

Fourth District PTA

Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

MARCH 2022

California State PTA sponsors bill to increase base grant funding

California State PTA is a sponsor of AB 1614 (Muratsuchi), which would increase the base grants that school districts receive through the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). The goal is to bring California into the top ten states in the country for K-12 per pupil spending.

Established in 2013, LCFF provides base grants for all school districts, with differing amounts for the grade levels served. Additional grants go to districts that serve students who are English learners, low-income or in foster care. LCFF also gives school districts more flexibility in deciding how the funding is spent.

In the 2018-19 state budget, LCFF was “fully funded,” meaning that all school districts were returned to the level of per-pupil funding they received in 2007-08, adjusted for inflation. However, California has continued to lag behind other states in per-pupil funding. Cost of living adjustments (COLA) to the base grant have not kept up with rising fixed costs.

“Further, as schools, families, and students throughout the State of California continue to struggle with the COVID-19 pandemic, school districts need greater flexibility with their local spending priorities...to focus on sustaining and expanding a student-centered recovery,” according to a fact sheet from Assembly Member Muratsuchi’s office.

The Legislative Analyst’s Office estimates that the Prop. 98 funding guarantee for K-12 schools in 2022-23 will be \$8.4 billion higher than the current fiscal year. The Governor’s proposed 2022-23 budget provides a total of \$102 billion for Prop 98 funding, including an increase of \$3.3 billion in Prop. 98 funding for LCFF, but no additional funding for the base grants.

AB 1614 would take \$4.2 billion (half of the estimated Prop. 98 increase) and add that to the COLA for LCFF. Base grants would increase by about \$3.4 billion, meaning all school districts would benefit. Grants for high-needs students would increase by about \$750 million.

Bills supported by California State PTA

California State PTA has taken support positions on a number of bills, including the following:

AB 452 (Friedman) Requires school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to inform parents and guardians about California’s child access prevention laws and laws relating to the safe storage of firearms.

SB 260 (Wiener) Requires U.S.-based companies that do business in California and with revenues over \$1 billion to annually report greenhouse gas emissions from their operations and supply chain to the Air Resources Board (ARB), and for ARB to issue a report that estimates the emissions reductions necessary to maintain climate change below specified levels and make recommendations for how companies can achieve those reductions.

SB 699 (Eggman) Requires the State Board of Education to adopt a statewide school climate survey indicator, based on data collected from the California Healthy Kids Survey.

AB 126 (Garcia, Eduardo) Provides funding to create additional Family Empowerment Centers, which support families of students with disabilities.

AB 520 (Gipson) Provides one-time competitive grants for new or existing programs to develop a teacher workforce that serves all pupil populations, including Black pupils.

AB 1609 (Muratsuchi) In allocating funding based on average daily attendance (ADA), the state would use the ADA from one of the last three school years, or the upcoming school year, whichever is highest. **SB 579** (Allen) is similar, but includes only the past two years.

SB 70 (Rubio) Requires a child to have completed one year of kindergarten before going to first grade, beginning with the 2022–23 school year.

SB 237 (Portantino) Requires all students in California to be screened for risk of dyslexia in their early elementary years.

SB 291 (Stern) Establishes an advisory council of 10 special-needs pupils, ages 16 to 24, to give input and advice to the state’s Advisory Commission in Special Education.

SB 545 (Wilk) A pupil may be retained in their 2020-21 grade level if deemed necessary because of the impact of the COVID-19, as determined solely by the pupil’s parent, guardian, or custodian.

AB 988 (Bauer-Kahan) Creates an emergency 24/7 suicide hotline and 23-hour crisis receiving and stabilization programs, funded by a charge on telephone lines.

AB 22 (McCarty) Expands access to free full-day transitional kindergarten programs to all four-year-old children.

For a complete list of bills supported by CAPTA, go [here](#). Information about individual bills is available [here](#).

Initiative to increase arts education

An effort to dramatically increase funding for arts and music education in public schools has been launched by a coalition of educators, artists, musicians, and entrepreneurs led by former Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent Austin Beutner.

The measure would require the state to allocate funding each year for arts education. The amount would be equivalent to one percent of the total Prop. 98 funding for K-12 schools in the previous year. In the first year the money would come from the General Fund and after that it would be added to the Prop. 98 minimum guarantee. This would increase funding for arts education by \$800 million to \$1 billion annually, according to a report by the Legislative Analyst's Office.

The proposal would increase the number of arts and music educators in public schools by 50 percent, supporters say.

The text of the initiative states: "Studies of educational achievement prove that arts and music education improve student learning. Music education has been shown to improve cognitive development and spatial reasoning, while the dramatic arts improve reading comprehension. Arts and music education has also been shown to improve school attendance and individual student self-confidence and motivation to learn, particularly among poor and other at-risk students. An arts education also provides a viable pathway to a job in California's creative economy, while developing and expanding culture."

Signature gathering to put the initiative on the ballot is underway. California State PTA has not yet taken a position on this proposed ballot measure but has a long history of supporting arts education in public schools.

Fourth District PTA supports change in Orange County Board of Education elections

Fourth District PTA members at a special Association Meeting in February voted to support SB 286 (Min), which would change the election for members of the Orange County Board of Education from the June primary to the November general election.

The voter turnout for general elections is substantially higher than that for primaries. For instance, in 2020 about 50 percent of voters cast ballots in June, while 87 percent voted in November. In California, most of the county offices of education hold elections in November.

There is no primary election for the Orange County board of education. The person receiving the most votes is elected.

SB 286 would go into effect for the 2024 election and would not affect this year's OCBE election. Incumbent Orange County board members would have their terms of office extended by about five months.

National and California State PTA Position Statements and CAPTA Legislation Platforms emphasize the importance of citizen participation in elections.

For arts advocates:



Tuesday, March 29, 10 a.m.
Irvine Barclay Theatre

Donn K. Harris explores the contradictions, confluences and challenges of a creative agenda in today's schools, with some surprising observations and insights about arts education and its place in the current economic and educational climate.

Harris is Executive Director of Creativity, Vice President of the national Arts School Network and chair of the California Art Council.

This event is presented by Fourth District PTA, Arts Orange County and the Orange County Department of Education.

The event is free but registration is required.

CAPTA Advocacy Briefing

Join the California State PTA Legislation Team for an informational briefing, followed by an opportunity to speak with Legislation Team members, in small group settings, to ask questions and discuss effective ways to advocate at your school, district, and greater community.

The next California State PTA advocacy briefing and office hour virtual meeting will be held Tuesday, March 15, at 7 p.m.

To register to join the monthly advocacy briefing and office hour zoom meetings click [here](#).