

The Advocate

CUCPTSA advocacy bulletin

Friday, September 4, 2026

Federal · State · Local

PTA calls for action in Washington and Sacramento

Locally, district leaders outline funding shifts, grading updates and a new screen-time policy

Washington —

National PTA is asking families to urge the U.S. Senate to pass the Kids Online Safety Act, S. 1748, aimed at protecting children and youth online.

[**TAKE ACTION NOW**](#)

Sacramento —

California State PTA co-sponsored SB 1048, which would establish the State Seal of Climate Literacy. The bill was presented to the Governor on September 2, and California State PTA is urging him to sign it.

Take a moment to send a message:

[**TAKE ACTION ON SB 1048**](#)

On the November ballot

SUPPORTS

Propositions 1, 2, 3 and 40. These measures address affordable housing, the school rainy-day fund, education and health-care funding, and a one-time tax on covered billion-dollar assets.

OPPOSES

Propositions 39, 41, 42 and 43. No position was taken on Proposition 4, which falls outside California State PTA's adopted authority.

Inside this issue

STATE

A concise guide to California State PTA's November 2026 ballot positions and the reasons behind them.

LOCAL

Updates from Dr. Chris Brown, Ryan Burris, Dr. Greg Merwin, and Meg Ervais - plus five actions for advocacy representatives.

**PTA is nonpartisan.
It does not support or oppose candidates.**

State Desk

California State PTA: November 2026 ballot positions

SUPPORTS

Prop 1: Affordable housing, including housing for veterans, foster youth, students, farmworkers, and tribes.

Prop 2: Strengthens the rainy-day fund to help protect schools during downturns.

Prop 3: Extends existing taxes on high-income Californians to protect education and health-care funding. California State PTA is actively campaigning in support.

Prop 40: A one-time tax on covered assets exceeding \$1 billion; 90% for health care for low-income Californians and 10% for education and food assistance.

OPPOSES

Prop 39: Adds voter-identification requirements that California State PTA says could make voting harder for eligible Californians.

Prop 41: Creates restrictions that could block funding for health care, education, and other services.

Prop 42: Restricts future state taxes and could prevent Proposition 40 from taking effect.

Prop 43: Raises the vote required for citizen-initiated local special taxes to two-thirds.

No position - Prop 4: PTA has no adopted authority addressing campaign-finance structure.

[Read California State PTA's complete ballot-measure information](#)

The Local Desk

CUSD leaders outline funding, communication and classroom priorities

What families should watch - and where parent voices fit

Superintendent Dr. Chris Brown

- **Funding:** CalOps, formerly authorized by CUSD, is now a countywide charter. Dr. Brown said this is expected to move CUSD from LCFF to a basic-aid model, generating approximately \$30 more per student.
- **Enrollment:** The transition may affect future policies for enrolling students from outside the district.
- **School capacity:** The School Capacity and Consolidation Committee review and reporting process is expected to take approximately 18 months.
- **Issues to watch:** Screen time, pesticide use, e-bikes, and district finances. Coffee with Chris and evening forums give families opportunities to hear updates, ask questions, and speak directly with Dr. Brown.

Coffee With Chris

8:15-9:15 a.m.

Sept. 4	Oso Grande
Oct. 2	Las Palmas
Nov. 6	Hidden Hills
Jan. 8	Don Juan Avila ES
Feb. 5	San Juan
March 12	Kinoshita
April 16	Bathgate

Evening Forums

6-7 p.m.

Oct. 7	Shorecliffs
Jan. 13	Niguel Hills
April 13	Newhart



Ryan Burris

Chief Communications and Public Engagement Officer

[CUSD complaint and compliment information](#)

*Start with the person closest to the issue:
Teacher → Principal → Appropriate District
Department*

The Local Desk

Dr. Greg Merwin and Meg Ervais

Associate Superintendent, Education and Support Services · Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Curriculum and Instruction

Instruction and grading

They reviewed Great First Instruction, the CAPO Commitment, and the Vision of a CUSD Graduate.

- **Great First Instruction:** Teacher training, classroom walkthroughs, learning walks, student surveys, family resources, and high school shadow days.
- **Grading:** Parents should see grading policies in course syllabi and hear about them at meetings such as Back-to-School Night. Teachers retain authority over individual grades while Board Policy provides the broader framework.

Technology and reading

- **Screen time and technology:** CUSD plans clearer expectations for classroom technology use. Fall feedback will inform possible spring policy revisions, with costs and professional development considered.
- **Reading by third grade:** Parent workshops, science-of-reading training and preparation for the new English Language Arts curriculum.

The CAPO A-Team

Election Season & PTA

PTA IS NONPARTISAN.

IT DOES NOT SUPPORT OR OPPOSE
CANDIDATES.

DO

- Encourage informed voting.
- Share official California State PTA position statements.
- Discuss issues affecting children, youth, and families.

DO NOT

- Campaign or distribute candidate materials on school property.
- Endorse a candidate using a PTA title.
- Use school or district resources for political advocacy.

CUCPTSA Advocacy team adopted its 2026-28 advocacy goals to guide discussion, organize the work, and explain priorities to elected officials and the community.

