



*everychild. one voice.*

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

**In Local News:**

In our advocacy work, we will continue to highlight the needs of all students, no matter what program, when talking with school administration, and state and federal elected representatives. There are common needs for all our students – access to education; appropriate funding for their schools; access to technology and the necessary infrastructure to promote and support computer-based learning; universal feeding for all students so no one ever goes hungry while trying to learn.

In November, Superintendent Vital, Ryan Burris, Jessica, and Michele met with staff members of Representative Rouda, Levin, and Porter's offices. Our discussions focused on the needs of additional Federal stimulus funding to help with the expense of reopening schools during a pandemic and how long modifications to "traditional" school opening might be in place. The district is needing to plan for things to not be "normal" for the next 18 months to 2 years. As advocates, we need to continue to focus on helping to get the resources in place to benefit all our students – both ones in person and online.

As you read the report this month, things are changing fast and I compile this report over the time between the last one and the day I send the next one out. So, I have started to include the dates articles are written, so you can see what has changed, but also look for ideas and how they evolved over a period of a month. Life is happening fast and changes to what may or may not happen in education are happening even faster. I am hoping noting the dates helps people keep track of information.

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>

California Blueprint for a Safer Economy:

<https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/> This site updates every Tuesday with new data and updated county color coding.

Orange County COVID-19 Dashboard:

<https://ochca.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/cc4859c8c522496b9f21c451de2fedae> where you can track daily reported cases, deaths, cumulative numbers and other statistics specific to Orange County.

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

November 18, 2020 – Board Meeting - <https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/3191114534131122296.pdf>

November 4, 2020 – Board Workshop - <https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/4184160112065181941.pdf>

(Agenda only - exhibits not available at time of writing.)

October 21, 2020 – Board Meeting - <https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/504105869126867569.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](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 – Save the Dates – February 22-26, 2021**

Sacramento Safari is being held virtually this year with workshops on Monday – Thursday, and meetings with legislators on Friday, February 26, 2021. More news to come on this exciting event. As of right now we do not know what the cost will be – so please keep Sacramento Safari in your budgets, you do not need to release funds until closer to the event. HOWEVER, it should be much more affordable than in the past since we are not paying for airfares, hotels, or meals. Sacramento Safari is open to ALL PTA members, not just leg reps. This will be a great year to expose additional PTA members to what happens during this important annual advocacy trip and hopefully build upon this year for the future.

#### **Teleconferencing Points for Legislative Chairs, November 2020**

- Decline to sign! The tobacco industry is trying to stop a ban on flavored tobacco products that was recently passed by state legislators and signed by Governor Newsom. California State PTA worked hard to help get this law passed. Please do not sign petitions to that will delay implementation of the law and put it on the 2022 ballot for voter approval or denial.
- One good thing about the pandemic is that all of the PTA advocacy events next year – national, state and Fourth District – will be virtual. That means we can all participate in those programs without having to travel. There will be more information in the coming months.
- Speaking of virtual events, the annual Superintendents Forum will be held via Zoom on November 12 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. It's always very interesting to hear what our Orange County school district superintendents are doing and this year, of course, it will be especially interesting.
- Do you know where the money that supports our schools comes from? The Communicator has an article that explains the various sources of education funding in California. Some of it may surprise you.

- There's a great quote from Ed100 in the Communicator. It says that California's education system has no independent watchdog so we are it!
- The next online CAPTA Advocacy Webinar is on Wednesday, November 4, from 7 to 8 p.m. Registration information is in the Communicator.

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 Wednesdays.

Here is the schedule of upcoming advocacy webinars through June 2021. The webinars generally take place the first Wednesday of every month, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. (with some exceptions):

- Dec. 2, 2020
- January 2021 - no webinar
- Feb. 3, 2021
- March 3, 2021
- April 7, 2021
- May 5, 2021
- June 2, 2021

To register for any or all of these webinars, click here:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/31940121174953740>

### **California PTA News:**

California State PTA is excited to announce that we will be holding an **all-virtual** Legislation Conference on **February 8-9, 2021**. We hope you will join us for this new and exciting format!

During the conference, whose theme is "**A Path to Equity**," you'll hear from legislators and other leaders from around the state on matters that are important to the children and families of California. There will also be a strong focus on how to schedule, plan and execute a meeting with your legislators.

The cost will be \$50. Registration information is coming soon ♦ keep an eye on your email, the California State PTA website - <https://capta.org/programs-events/legislation-conference/> , and our social media accounts!

## **Racial Equity Book Club – A great idea from CAPTA**

As part of California State PTA's commitment to equity, the Legislation Team is learning more about systemic racism and its effect on children and families. Our first step is a monthly book club that focuses on public policy decisions and how these decisions can perpetuate racial injustice. This knowledge can guide and expand PTA advocacy efforts to support opportunity for all.

You might want to host a book group in your PTA in order to increase awareness in your community about the issues around systemic racism. For some ideas on how you can use *The Color of Law* by Richard Rothstein to help students understand one cause of racial injustice and how it affects their lives, read [One Way Your School Can Address Racism](#).

Our monthly book list includes:

- *How To Be an Antiracist*, Ibram Kendi
- *The Color of Law*, Richard Rothstein
- *The New Jim Crow*, Michelle Alexander
- *White Fragility*, Robin DiAngelo
- *Ghosts in the Schoolyard*, Eve Ewing
- *So You Want to Talk About Race*, Ijeoma Oluo
- *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide*, Carol Anderson
- *My Grandmother's Hands*, Resmaa Menakem
- *We Gon Be Alright*, Jeff Chang
- *A More Beautiful and Terrible History*, Jeanne Theoharis
- *We Want to Do More than Survive*, Bettina Love
- *Dying of Whiteness*, Jonathan Metzl
- *Stamped from the Beginning*, Ibram X. Kendi
- *Caste*, Isabel Wilkerson

Here is what we have learned so far:

***How To Be an Antiracist*** by Ibram Kendi: "Structural racism is the problem ♦ not people."

***The Color of Law*** by Richard Rothstein: This is a forgotten history of how our government segregated America. It includes details on redlining, bank refusals to provide housing loans, and local discriminatory decision making.

***The New Jim Crow*** by Michelle Alexander: Mass incarceration spurred by the war on drugs has created a caste system for people of color both in jail and in our communities. Read a review of this book by a member of the Leg Team at <https://capta.org/book-review-the-new-jim-crow/>

## **In State News:**

**In 'remarkable' turnaround, California schools can expect huge one-time windfall next year, LAO says: Despite high unemployment, state revenues rebound quicker than predicted.** By John Fensterwald – November 18, 2020 – An uneven recession savaging low-income Californians, but a surprisingly fast economic rebound advantaging high-income Californians, will create a huge unexpected state budget surplus that will provide an unexpected \$13.1 billion in one-time revenue for K-12 schools and community colleges in the fiscal year starting July 1, 2021, the Legislative Analyst's Office reported on Wednesday. ... While tempering its forecast because of the pandemic's unpredictability – "Despite being our best assessment, our main forecast will be wrong to some extent" – the LAO's report documents what it calls a "remarkable" turnaround. The LAO's annual projection precedes the governor's budget by about two months, but usually is an accurate forecast of revenues and spending obligations. Read the complete article at: <https://edsource.org/2020/in-remarkable-turnaround-california-schools-can-expect-huge-one-time-windfall-next-year-lao-says/>

**California to consider shorter Smarter Balanced tests this spring** by Sydney Johnson – November 4, 2020 – Teachers, administrators and parents wondering about the status of California's annual standardized tests can expect to get clarity this week. ... On Thursday, November 5, 2020, the State Board of Education will vote on whether to revise and shorten the state's annual standardized Smarter Balanced tests in math and English language arts. Read the complete article at: <https://edsource.org/2020/california-to-consider-shorter-smarter-balanced-tests-this-spring/>

**How P.E. teachers are trying to get students off the couch during the pandemic – Keeping students active is crucial for their mental and physical health – especially now, teachers say.** By Carolyn Jones – November 5, 2020 – Imagine trying to work out in a crowded living room, with no exercise equipment besides rolled-up socks and soup cans. ... For many students in California, that's what physical education class looks like these days. Since campuses closed in March, P.E. teachers are scrambling for creative ways to keep students physically active – with no gymnasiums, sports fields or playgrounds – at a time when experts say students' physical and mental health is paramount. Read the complete article at: <https://edsource.org/2020/how-p-e-teachers-are-trying-to-get-students-off-the-couch-during-the-pandemic/>

**California schools chief Tony Thurmond: 'This is the time for an abundance of caution': EdSource's Louis Freedberg talked with State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond on Nov. 16, just hours after Gov. Newsom announced that California was pulling the "emergency brake" on reopening schools and other businesses and institutions in the face of a dramatic surge in Covid-19 infections. The following is a lightly edited transcript of the conversation.** By Louis Freedberg – November 17, 2020 – The data you heard today is a confirmation of what we've been hearing about a surge as we head into what should be a happy time. But Thanksgiving could be a time that adds to that surge. What

we've heard today is a warning for caution going forward. We know that a number of districts were angling to open in January. We're going to really need to monitor data for the next few weeks and use that as our guide to determine whether, in fact, schools will be able to open at that time. Read the complete interview at:

<https://edsources.org/2020/california-schools-chief-tyon-thurmond-this-is-the-time-for-an-abundance-of-caution/>

**California voters pass most school construction bonds, parcel taxes on ballot: Passage rate is high, but fewer districts put bonds on the presidential ballot this year.**

By John Fensterwald – November 6, 2020 – While voters statewide likely defeated Proposition 15, which would raise taxes on commercial property to increase funding for schools, voters in dozens of districts agreed by wide margins to raise their own taxes to support local schools. Read the complete analysis at:

<https://edsources.org/2020/california-voters-pass-most-school-construction-bonds-parcel-taxes-on-ballot/>

**At the National Level:**

**IDEA turns 45: Is Congress close to guaranteeing full special ed funding? A new president and growing support among lawmakers gives proponents hope that billions more will be provided for services under the law.**

By Kara Arundel – November 24, 2020 – In the small Sweetwater County School District #2 in Green River, Wyoming, federal funding for special education services is a minor portion – just 2% – of the overall costs to educate the district's 2,600 students. ... That door can't close because when schools commit to services to students eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), those therapies and supports can't be limited or eliminated based on available funding. In other words, schools are legally and financially responsible for each student's plan for special education services. ... That is why districts – large and small, urban and rural – nationwide are looking to the federal government to provide more funding for IDEA, which turns 45 on November 29. Read the complete article at: <https://www.educationdive.com/news/growing-hope-for-special-education-full-funding/> (Hint – the Federal government promised to pay 40%, but are only paying 13% of the costs on average for special education costs. PTA, CAPTA, and CUCPTSA are all actively advocating for FULL FUNDING of IDEA.)

**Community colleges find an advocate in future First Lady Jill Biden: Biden will become the nation's first First Lady to continue teaching outside the White House.**

By Ashley A. Smith – November 10, 2020 – For the first time in American history, the nation's First Lady will hold a job outside the White House, and that job will involve teaching. ... Jill Biden will continue teaching English at Northern Virginia Community College, where even as Second Lady, she has advocated for students and education after high school. Read the complete article at:

<https://edsources.org/2020/community-colleges-find-an-advocate-in-future-first-lady-jill-biden/>

**Tracking how the coronavirus is impacting school districts: From the shift to distance learning to the impact on school budgets, we're collecting news, analysis and expert advice on how K-12 is responding to the pandemic.** By

Roger Riddell, Naaz Modan, and Kara Arundel – this is updated almost daily and you can review back to mid-May by week to see what has been happening. .... While the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act may have helped stave off large budget cuts this year – the average state budget cut was between 15%-20% rather than the projected 20%-30% - there are still about 570,000 fewer local education jobs, Michael Leachman of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities tells NPR. Read more of what is happening at <https://www.educationdive.com/news/tracking-how-the-coronavirus-is-impacting-school-districts/578628/>

**Why special education advocates are hopeful about the Biden administration: As a candidate, Biden promised full funding of programs that benefit students with disabilities.** By Carolyn Jones – November 20, 2020 – With new leadership headed to the U.S. Department of Education, special education advocates are expecting big changes in policies that affect students with disabilities – including more guidance on distance learning, more funding, and broader improvement that can benefit all students. ... “(Biden’s election) sends our hearts into elation because we’ve been fighting for these things for years,” said Maureen Burness, a special education consultant and retired co-director of California’s Special Education Task Force. “We feel this is a real opportunity to make positive changes to help students with disabilities.” ... Full federal funding for special education could mean billions of dollars more for California schools. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the federal government is required to cover 40% of states’ special education costs, but has never achieved that. In the 2018-19 school year, the federal government covered only approximately 8.4% of special education costs in California, leaving the state, counties and school districts to cover the rest, according to an October report by WestEd, a research and consulting firm. Read the complete article at: <https://edsources.org/2020/why-special-education-advocates-are-hopeful-about-the-biden-administration/>

### **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 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)

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 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) ✓