

OCTOBER ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER

October 3, 2014

LOCAL CUSD UPDATE

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS 2014

Remember to VOTE! The mid-term election season is in full-swing and parents are urged to make sure they are registered to vote, review their Voter Information Guides and most importantly, vote on or before November 4th.

The CUSD Board of Trustees consists of seven members elected to four year terms by specific geographic districts. There is no primary election and the general election will be held on November 4, 2014. The seats from Trustee Areas 4, 6 and 7 are up for election in 2014 and the seats from Trustee Areas 1, 2, 3 and 5 will be up for election in 2016.

Trustee Area 4 Candidates

- Craig Alexander
- Martha McNicholas

Trustee Area 6 Candidates

- Ellen M. Addonizio (Incumbent)
- Gila Jones

Trustee Area 7 Candidates

- Lynn Hatton – Hodson (Incumbent)
- Julie Collier

To retain tax-exempt status and continue to receive tax-deductible contributions, PTA may not endorse or oppose a candidate for national, state or local office.

Key Dates

October 6, 2014	First day to request vote by mail ballot. For more information, http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_m.htm
October 20, 2014	Last day to register to vote. For more information, http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm
November 4, 2014	ELECTION DAY, all polls open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. To find out where you vote, go to http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/new-voter/where-how-vote.htm

TRUSTEE BY AREA ELECTIONS

Proposition H, a ballot proposition about the Method of Electing Trustees of the Capistrano Unified School District, was approved by the voters in Capistrano Unified School District in the November, 2010 election.

Proposition H changed the way that the seven trustees of the school board were elected. Prior to the adoption of Proposition H, each trustee came from one of the seven districts, but was voted on at-large. Proposition H changed that so that only the voters who live in a specific district can vote on the candidates from that district.

Residence address is what determines your Trustee Voting Area, not your student's school address. If you are not sure of your Trustee Area, maps and detailed boundary information can be found here,

<http://capousd.ca.schoolloop.com/tmaps>.

LCAP

On September 22, 2014, in the first Parent Council Meeting of the school year, new Superintendent Kirsten Vitale addressed PTA leaders and highlighted the new LCAP, "Local Control Accountability Plan". The LCAP is a critical new change in California Public Education, whereby each school district must engage parents, educators, employees and the community on an annual basis to come up with or review existing plan that meets the needs of all students.

In her address, Superintendent Vitale explained that first CUSD LCAP was recently approved by the Orange County Department of Education and then, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Michelle Le Patner outlined the 6 goals of the new

launched LCAP. In addition, Dr. Le Patner expanded upon action plans for Goals 2 and 3, and announced that at future Parent Council Meetings, the remaining 4 goals would be covered in more depth:

- **Goal 1:** Students will demonstrate **academic growth and proficiencies** needed to ensure they leave the TK-12 system ready for college and career.
- **Goal 2:** Provide **interventions and support** for academically, behaviorally and socially /emotionally at –risk students.
 - Use of the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) model for entire district and aligned site plans. Ensure district policies are supportive of, and not barriers to, the implementation of the model.
 - Expand counseling support K-12. Identify a systemic approach for identifying at- risk students.
- **Goal 3:** Increase the number of English learners who achieve **English fluency**
 - Extensive overview of teacher training, assessment, and support in ELD standards and curriculum.
 - Increase parent engagement and education opportunities for ELL families.
- **Goal 4:** Increase the number of students on-track to graduate from high school who are **college and career ready**, reflecting a K-12 broad course of study.
- **Goal 5:** CUSD will expand **parent and community engagement** with emphasis on including representation of all students and parents.
- **Goal 6:** Develop a multi-year plan to enhance **facilities** that are safe, healthy and appropriate to foster academic achievement. Increase the number of student and staff technological devices required to support **21st Century learning**

SUPERINDEPENDENT COMMUNITY FORUMS

Thursday, November 6, 2014	7:00 pm	San Clemente School Theater
Monday, January 26, 2015	7:00 pm	CUSD Board Room
Tuesday, April 28, 2015	7:00 pm	Aliso Niguel High School Theater

STATE UPDATE

LEGISLATIVE BILL UPDATE:

UPDATE ON LEGISLATION – GOVERNOR BROWN SIGNS AND VETOES BILLS

The deadline for Governor Brown to sign or veto the bills put before him by the California State Assembly and Senate came on September 30, 2014. The California State PTA (CAPTA) had taken positions on several bills that made it to the Governor's desk and the following is an update on their status:

BILLS SUPPORTED BY CAPTA:

AB1444 – This bill would have made kindergarten compulsory for all children before entering first grade. **Governor Brown vetoed this bill** stating that most children at this age are already enrolled in kindergarten or some other educational or developmental program that has been deemed appropriate by the child's family and that it is best to let parents determine what is best for their children.

AB 1584 -?Pupil records: privacy: third-party contracts: digital storage services and digital educational software. This bill was signed by the Governor and is now **CHAPTERED**.

?**AB 1719** - ?Full-day kindergarten. This bill was signed by the Governor and is now **CHAPTERED**.

AB1866 – This bill would require school districts to collect and report a significant amount of new student attendance information through the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CLPADS). **Governor Brown vetoed this bill** stating that it would not get to the root of the issue – keeping kids in school and on track. The Governor indicated that the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) was created because local education agencies are best suited to

set goals and guidelines for students and efforts to combat truancy are best exercised at school level. He encourages these issues be dealt with through the Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAPs).

AB2198 - This bill would have required certain mental health professionals to complete a training program in “suicide assessment, treatment, and management.” **Governor Brown vetoed this bill** stating that California has an extensive regulatory scheme that aims to ensure that mental health professionals are skilled in their fields and rather than further legislating the field, licensing boards should evaluate the issues raised by this bill and take whatever actions are needed.

AB 2386 - ?Care facilities: carbon monoxide detectors. This bill was signed by the Governor and is now **CHAPTERED**.

SB1263 – This bill sought to reverse the application of a limited exemption in law that allows a charter school petitioner to locate a single school site outside of its authorizing school district, under certain circumstances, and instead require the charter to first get permission from the host district where it intends to locate. **Governor Brown vetoed this bill**. The Governor realizes that some districts and charter schools have ignored the spirit of the law already, which has led to litigation and strained relationships among districts and charter schools. While acknowledging that the law attempts to solve a real problem, he was not comfortable with the retroactive language that could force existing charters to change locations and has assembled a team to examine the situation and come back with minimally disrupting solutions.

BILLS APPROVED BY CAPTA:

SB923 – This bill would have created the Educational Apprenticeship Innovation Prize (EdPrize), a competitive grant program administered by the California Dept. of Ed. **Governor Brown vetoed this bill** stating that while the bill is intended to provide EdPrize applicants special consideration under the California Career Pathways Trust (CPT), it instead creates a new and duplicative program without an appropriation. The Governor shares the author’s sentiments about the importance of apprenticeship programs but noted the \$500 million investment already made to fund the CPT and encourages apprenticeship programs to apply for the \$250 million that is currently available.

WATCH THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION CANDIDATES FORUM

A forum for candidates for the position of California’s Superintendent of Public Instruction was held at the Los Angeles County Office of Education on Wednesday, September 17. The event was hosted by the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the Los Angeles County School Trustees Association, and co-sponsored by the California State PTA and The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund.

Watch the entire forum on [The California Channel](#).

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE INFORMATION REGARDING AB1719:

Kindergarten attendance: Between 90-95 percent of eligible students attend kindergarten (public and private kindergarten); approximately 80 percent of eligible students attend kindergarten at a public school. Kindergarten is half-day.

A Public Policy Institute of California survey found that in the 2007-08 school year, 43 percent of kindergarteners attended full-day kindergarten, with lower-performing and economically disadvantaged schools more likely to offer full-day programs.

Kindergarten Teacher Workdays: Most kindergarten teachers work a full day, splitting their time between two part-day kindergarten classrooms, assisting other teachers or working on other district duties. If the part-day teacher is now required to teach a full-day, the district would incur costs to cover the duties formerly performed by the part-day teacher.

School districts currently receive the same average daily attendance apportionments for kindergarten students whether they attend a part-day or full-day program. In supporting this bill, PTA voiced to the Senate Education Committee that the kindergarten curriculum has become more academic, and the Common Core State Standards bring opportunities for deeper, richer learning. A full-day kindergarten program would allow adequate time for learning as well as allowing

FATE OF HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAM UNDECIDED

While the state’s standardized testing program is being revamped during the transition to the new [Common Core State Standards](#), the fate of the high school exit exam – the one test students must pass – remains murky.

In overhauling the state assessment system last year, officials postponed a decision about the exit exam, which students need to pass in order to receive a high school diploma. Most other tests are on [temporary hiatus](#) while students take a practice test aligned to Common Core. The voluntary standards, adopted by California and 42 other states, set common requirements for what students should know in math and English.

But the exit exam – aligned to the old state standards – remains in place as a requirement for graduating seniors. The most recent scores, for the class of 2014, are expected to be released Friday. (See following article on results)

Officials must now return to discussions about the future of the California High School Exit Exam, whether or how it should be revamped to meet the Common Core standards and whether it should be required as a separate assessment at all.

Any change to the test would require action in the Legislature, and state officials could seek clarity on the exam when the next legislative cycle begins in December, said Diane Hernandez, director of the assessment development and administration division of the California Department of Education.

For full article: <http://edsources.org/2014/fate-of-high-school-exit-exam-undecided/67604#.VC2TeWctC70>

SCORES ON EXIT EXAMS HOLD STEADY

The latest results of the California High School Exit Exam echoed a similar refrain from past years, with the number of seniors passing the test holding steady year-over-year but showing gains in the number of students who pass in their sophomore year.

About 95.5 percent of the class of 2014 passed the exit exam, matching the record-high passage rate set by the class of 2013, according to [preliminary results](#) released Friday by the California Department of Education.

For full article http://edsources.org/2014/scores-on-exit-exam-hold-steady/67714?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+EdsourceToday+%28EdSource+Today%29#.VC2RzmctC70

SUPERINTENDENT TORLAKSON INVITES COMMENTS ON DRAFT HISTORY- SOCIAL SCIENCE FRAMEWORK

SACRAMENTO— State Superintendent Tom Torlakson announced today that California is moving forward to improve the way educators teach history and social science by gathering public comment on a new framework.

"By updating the framework, California is making sure students benefit from the latest methods of teaching history and social sciences," Torlakson said. "Learning these subjects helps students understand and shape the world around them, which will better prepare them for college and careers."

The draft *History–Social Science Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve (Framework)* will provide guidance for teachers, administrators, and parents on how to implement a curriculum, based on content standards in the classroom. The draft covers more recent historical events, reflects changes in the law since the last framework was adopted in 2001, and helps educators teach the critical analytical skills students need for 21st century careers. For full article: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr14/yr13rel96.asp>

CALIFORNIA BUDGET PROJECT:

The California Budget Project engages in independent fiscal and policy analysis and public education with the goal of improving public policies affecting the economic and social well-being of low- and middle-income Californians. This is an excellent site to be educated on where the state dollars come from, where they go, and the legislative process involved in the state budget. This link looks at the budget the state is currently working within at this time.

The CBP's annual chartbook looks at key components of — and the background for — the Governor's budget proposal. http://www.cbp.org/pdfs/2014/140219_budget_chartbook.pdf

FEDERAL UPDATE

NATIONAL ELECTIONS – U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CALIFORNIA DISTRICT 45

Be sure you are registered to vote in the national election on November 4, 2014 - can visit ocvote.org until October 20th to register or verify voting status.

Orange County's current Representative in the U.S. House, John Campbell, is retiring. Drew Leavens (D) and Mimi Walters (R) are running to replace him. All citizens are encouraged to learn about the candidates and their views on education and other issues affecting local children and then to vote.

2015 FEDERAL BUDGET AND EDUCATION FUNDING

On September 18, the Senate approved House Resolution 124, a "continuing funding resolution" or CR, to maintain current 2014 funding levels until December 11, 2014. The new 2015 fiscal year began on October 1, 2014 and without the CR we would be experiencing another government shutdown. The president has asked for a 2% increase in education funding, outcome unclear for now. Both houses are currently on recess from DC until mid-November.

Background for Leg Reps Only:

According to the 1974 Budget Act, the president is supposed to present a budget request to Congress by the first Monday of February. Both houses of Congress are supposed to approve a concurrent budget by April 15. However these deadlines are unenforceable and often ignored. The practical deadline for budget approval is usually October 1 since that is when a new fiscal year begins.

The national budget is divided into 12 parts along the lines of 12 appropriations subcommittees, one of which is the "Labor, Nondefense Discretionary* and Education" subcommittee. The hope is that all 12 budget bills will be combined and passed in an "Omnibus appropriations bill" by December 11 when the 113th Congress adjourns.

Labor, NDD & Education	2014 Budget \$156.8 B	Obama 2015 \$158 B	House 2015 \$155.7 B	Senate 2015 \$156.8 B
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* Medicare and Social Security are "mandatory" appropriations because they are spent automatically according to set formulas as opposed to "discretionary" appropriations, which may or may not be spent in any given year.