

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

NOVEMBER 2021

Is a fiscal cliff in the future for California's schools?

This year California's K-12 schools are receiving the highest level of funding in state history, with billions in extra funding to provide new programs and services. (See Carol Kocivar's [blog](#) at Ed.100 for details.)

While these programs will change the way our schools operate, school districts need to look ahead to the time when the additional funding drops off and schools approach a possible fiscal cliff.

About 20 percent of this year's money – \$25 billion – is onetime pandemic-related federal funding that can be spent over the next three years. That is not likely to be repeated.

A longer-term impact will come from a continuing drop in the number of students. The California Department of Finance predicts an 11.4 percent decrease in enrollment by 2031, a loss of 703,000 students from the pre-pandemic year 2019-20.

Why is this significant? School districts receive state funding based on their average daily attendance (ADA). Fewer students result in less funding, but not necessarily lower costs. With dropping student numbers spread across grade levels and schools, it's difficult for a district to cut

expenses by eliminating staff positions, closing a school or eliminating programs.

There are a number of reasons why enrollment is going down. California's population growth has slowed. In 2020 more people moved out of the state than in. The population is aging, and the birth rate is dropping as many young people delay marriage and children into their 30s.

The biggest drops in student numbers are projected in coastal areas, with Los Angeles and Ventura counties expected to lose almost 20 percent of their enrollment. Orange County student enrollment has been on a slow decline since 2015-16, dropping by about 20,000 students, or 4 percent, during that time.

Statewide, schools lost about 160,000 children during the pandemic year. It's too soon to know how many of those students returned this year.

With the disruptions in attendance last year and this year, state lawmakers have funded school budgets at pre-pandemic attendance levels. That is likely to end for the 2022-23 year, unless the legislature takes action. Education experts advise school districts to start planning ahead now.

On the positive side, the universal transitional kindergarten program that will be phased in over the next three years will bring in more funding. The complex formulas under Prop. 98 could also prop up funding, as long as the economy continues to boom.

Did you miss the Fourth District PTA Advocacy Forum and Training on October 8?
Watch a recording of the event [here](#).

2021-2023 CAPTA Advocacy Goals

California State PTA has adopted the following Advocacy Goals for the next two years:

- Advocate to achieve justice for all children, youth and families to have their essential needs met.
- Advocate for shared power and belonging for all children, youth and families to address the impacts of systemic and institutionalized injustice.
- Advocate for a full and culturally responsive curriculum to meet the diverse needs of our student population.
- Elevate the student voice to create an inclusive, positive and supportive school climate.
- Promote physical and mental wellness beginning in early childhood.
- Advocate for stable and sustainable public school resources to bring California within the top 10 states in per-pupil funding.



Sacramento Safari

Join us for the most exciting
advocacy event of the year!

**March 7 and 8
in Sacramento**

**Cost: about \$700 per
person. (This is a legitimate PTA expense.)**

**Participants must be PTA
members and must be
voted as representatives
of their unit or council.**

School board members and superintendents are welcome.

**Participants must be adults or high school students
accompanied by adults.**

Bills supported by California State PTA that were passed into law

California State PTA took positions on 87 bills that were considered by state lawmakers during the last legislative session. Twenty-seven bills supported by PTA were passed into law, including the following:

AB 14 (Aguiar-Curry) Prioritizes the deployment of broadband infrastructure in California's unserved rural and urban communities by extending the ongoing collection of funds into the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) to provide communities with grants.

AB 27 (Rivas, Luz) Creates three temporary Regional Technical Assistance Centers to help school districts identify homeless students and connect them to services.

AB 37 (Berman) Requires elections officials to mail every registered voter a ballot for all elections and ensure that all California voters can continue to track their vote-by-mail ballot through the mail system and counting process.

AB 48 (Gonzalez, Lorena) Sets clear standards on the use of rubber bullets and other "less lethal" weapons by law enforcement, and prohibits law enforcement's use of tear gas for crowd control.

AB 101 (Medina) High school students will be required to complete a one-semester course in ethnic studies in order to graduate, beginning with the 2029-30 school year. School districts and charter schools will be allowed to require a full-year course for graduation.

AB 104 (Gonzalez, Lorena) For the 2020-21 school year,

students may petition to have their grades on transcripts changed to pass/no pass. They can also petition to repeat a grade. Students who were juniors and seniors during that year may enroll in a 5th year of high school in order to complete any outstanding graduation requirements.

AB 309 (Gabriel) Requires the State Department of Education to develop model referral protocols that schools may use to address pupil mental health concerns.

AB 546 (Maienschein) Prevents homelessness in youth aging out of the foster care system by requiring the county to verify that stable housing and support is in place before jurisdiction is terminated.

AB 856 (Maienschein) Requires the State Department of Education to post information on its website about the safe return of pupils to exercise and physical activity.

AB 1200 (Ting) Prohibits the sale of food packaging that contains perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances beginning in 2023. Starting in 2024, cookware manufacturers must label the chemicals added to their products.

SB 4 (Gonzalez) Provides continuous funding and implements reforms to the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) program administered by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to help close the digital divide and meet the connectivity needs of Californians.

SB 14 (Portantino) Allows excused absence for behavioral health issues and requires school staff to be trained to identify students with mental/behavioral health issues. Students in grades 10-12 will receive instruction in behavioral health issues.

SB 224 (Portantino) Requires school districts to ensure that all pupils in grades 1 to 12 receive medically accurate, age-appropriate mental health education at least once in elementary school, at least once in junior high school and at least once in high school.

SB 274 (Wieckowski) The Brown Act requires a legislative body to mail a copy of its meeting agenda or full agenda packet upon request. This law requires these items to be emailed, or provided via website link, upon request.

SB 628 (Allen) Establishes creative arts workforce development as a state priority and promotes employment and "earn and learn" job training for creative workers.

SB 722 (Melendez) Requires a school district or charter school hosting an event at a pool to have at least one adult supervisor with a CIF coaching certification or valid certification of CPR training.

SB 891 (Chang) Requires increases in education funding from the Lottery to be proportional to growth in the Lottery's net revenue. Also requires the Lottery to pay \$36 million that is owed to public education.

ACA 5 (Weber) Overturns Proposition 209 and allows the state, cities, and schools to consider race, sex, color, ethnicity, and national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, and public contracting.

California State PTA Legislation Conference

Sheraton Hotel, Sacramento
January 24-25
Celebrating 125 years of PTA advocacy

New OCDE website on education issues

The Orange County Department of Education has launched **The 101**, a new website to provide information about current education issues. A variety of subjects are presented in brief articles, with links to additional resources. It is available in seven languages.

"In public education, there are countless laws, policies and governing bodies at the local, state and federal levels that have a direct impact on students, schools and instruction," said County Superintendent Dr. Al Mijares. "We had busy Orange County families in mind when we developed this website as a one-stop resource to find accurate information on noteworthy education-related issues."

Current topics on the site include ethnic studies, mental health, immunizations, sexual health education, and school district governance.