



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

In Local News:

We are fortunate to have President Jones and Trustee Bullockus attending our January 2019 meeting. We will have the opportunity to get to know both of these women better. In addition, we have a presentation on school safety by Mike Beekman at our January meeting. I look forward to learning more about current plans for handling safety concerns at campuses from Mr. Beekman, along with what facility concerns we need to consider to help insure student safety at school. School safety concerns are advocacy issues that both the California State PTA and National PTA are focusing on moving forward.

In December we focused on Student Mental Health Services and Student Support Services with an amazing presentation by Rebecca Pianta on Stress in America. I learned so much from her presentation. As a follow-up on her presentation, you can find more by Simon Sinek at https://www.ted.com/speakers/simon_sinek and here is a link to his presentation on the Millennial Question – which is quite insightful and talks about the technology feeding our dopamine need – we saw part of this bigger talk during Rebecca’s presentation. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vudaAYx2IcE>)

At the December 2018, Board of Trustees Meeting, Trustee Bullockus, Trustee Jones, and Trustee McNicholas were sworn in for their newly elected terms (December 2018-December 2022). At this meeting the board also reorganized itself. Congratulations to President Jones, Vice-President Pritchard, and Clerk Holloway on your election to these positions for the coming year. In addition, the Trustees took on the following Committee appointments:

- Nominating Committee of the Orange County Committee on School District Organization – Trustee Reardon; alternate Trustee McNicholas
- OCSBA Political Action Group Effort (PAGE) – Trustee McNicholas, President Jones
- Instructional Materials Review Committee (IMRC) – Clerk Holloway, Trustee Hanacek
- Ad Hoc Committee – City of Aliso Viejo – Vice President Pritchard, Trustee McNicholas
- Ad Hoc Committee – City of Dana Point – Trustee Hanacek, Trustee McNicholas
- Ad Hoc Committee – City of Laguna Niguel – Trustee McNicholas, President Jones

- Ad Hoc Committee – City of Mission Viejo – Trustee Bullockus, President Jones
- Ad Hoc Committee – City of Rancho Santa Margarita – Trustee Reardon, Trustee Bullockus
- Ad Hoc Committee – City of San Clemente – Clerk Holloway, Trustee Hanacek
- Ad Hoc Committee – City of San Juan Capistrano – President Jones, Trustee Reardon, Trustee Hanacek
- Ad Hoc Committee – Ladera Ranch Civic Council – Trustee Bullockus, Clerk Holloway, Trustee Reardon
- District Restructuring Committee – Vice President Pritchard, alternate Trustee McNicholas
- College and Career Advantage – President Jones, Clerk Holloway, Trustee Reardon, alternate Trustee McNicholas, alternate Trustee Bullockus
- California School Board Association Delegate (CSBA) – Clerk Holloway, Trustee McNicholas
- Board Policy Sub-Committee – President Jones, Trustee Reardon, alternate Trustee Hanacek

The curriculum assembled by CUSD for Middle School to comply with the California Healthy Youth Act was presented to the Instructional Materials Review Committee on December 14. They have just over a month to review the curriculum and put forth a recommendation. We anticipate their recommendation/comments on the curriculum in late January 2019, when the curriculum becomes available for public review for one month. At the February 27, 2019, School Board Meeting a public hearing will be conducted regarding the potential adoption of this curriculum. Following the public hearing the Board of Trustees will vote to adopt either this curriculum or another curriculum so CUSD can implement the California Healthy Youth Act instruction this spring in our middle schools. Look for more information on this topic later in January 2019.

Across the District, 5th, 7th, 9th, and 11th Grade students will participate in the California Healthy Kids Survey at the start of 2019. The District uses this survey to find out more about school climate, mental health of our students, and how students are relating to school. In the 5th Grade, parents must opt-in for their child to participate. In 7th, 9th, and 11th all students participate unless their parents opt-out. The information gathered helps in guiding counselor needs, looking at behavioral services, academic supports, etc. All information gathered is anonymous and can not be traced back to an individual student, rather just gives an overall picture of the school and the district as data is collected and aggregated. Please encourage our 5th Grade families to opt-in and participate in this survey.

The Board of Trustees voted in December to conduct opinion research regarding potential school facility bonds starting in January 2019. There are 2 areas/regions they are considering for potential bonds – and hope to use the results of the opinion research to draw potential SFID Boundaries. The District has hired True North Research to conduct these poles.

With the opening of Esencia K-8 in August 2018, the Board of Trustees needed to set the formal feeder pattern for students within that school boundaries. Tesoro High School is now where students at Esencia will feed-into for high school. Any high school aged student living within that boundary is now slated for Tesoro, but as always can apply through School of Choice to attend a different district school.

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

November 14, 2018 – Board Meeting - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/6281392277325314777.pdf>

December 12, 2018 – Board Meeting - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/6533280459589090889.pdf>

December 12, 2018 – Facilities Corporation Meeting - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/3439971577065591717.pdf>

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

From Fourth District PTA:

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, December 2018

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

- The state Legislative Analyst’s Office says there will be an additional \$2.8 billion to spend on schools in the next school year. Most of that should go to cost-of-living adjustments and some previous commitments, but that leaves about \$480 million. The LAO recommends using this money for one-time purposes such as professional development, instructional materials or technology upgrades rather than ongoing expenses, since there may be a recession in the future.
- The LAO report also talks about challenges our school districts are facing, such as dropping enrollment, increased costs for special education and higher contributions to the state retirement system.
- We need to register for Sacramento Safari now! Registration fees went up December 16 – but is still an amazing deal for all that happens at Sacramento Safari.
- The next Advocacy Forum is on Friday, January 25, at 9:30 a.m.
- The next State PTA Advocacy Conference Call is on Monday, January 25, at 7 p.m. Directions are in the *Communicator*.
- The three speakers at the Advocacy Forum in November talked about some of the same issues that were in the LAO report. Pension costs, declining enrollment and higher costs for special education are creating serious challenges for some of our school districts in Orange County.

- We have two new state Assembly members and two new state Senators as a result of the General Election in November. We also have a new State Superintendent of Public Education: Tony Thurmond. The next two-year legislative session begins on December 1.
- California State PTA will hold its Legislation Conference on January 14 and 15 in Sacramento. There is more information at capta.org.

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:

- January 28, 2019 at 7 p.m.
- February 25, 2019 at 7 p.m.
- March 25, 2019 at 7 p.m.
- 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.

In State News:

The new legislative session started at the start of December 2018. Over 200 bills were introduced in the first 3 days of the session. So far the California PTA has not come out in support or opposition to any of these proposed bills – some to watch are listed here with links to their full text and analysis:

- AB 123, as introduced, McCarty. Early childhood education: state preschool program: transitional kindergarten: access: standards.
http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB123
- AB 48, as introduced, O'Donnell. Kindergarten-Community Colleges Public Education Facilities Bond Acts of 2020 and 2022.
http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB48
- AB 39, as introduced, Muratsuchi. Education finance: local control funding formula: funding increase.
http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB39
- AB 8, as introduced, Chu. Pupil health: mental health professionals.
http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB8

California school districts to get 'wake-up call' with new absenteeism measures

By David Washburn, *EdSource* - At least 40 percent of California school districts and charter schools have rates of chronic absence in grades K-8 that are high or very high based on new performance measures that will be unveiled next

month. <https://edsources.org/2018/california-school-districts-to-get-wake-up-call-with-new-absenteeism-measures/>

School suspensions continue downward trend in California, new data show

By David Washburn and Daniel J. Willis, *EdSource* - The number of suspensions reported by California schools continue their steady decline, with about half as many students sent home for disciplinary reasons during the 2017-18 school year as had been at the beginning of the decade, according to recent data released by the California Department of Education. <https://edsources.org/2018/school-suspensions-continue-downward-trend-in-california-new-data-show/>

New push underway to expand preschool for low-income children in California By Zaidee Stavely, *EdSource*

Assemblyman Kevin McCarty introduced three bills during the first week of December, one to expand spaces for public preschool for low-income 4-year-olds, one to improve preschool facilities and one to increase reimbursement for preschool programs. <https://edsources.org/2018/bills-would-expand-preschool-for-low-income-children-in-california/>

Legislative Analyst releases Cal Facts 2018

Each year the Legislative Analyst's Office publishes the essential facts about California – the state of its health, finances, housing and population – in graphics. This year's edition of Cal Facts includes 12 pages about education, including national rankings, demographics and other data on K-12 and higher ed. Read the entire report at: <https://lao.ca.gov/reports/2018/3905/calfacts-2018.pdf>

Can California afford Gavin Newsom's vision for school kids? Here's your K-12 primer for 2019 - By [Ricardo Cano](#), Dec. 16

<https://calmatters.org/articles/can-california-afford-newsom-education-plan/> - An interesting look at where education policy and funding is within California and some of the challenges and proposals moving into 2019 and to the future.

California education issues to watch in 2019 – and predictions of what will happen By John Fensterwald, *EdSource* - Place your bets: curbs on charter schools, passage of universal preschool, more money for K-12, more teacher strikes and the resignation of Betsy DeVos; an untested governor and volatile president may affect the odds – This is an interesting look at the state of education in California – it addresses a lot of issues that the California PTA has not taken a position on, but I think we should be aware is happening. Read the complete article at: <https://edsources.org/2019/california-education-issues-to-watch-in-2019-and-predictions-of-what-will-happen/>

At the National Level:

Federal funding under Betsy DeVos: Which states are winners and losers?

By Andrew Ujifusa, *Education Week*, Dec. 2

<https://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2018/12/federal-funding-devos-education-states-winners-losers.html?r=1395686280> California has actually seen almost a 9% increase in federal Title One funding over the last 2 years. Our schools are still drastically underfunded, but we are seeing tiny amounts of increased funding.

Trump administration's school safety report met with harsh criticism in California

By David Washburn, *EdSource*, The report strongly recommended rescinding the Obama policies that both emphasized alternatives to suspensions and expulsions and highlighted data showing that students of color and those with disabilities were more likely than white students to face these punishments. <https://edsources.org/2018/trump-administrations-school-safety-report-met-with-harsh-criticism-in-california/>

Senate passes bill to streamline FAFSA

By Andrew Kreighbaum, *Inside Higher Ed* The Senate on Thursday passed bipartisan legislation that would streamline applications for student aid and enrollment in income-driven loan repayment plans. The bill, dubbed the [FAFSA Act](#), would do so by amending the tax code and the Higher Education Act to allow the IRS to share taxpayer information directly with the Education Department. Read the complete article at: <http://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2018/12/21/senate-passes-bill-streamline-fafsa>

Trump, Congress, ESSA and more: six issues to watch in 2019 By Alyson Klein, *Education Week*, Jan. 1 Here is an interesting look at 6 issues that are happening at the National level. Consideration is given to how the split government is going to potentially change education policy that DeVos has been promoting – many of the proposed changes (by the incoming Congress) are ones that the National PTA has supported. Read the complete article at <http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2019/01/trump-education-devos-immigration-essa-choice-2019.html>

From the National PTA:

There are currently several items that the National PTA are speaking out about explicitly – all are related to Gun Control and Guns in Schools. Please take a moment to visit <https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/take-action> and send an email to your representative supporting the National PTA's agenda in keeping our schools and students safe. The specific topics are:

- Tell your senators to oppose the use of federal funds to purchase guns for schools

- Urge your members of congress to keep our children and our schools safe from gun violence!
- Tell your members of congress to invest in family engagement

Advocacy letters for National PTA: On PTA.org website under Advocacy tab, there are several letters that can be downloaded and sent to your Representative and/or Senator. Issues such as protecting transgender children, concern over Betsy DeVos and school vouchers, encouraging parent engagement (ESSA), protecting Federal nutrition programs, and many more.

The 115th 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. 2: Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 695: Child Protection Improvements Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 1757: Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 1957: Safe Schools Improvement Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 2160: Best to Use Safety Belts Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 2401: To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to prohibit the stigmatization of children who are unable to pay for meals. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 2926: REACH Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 3006: To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 3024: Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 3580: To promote State requirements for local educational agencies and public elementary and secondary schools relating to the prevention and treatment of concussions suffered by students. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 5374: Student Non-Discrimination Act of 2018 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 5992: Student and Student Athlete Opioid Misuse Prevention Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 6775: Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 7124: Keeping All Students Safe Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 

- S. 705: Child Protection Improvements Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 774: Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 786: Student and Student Athlete Opioid Misuse Prevention Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 1064: Anti-Lunch Shaming Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 1401: Get the Lead Out of Schools Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 1402: A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 2572: Safe Schools Improvement Act of 2018 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 3427: Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 3626: A bill to prohibit and prevent seclusion and to prevent and reduce the use of physical restraint in schools, and for other purposes. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 3686: A bill to promote minimum State requirements for the prevention and treatment of concussions caused by participation in school sports, and for other purposes. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 3701: A bill to protect and educate children about the dangers of e-cigarettes and other electronic nicotine delivery systems, and for other purposes. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

Early Learning and Childhood Education

- H.R. 3773: Child Care for Working Families Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 1806: Child Care for Working Families Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

Elementary and Secondary Education

- H.R. 627: Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 1511: Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 1864: To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to allow local educational agencies to use Federal funds for programs and activities that address chronic absenteeism. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 2475: Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 3246: To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a Teacher Advisory Committee and a Parents and Families Advisory Committee. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 5767: Teachers Are Leaders Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

- S. 383: Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 611: Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 1413: Teachers Are Leaders Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

Federal Investments in Education

- S. 2542: A bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

Gun Safety and Violence Prevention

- H.R. 1478: Gun Violence Research Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 1832: To authorize the appropriation of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 2598: Gun Violence Restraining Order Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 3464: Background Check Completion Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 4240: Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 4434: Fix NICS Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 4909: STOP School Violence Act of 2018 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 5087: Assault Weapons Ban of 2018 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 834: A bill to authorize the appropriation of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 1212: Gun Violence Prevention Order Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 1923: Background Check Completion Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 2135: Fix NICS Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓








Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

- H.R. 1809: Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 866: Prohibiting Detention of Youth Status Offenders Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓



Post-Secondary Access and Opportunity

- S. 1615: Dream Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 1658: Mentoring to Succeed Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

Private School Choice and Vouchers

- H.R. 610: To distribute Federal funds for elementary and secondary education in the form of vouchers for eligible students and to repeal a certain rule relating to nutrition standards in schools. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 895: Educational Opportunities Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 1387: To reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 4269: Public Funds for Public Schools Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 5199: Education Savings Accounts for Military Families Act of 2018 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- S. 148: Educational Opportunities Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- S. 2517: Military Education Savings Account Act of 2018 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 

Special Education

- H.R. 2782: Respond, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 2902: To amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- S. 1295: Respond, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 