



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

In Local News:

Our Board of Trustees are next meeting on May 20, 2020 – there is a link on the website for how to participate remotely and also how to listen remotely. I strongly encourage you to listen in and “pull a blue-card” and make a comment if you feel moved. I have linked to the agenda for the upcoming meeting below. I am particularly interested in items 16 and 18 – a presentation by Capitol Advisors and also a detailed look at how the California State May Revise of the Budget looks with regards to education funding.

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:

May 20, 2020 – Board Meeting – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/6273771296021787504.pdf>

April 29, 2020 – Board Meeting – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/4042283550274513332.pdf>

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

Teleconferencing Points for Legislative Chairs, May 2020

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

- The National PTA is calling for action. We need to contact our federal legislators and tell them that our schools need more money to recover from this pandemic. You can do that easily at PTA.org under Advocacy, or follow the link in the newsletter.
- The newsletter has a couple of articles that highlight why we need federal help. A blog by former California State PTA President Carol Kocivar describes five actions that need to be taken right away, most of which involve federal funding increases. A blog by Jeff Camp talks about the reasons why California's school funding is insufficient.
- The *Communicator* also lists several articles at EdSource.org that provide important information about how California schools will deal with the pandemic.
- School districts will not be required to submit their Local Control and Accountability Plans by July 1 this year. Instead they will develop one-year plans describing how they will meet the challenges of this pandemic. Those reports are due to the county department of education by December 15.
- Petitions to put the Schools and Communities First initiative on the November 2020 ballot were turned in with more than 1.7 million signatures. The petition would change property tax requirements only for commercial and industrial property and would raise up to \$12 billion in additional funding per year, with 40 percent of that going to schools.

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:

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://edsources.org/2020/california-k-12-schools-closed-due-to-the-coronavirus/>

Addressing California students' loss of learning shapes plan to reopen schools – Gov. Newsom says schools could reopen as soon as late July, early August –

by John Fensterwald – April 28, 2020 – In an surprise announcement Tuesday, Gov. Gavin Newsom suggested reopening schools as soon as late July or early August to mitigate the loss of learning that all students – but especially low-income black and Latino students – have experienced during two months of school closures due to the coronavirus pandemic. - “That learning loss is very real,” Newsom said during his daily update on the coronavirus. “and from a socio-economic frame, from a racial justice frame, this is even more compounding and more challenging. And so, it is incumbent upon us to think anew with respect to the school year.” - Reopening school would be part of the second – and next – of four phases of returning life to normal. Newsom offered no further details about how an early start would work, how it would be paid for or phased in by counties where public health officials would have the final say on conditions for reopening schools. As he was speaking, a panel of finance experts and state officials was warning legislators at a budget hearing not to count on any increases in education spending next year, and that state revenue losses could exceed that of the Great Recession. Read the complete article at: <https://edsource.org/2020/gov-newsom-says-schools-could-reopen-as-soon-as-late-july-early-august/>

Can California schools put safety measures in place in time to open early?

Many district leaders skeptical – by Diana Lambert and John Fensterwald – May 4, 2020 – The unexpected announcement that California schools could resume as early as late July or early August was met with immediate pushback and raised more questions than answers for school districts, teachers and parents. - Gov. Gavin Newsom’s suggestion to reopen schools – aimed at mitigating the learning loss resulting from school closures that began in mid-March in response to the coronavirus pandemic – means some schools would start the school year earlier than usual. - There are concerns that schools will not have enough time and funding to stagger school schedules and create social distancing and related health plans to keep students and staff safe if campuses are reopened in late July or early August. Read the complete article at: <https://edsource.org/2020/can-california-schools-put-safety-measures-in-place-in-time-to-open-early-many-district-leaders-skeptical/> As of the time I am writing this report, CUSD has not made any plans to either start school before the originally scheduled date of August 18, 2020, or to delay the start of school. Further discussions are going on and will be discussed further at the May 20, 2020, school board meeting.

The coming storm: big budget cuts, rising costs for California schools: By one projection, a 15% cut may await schools in 2020-21

by John Fensterwald – May 6, 2020 – State officials insist it’s too early to predict the size of the fiscal hole in the 2020-21 state budget. The filing deadline for the income and capital gains taxes for last year has been pushed back to July, and the path of the coronavirus remains unpredictable. - Next week, when he releases the May revision of the state budget from January, Gov. Gavin Newsom will likely say it’ll be bad, but stay tuned for the details later this summer. Read the complete article at: <https://edsource.org/2020/the-coming-storm-big-budget-cut-rising-costs-for-california-schools/> Hint – it is bad, significantly worse than what was experienced during the Great Recession of 2008 and 2009. We are going to have to push for every dollar for

education from every source possible – both state and federal. This is where the focus of our advocacy will be over the coming years.

How bad will it be? One expert looks at K-12 budget cuts on the horizon – Transcript of school consultant Bob Blattner’s podcast interview – by Edsource Staff – April 30, 2020 – Bob Blattner, principal of Blattner & Associates, is a Sacramento-based education consultant who specializes in California school finance. This Week in California Education podcast co-hosts Louis Freedberg and John Fensterwald interviewed him about forecasts for an economic recession and the potential impact on school funding that the coronavirus will cause. You can listen to the podcast at <https://edsource.org/podcast/districts-brace-for-budget-cuts-teachers-rise-to-distance-learnings-challenge> or you can read the transcript of the interview at: <https://edsource.org/2020/how-bad-will-it-be-one-expert-looks-at-k-12-budget-cuts-on-the-horizon/> Blattner doesn’t paint a rosy picture of the economy. To quote “It’s going to be really bad. It’s really bad already. One thing that makes this so different from the Great Recession, which was awful, is we’re getting hammered from both sides as a result of COVID-19.”

California school districts to get 5-month reprieve to adopt next year’s accountability plan – Without accurate data, districts can’t set spending priorities for LCAP by John Fensterwald – April 22, 2020 – With so much on their plates already and revenue projections so much in flux, California school districts had assumed they’d get a reprieve from filing their next Local Control and Accountability Plan, the document that would spell out their spending priorities for 2020-21. The only question was whether Gov. Gavin Newsom would delay or suspend the LCAP for next year. - Newsom apparently will choose delay in an executive order to be published within days. During a webinar Tuesday, California Department of Education officials said they expect the governor will push back the deadline for completing the accountability document to mid-December, after districts have a clear enough picture of the state finances to revise their own budgets. Newsom decided not to suspend the LCAP for a year, as school management groups like the California School Boards Association and the Association of California School Administrators had called for. Read the complete article at: <https://edsource.org/2020/california-school-districts-to-get-5-month-reprieve-to-adopt-next-years-accountability-plan/>

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://edsource.org/2020/extend-the-school-year-into-the-summer-online/>

Schools need a big influx of federal money – with strings attached, union think tank argues by Matt Barnum – April 24, 2020 – The federal government should flood public schools with money – strings attached – to make up for the rapid declines in state funding caused by the coronavirus. – That’s the argument being made in a report released Friday (<https://www.shankerinstitute.org/resource/coronavirus-pandemic-and-k-12-education-funding>) by the Shanker Institute, a think tank affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers. To get those federal dollars, states would have to ensure that high-poverty school districts don’t face bigger state cuts. – “Education funding is primarily a state and local affair, and so truly sustainable solutions cannot take the form of federal aid with states continuing business as usual.” Wrote Bruce Baker and Matthew Di Carlo. Read the complete article at: <https://www.chalkbeat.org/2020/4/24/21233562/federal-aid-schools-education-coronavirus-economy-shanker-institute-report>

4 states receive ‘emergency education relief’ funds – Part of the federal funding package passed in March, the block grant gives governors wide discretion to use the money for K-12 or higher education. – by Linda Jacobson – April 29, 2020 – Hawaii, Louisiana, Maryland and Maine are the first states to apply for and receive emergency education funds totaling nearly \$3 billion they can use for either K-12 or higher education, according to the U.S. Department of Education. - California is eligible for up to \$355 million (of which we think CUSD would receive about \$5.1 million.) Unfortunately, the \$13.2 billion in this original act is a far cry from the actual funds needed. Additional requests for up to \$200 billion are already being made to cover costs for K12 education and special education. Read the complete article at: <https://www.educationdive.com/news/4-states-receive-emergency-education-relief-funds/>

Big variations per student in what California districts will get in federal stimulus aid: They’re hoping there will be another, bigger package from Congress by John Fensterwald and Daniel J. Willis – May 5, 2020 – By July 1, California school districts should get some financial relief from their share of \$1.65 billion in federal stimulus funds that the state is expected to receive. Educators are hoping it will be the first installment of a bigger influx of federal aid later this summer that will let them shore up their budgets from expected cuts in state funding, as well as cover additional expenses from the coronavirus. Read the complete article at: <https://edsources.org/2020/big-variations-per-student-in-what-california-districts-will-get-in-federal-stimulus-aid/>

Searchable database: How much will California school districts get in coronavirus funds? By Daniel J. Willis – May 5, 2020 – The \$2.2 trillion Corona virus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act or CARES Act includes \$13.5 billion in direct funding for K-12 districts. California will receive \$1.65 billion, with 10 percent set aside for emergencies designate by the California Department of Education. This database shows the amount going to each school district, county office of education and charter schools by July 1 in total and per student to allow for the differences in district enrollment. Distribution is based on a district’s share of federal Title 1 funding which uses a formula based primarily on the number of students whose family income is below the federal poverty threshold of \$26,200 for a family of four and who receive

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Search the database at: <https://edsources.org/2020/searchable-database-how-much-will-california-school-districts-get-in-emergency-stimulus-funds/> (Spoiler – CUSD is only scheduled to receive \$80/student from this relief package. Not nearly enough to cover the needs of our students.)

Report: Teacher pension debt is ‘crowding out’ funding for education – As the economy declines, states’ unfunded obligations will only get worse. But experts offer 5 ways district leaders can respond to rising teacher pension liabilities. By Linda Jacobson – April 21, 2020 – Between 2001 and 2018, the proportion of state education funding used to pay teacher retirement costs increased from 7.5% to 14.4%, creating a tug of war between pension liabilities and spending on teacher raises, lower class sizes, and programs for students, such as arts, sports and other enrichment opportunities, according to a report (available here: <https://equable.org/hiddenfundingcuts/>) released Tuesday. – Over that same time period – which included “slashed allocations to school districts” because of the Great Recession – pension debt climbed from less than \$20 billion to over \$640 billion, representing a type of “hidden K-12 funding cut” wrote Jonathan Moody and Anthony Randazzo of the Equable Institute, a nonprofit focusing on retirement plan sustainability. Read the complete article at: <https://www.educationdive.com/news/report-teacher-pension-debt-is-crowding-out-funding-for-education/>

As schools brace for more challenges, federal help is urgently needed – Commentary by Rick Miller – April 22, 2020 – Creating clarity on what the next chapter for schools looks like and getting students safely back into school next fall will be one of the biggest challenges facing our nation’s educational system in modern times. - As districts begin to plan for how they will eventually welcome California students back to classrooms, President Trump and Congress need to put forth a federal education stimulus package that moves our schools toward more stable fiscal ground. Read the entire article at: <https://edsources.org/2020/as-schools-brace-for-more-challenges-federal-help-is-urgently-needed/>

7 students in a class? Not practical, school operations officials say: District officials are exploring products that can keep buildings cleaner, but they’re skeptical of some of the plans for enforcing social distancing in schools. By Linda Jacobson – May 6, 2020 – Thermal cameras that take students’ and staff members’ temperatures as they enter a school, flooring with one-way directions and “self-cleaning” windows that use UV light to clean the air inside a room are among the products school operations officials are considering as they begin preparing for schools to reopen – whenever that is. Read the complete article on how coronavirus has changed schools and school maintenance at: <https://www.educationdive.com/news/7-students-in-a-class-not-practical-school-operations-officials-say/>

Ed Department IDEA waiver requests create need for ‘clarity and certainty’ – IEP meeting timeline an reevaluation requirements would remain untouched if Congress approves the request, requiring district to find ways to continue providing those services. By Naaz Modan – April 29, 2020 – As part of the

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, U.D. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos this week submitted to Congress waiver requests that, among other changes, include flexibilities for transition timelines under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Read the complete article at: <https://www.educationdive.com/news/ed-department-idea-waiver-requests-leave-need-for-clarity-and-certainty>

Federal special education law must stay intact during school closures, DeVos says – School districts had asked for temporary waivers to avoid lawsuits from parents. By Carolyn Jones – April 227, 2020 – School districts must comply with federal special education laws during the school closures despite pleas from school administrators for flexibility, U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos announced Monday. - Responding to a request from Congress for recommendations on changes to special education requirements during the coronavirus pandemic, DeVos declined to waive the bulk of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, saying “learning must continue for all students during the COVID-19 national emergency.” Read the complete article at: <https://edsources.org/2020/federal-special-education-law-must-stay-intact-during-school-closures-devos-says/>

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. 4742: To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a tax on nicotine used in vaping, etc. | 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) ✓
- H.R. 5611: Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act of 2020| 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. 1890: Renew America’s Schools Act of 2019| 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. 674: Gun Violence Prevention Research Act of 2019|116th Congress(2019-2020) ✔
- H.R. 1236: Extreme Risk Protection Order Act of 2019 | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✔
- H.R. 1296: Assault Weapons Ban of 2019 | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✔
- S. 42: Background Check Expansion Act | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✔
- S. 66: Assault Weapons Ban of 2019 | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✔
- S. 184: Gun Violence Prevention Research 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) 