramatic improvements in campus culture at many schools, providing lessons for California as it attempts to reshape school discipline across the state. Read the entire article at: <https://edsources.org/2019/how-l-a-unifieds-ban-on-willful-defiance-suspensions-turned-out-six-years-later/>

Number of high school seniors 'hooked' on vaping more than doubled in the last year by Melissa Healy - With public health officials scrambling to understand a mysterious lung affliction linked to electronic cigarettes, a new survey of American teens suggests that the behavior tied to the deadly illness has spread at a historic rate. Read the entire article at: <https://www.latimes.com/science/story/2019-12-17/high-school-seniors-hooked-on-vaping-more-than-doubled>

The future of sex ed has arrived. Is America ready? Even in liberal California, families are pushing back against lessons on gender identity. The battles could be a blueprint for the rest of the country. By Anna North <https://www.vox.com/identities/2019/12/3/20877238/sex-education-california-lgbtq-gender-schools-health>

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:

Trump signs spending bill, includes \$1.3B increase in ed funding by Naaz Modan – After a passing Senate vote Thursday, President Donald Trump signed the bipartisan budget package for FY2020, including an additional \$1.3B for education spending compared to previous fiscal years. Read the complete article/analysis at: <https://www.educationdive.com/news/congress-set-to-approve-spending-bill-includes-13b-increase-in-ed-fundin/>

With growing calls for more mental health services, states tackle school counselor caseloads: A 250-to-1 ratio is recommended, but it's much higher in many states – Arizona peaks at 905-to-1. And funds aren't always available to help lower the numbers. By Linda Jacobson - The decision by CUSD and other districts across California to hire more counselors has reduced average counselor-to-student ratios statewide from some of the highest in the country, at more than 1,000-to-1 in 2010-11, to 663-to-1 — still much higher than the American School Counselor Association's (ASCA) recommended 250-to-1 standard, but a significant reduction nonetheless. Read the entire article at: <https://www.educationdive.com/news/with-growing-calls-for-more-mental-health-services-states-tackle-school-co/556169/> btw Capistrano Unified is mentioned often in this article highlighting our counselor program, but also that we continue to need to do more.

A Dreaded Part of Teachers' Jobs: Restraining And Secluding Students by Clare Lombardo and Jenny Abamu – Restraint and seclusion in schools can mean anything from holding or using restraints on a student to isolating them in a separate room or space. According to federal guidance, these methods are meant to be a last resort, when students are believed to be a danger to themselves or others. These practices are most often used on students with disabilities or special needs. Read the complete article at: <https://www.npr.org/2019/12/05/777358918/a-dreaded-part-of-teachers-jobs-restraining-and-secluding-students>

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)

