



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

**In Local News:**

We are fortunate to have Trustee Dr. Gary Pritchard attending our April 2019 meeting. We also have presentations by Clark Hampton on how schools are funded in California. We will also discuss specifically the means by which school facilities are funded.

I want to thank again all who attended Sacramento Safari this past February. Currently units are starting to prepare their budgets for the 2019/2020 school year. Please work with your units to ensure funding to send a Legislative Representative from your school to Sacramento next year for Safari. I would encourage units to budget \$700 for this amazing trip and advocacy work. I want to thank Julie Columbero for her fantastic notes from Sacramento Safari this year. She gave detailed reports out on each speaker. I have attached a copy of her notes to the April meeting email.

We started our letter writing campaign in support of AB-8 Mental Health in March. I want to thank all of you for taking the time to gather signatures supporting this important legislation at your units. Please bring any signed letters you have with you to our April Meeting. I will mail them to Senator Bates and Assemblyman Brough after our meeting. We can continue to collect additional letters and I will send them on as well at least once a month until the end of this school year.

At the March 13, 2019, school board meeting, a group of students representing "Strength Over Silence" spoke on the need for additional counselors at our middle and high schools. This organization is working specifically with student run groups to prevent suicides. It was very powerful to hear these young people speak on their direct need for counselors and mental health support. After they spoke, Trustee Bullockus reached out to Dr. Merwin regarding how we can as a district best work with NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness, to increase resources for our students. I am happy to report that Student Support Services are actively working with NAMI to help our kids.

The Board of Trustees passed Resolution No. 1819-36, Opposition of Toll Road Extensions that Could Significantly Impact or Harm Pupils, Teachers, and Staff. The District is continuing to work to protect Student Health by objecting to alignments that directly impact school sites. They are requesting analysis and mitigation to change potential routes to ones that do not impact students, teachers, or staff.

During the March 27, 2019, Board Workshop, the Board of Trustees looked at the results of polling regarding the support for a potential bond in the San Clemente area.

They gave direction to staff to prepare a potential project list focusing on new construction at San Clemente High School and needed health and safety repairs at the other San Clemente area schools. Depending upon price tag, the Board may or may not move forward with a potential bond measure for the San Clemente area for the March 2020 election. At this point, NO DECISION on whether or not to propose a bond has been made. They are only discussing options and possibilities. The Board is doing its due diligence to discuss all possible options for funding the needed repairs to our schools and the additional funds to modernize our schools.

At the Special Board Meeting on March 29, 2019, the Board voted to send a letter in support of the legislation pending at the Federal Level in both the House and Senate to support the Full Funding of IDEA. This is also supported by the National PTA. A copy of the National PTA letter of support is included in this month's email to you.

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

February 27, 2019 – Board Meeting - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/2332864057212526896.pdf>

March 13, 2019 – Board Meeting – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/6178708095031136435.pdf>

March 27, 2019 – Special Board Meeting – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/6005636663366795172.pdf>

March 27, 2019 – Board Workshop – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/8201067157337547576.pdf>

March 29, 2019 – Special Board Meeting - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/8150948757678085825.pdf>

Audio Recordings of Meetings in July 2018-June 2019 can be found at <http://cusd.capousd.org/cusdweb/2018-19audio.html>

**4<sup>th</sup> District Advocacy Meeting notes from March 29, 2019** – Thank you to Jessica Geyer for attending the 4<sup>th</sup> District meeting and representing CUCPTSA. Here are her notes from the meeting:

It was a great meeting today! The topic was How to discuss Hot Topics. There were 5 PTA Leg Chairs there with 3 members of the 4th district A-team in attendance.

Notes:

Forums are held in Sept, Nov, Feb & March

-An idea: have a debrief of Sac Safari at the March forum and also provide leg reps with Action items to do at their unit.

-The California Healthy Youth Act has been a hot topic for all districts.

-PYLUSD-Mika Sernaque shared that they have lost 1,200 members district wide due in part to the resistance to this curriculum and PTAs support for it.

-I shared how at LRMS, I asked my PTA executive board to have our association meeting about educating our community on the CHYA by inviting Josh Hill to the meeting and informing our members. Provided PTA resolution support documents to show or board we could take a position on.

-Organize Parent Forums on hot topics.

-Leg rep from Tustin wants to put on a parent ed night about climate change.

## **From Fourth District PTA:**

**Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, March 2019** - Details are in the March issue of the *Advocacy Communicator*.

- The March *Advocacy Communicator* has several reports from Sacramento Safari. Sixty-eight PTA members and one student heard from 15 speakers and then divided into small groups to visit legislator offices in the state capitol. They had four messages for the legislators:
  1. Our kids need mental health resources and support services now.
  2. PTA supports late school start time for middle school and high school.
  3. Arts education is not optional.
  4. California needs a stable, long-term funding system.
- Sherry Griffith, Executive Director of the California State PTA, talked to the Safari participants about art education, which is required by state education code. In effect, most of our schools are in violation of California law because they do not teach visual and performing arts (VAPA). The CAPTA website – [capta.org](http://capta.org) – has a lot of resources for those of us who want to advocate for the arts, including a new interactive dashboard that shows the VAPA programs school districts and individual schools now offer.
- The future of charter schools was a hot topic for several speakers at Sacramento Safari. SB 126 was quickly approved by both the Assembly and the Senate and is expected to be signed by the Governor. It requires charter schools to follow the same laws about open meetings, public records and conflicts of interest that apply to school districts. Other bills restricting charter schools have also been introduced.
- About one in every five California teens ages 12 to 17 suffers from emotional or mental health issues. Early intervention can make a big difference. But most children do not get the help they need. The Communicator lists several resources we can use to advocate for more mental health services in our schools.

**Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, April 2019** - Details are in the April issue of the *Advocacy Communicator*.

- The state legislative session is underway and California State PTA is busy taking positions on bills that impact children and schools. The *Communicator* lists a dozen bills that CAPTA has decided to support.
- The *Communicator* also lists several websites where we can get more information about the bills that CAPTA is following.
- The next CAPTA Advocacy Conference Call will be on Monday, April 22, at 7 p.m. Directions are in the *Communicator*.
- Do we have an advocacy chair for next year? Fourth District PTA has a lot of resources to make the job as easy as possible. You don't have to be an expert!
- Serving on the school site council is a great way to learn more about how our school functions and how it is connected to the school district. You also have an opportunity to participate in making important decisions for our students and school.

Back issues of the Communicator can be found at:  
<http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org/advocacy-communicator/>

### **California PTA holds monthly Legislation and Advocacy Conference Calls:**

The upcoming conference calls are scheduled for:

- April 22, 2019 at 7 p.m.
- May 28, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Please see <https://capta.org/resource/legislation-conference-calls/> for information on how to dial in and participate in these calls.

### **California State PTA's Diversity and Inclusion Committee holding a webinar about supporting LGBTQ youth:**

California State PTA's Diversity & Inclusion Committee invites you to join an informative webinar about supporting LGBTQ youth and to get a sneak preview of our upcoming convention workshop in May! Hear from the Director of the Youth Well-Being Project by the [Human Rights Campaign Foundation](#), Vincent Pompei. Participants will build cultural competency and learn how to support LGBTQ youth, how to create safe spaces for children, best practices for effective parent and peer ally behavior, how to help administrators comply with state law and much more.

Join our webinar discussion on **Thursday, April 11** at 6 p.m. – Register for this webinar at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6283785214933990659>

### **In State News:**

#### **California colleges expand mental health services to meet rising needs:**

Students report more depression, anxiety yet more willingness to seek help. By Larry Gordon/EdSource Today.

With heightened awareness of college students' psychological stress, worried state officials and campus leaders in California are providing more money and expanding programs to promote mental health. Read the complete article at:

<https://edsource.org/2019/california-colleges-expand-mental-health-services-to-meet-rising-needs/>

#### **Q&A: California's first-ever surgeon general on her plans to tackle toxic stress in children**

by David Washburn, *EdSource*. Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, appointed as the state's first-ever surgeon general, is recognized as a pioneer in the study of how adverse childhood experiences affect brain development and life-long health. Read the complete article at: <https://edsource.org/2019/qa-californias-new-top-doc-on-her-plans-to-tackle-toxic-stress-in-children/>

#### **Governor Newsom signs legislation requiring charter school transparency in**

**California** by Louis Freedberg and Diana Lambert, *EdSource*. Both the California Teachers Association and the California Charter Schools Association, which have been waging a high-profile battle over charter schools, were represented at the signing event in the State Capitol. The bill became law only two weeks after it was first heard in

committee. Read the entire article at <https://edsource.org/2019/newsom-to-sign-charter-school-transparency-legislation-on-tuesday/>

**Many California Schools have police but no counselors, ACLU report finds** by David Washburn, *EdSource*. The report used federal data to make the argument that schoolchildren in America are over-policed and under-supported by health and mental health professionals. Read the entire article and links to the report at: <https://edsource.org/2019/many-california-schools-have-police-but-no-counselors-aclu-report-finds/>

**New data detail soaring costs of California school pensions** by John Fensterwald, *EdSource*. Districts' average payments to pension funds CalSTRS and CalPERS doubled to about \$1,000 per student in 2017-18. But contributions varied among districts and will continue to rise for at least two more years. Read the entire article at <https://edsource.org/2019/new-data-detail-soaring-costs-of-california-school-pensions-2/>

**California school districts' rising employee pension costs** by Yuxuan Xie, Daniel J. Willis, and Phillip Reese, *EdSource*. Use our interactive map and interactive database to view and look up the per-student pension costs and changes in per-student costs for districts across California. Here is a link to the Interactive Database <https://edsource.org/2019/california-school-districts-rising-employee-pension-costs> and a link to the Interactive map <https://edsource.org/2019/interactive-map-changes-in-pension-costs-for-california-school-districts/>

**California school district pension payments: How EdSource did this story** by Rose Ciotta, *EdSource*. EdSource analyzed state data to determine how per-student payments to employee pension funds increased for most districts from 2013-14 to 2017-18. Read the entire article at <https://edsource.org/2019/california-school-district-pension-payments-how-edsource-did-this-story>

**California School districts' rising employee pension costs** by Phillip Reese and Daniel J. Willis, *EdSource*. Look up per-student pension costs for districts across California with this interactive database, and see how much they've changed since a 2012 state law passed to rescue the state's two pension systems. <https://edsource.org/2019/california-school-districts-rising-employee-pension-costs/>

**Push underway to lower the barrier for school districts to pass a parcel tax** by John Fensterwald, *EdSource*. If the Legislature agrees, voters in November 2020 will consider lowering the threshold for approval from two-thirds to 55 percent. Read entire article at <https://edsource.org/2019/push-to-lower-the-barrier-for-school-districts-to-pass-a-parcel-tax/>

## At the National Level:

### From the National PTA:





**Proposed ED Budget would cut funding for Public Schools:** The President submitted his Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 budget request for the U.S. Department of Education to Congress (<https://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget20/index.htm>) March 11, suggesting a \$7.1 billion or a 10% cut with the hope of reducing the Federal role in education. The Statewide Family Engagement Centers Program a legislative priority for National PTA in the 116th Congress (<https://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/files/advocacy/public-policy-agenda/2019/issue-briefs/leg-checklist-trifold.pdf>) has been proposed for elimination. This budget also coincides with potential automatic spending cuts established by the 2011 Budget Control Act. (<https://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/files/advocacy/budget-caps-one-pager.pdf>) Without an increase in the FY 2020 caps, domestic spending will endure a \$55 billion cut, which will translate into a nearly \$20 billion cut in education, health and workforce funding. Take Action ♦ Contact your federal lawmakers and urge them to STOP cuts to classrooms. (<https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/take-action>)

**National PTA Endorses the IDEA Full Funding Act:** National PTA has endorsed and expressed strong support (<https://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/files/advocacy/idea-coalition-joint-house-and-senate-final.pdf>) for the House (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1878>) and Senate (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/866>) versions of the IDEA Full Funding Act introduced by Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA-2) and Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD). The bill would pave the way for full IDEA funding by requiring regular increases in IDEA spending to meet the Federal government's commitment to pay 40% of the average per pupil expenditure for special education a commitment that has never been met.

**Advocacy letters for National PTA:** There are several letters that can be downloaded and sent to your Representative and/or Senator. Links to the letters can be found at <https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/federal-legislation/letters-to-policymakers> current letters are in regard to Gun Safety and Violence Prevention; Health and Safety; and Childhood Nutrition.

The 116<sup>th</sup> Congress is considering the following legislation items. The National PTA is supporting (green checkmarks) or opposing (red x) the following items:

### Child Health and Safety

- H.R. 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) 
- 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) 

## 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)



## Elementary and Secondary Education

H.R. 865: To provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes. | 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)



## 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)



## 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)



## 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)



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)

