

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

OCTOBER 2021

Now is the time to begin working on a PTA Resolution

Is your PTA unit or council aware of an issue or problem that should be addressed by PTA?

If so, you may want to write a resolution to present at the California State PTA Convention in 2022. This is not a simple process, but it could make a real difference for our children.

Why are resolutions important? PTA is a grassroots organization. When California State PTA (CAPTA) decides to support or oppose a proposed law or proposition it does so based on our Mission Statement, Position Statements and Resolutions that were approved by delegates at the State Convention.

For example, at the June 2020 State Convention delegates approved a resolution calling for the prohibition of the sale of electronic cigarettes and all flavored tobacco products to young people. This gave CAPTA the authority to work for the passage of SB 793, which prohibits the sales of flavored tobacco and vaping products to adults and children in California. (The bill was signed into law, but the tobacco industry funded a petition drive to place it on the 2022 general election ballot as a referendum.)

Putting together a resolution requires a lot of work and is best done by a committee. The resolution can be initiated by an individual PTA member, but it must be approved in a vote by a PTA unit, council or district.

A draft of your resolution must be submitted to the CAPTA Resolutions Committee by November 1. A mentor will be assigned to help you complete the process.

The final resolution must be submitted by January 5.

More information and a link to the Resolutions Procedure Book can be found [here](#).

Where do you take your concerns?

When there is an issue in your child's classroom or school, or in the school district, you want to find a solution. It's important to know where to take your concerns and who has the power to make changes.

- **The teacher** is usually the first person you consult, especially if it's an issue concerning only your child.
- **The principal** runs the day-to-day operations of the school. The principal's authority is limited by district policies and state law.
- **The School Site Council** is an advisory body that brings together the principal, parents, teachers and students to develop a plan for the school's funding.
- **The school district superintendent** has authority over the practices, procedures and operations of the schools under limitations set by the local school board and the state and federal governments.
- **The school board** hires the superintendent, sets the school district budget and makes decisions regarding policies and programs in the district. The board has little control over how much funding the district gets.
- **The State Legislature and the Governor** determine the state education budget and how it will be distributed. They also pass and enact laws that impact how schools operate at the local level.

Who has the power will be covered in detail at the October 8 Advocacy Training Workshop.

Understanding California's School System

Do you need help understanding California's public school system? Or perhaps just a refresher course to go over the important basics?

A 30-minute video about the education system, presented by Mary Perry, a member of the California State PTA Board of Managers, is posted on the Ed100 website. She gave the presentation at the Ed100 Academy for Student Leaders this summer, but it's a valuable lesson for grown-ups as well.

You can watch the video [here](#) or download her slides for a quick review.

Fourth District PTA Virtual Advocacy Training Workshop Friday, October 8 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Get the latest information on COVID protocols and learn how to be an effective PTA advocate.

Guest Speakers:

Dr. Christine Olmstead, Associate Superintendent of Education Services at the OC Department of Education

Dr. Clayton Chau, Director of the OC Health Care Agency

Lea Darrah, California State PTA Director of Legislation



Open to all PTA members

The arts are an important part of a comprehensive education

An education without the arts is incomplete. California State PTA has always been a strong advocate for arts education from Kindergarten on up.

Student involvement in the arts is linked to higher academic performance, increased standardized test scores, greater involvement in community service and lower dropout rates. The arts also foster critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration and innovation. They give students the skills they need to function successfully in the workforce.

Arts education transforms schools into places where students want to learn, and teachers want to teach. Equitable access to arts education positively impacts teacher morale and student growth and can be a tool for social-emotional learning for the entire school community.

There are many ways for you to get involved in advocating for the arts and plenty of resources to guide and assist you.

- Get inspired! Students from across California talk about why the arts are important to them in this brief YouTube [video](#).

Visit your state legislators

With the state legislature on recess until January, this is the perfect time to visit your state lawmakers in their local offices. Here are some tips before you go.

- **Determine the reason for your visit.** A small group of members from your PTA may want to introduce yourselves and talk about the relevance of PTA. If you have a specific issue, make sure it is something the legislator can address, rather than something that should be dealt with at the school district level.
- **Call for an appointment.** Specify how much time you will need and the reason for your visit.
- **Research the legislator.** Find out what bills he or she proposed or supported. Look for common ground.
- **Draft an agenda for your group** that includes an opening, introductions and an order of PTA issues to be discussed. Assign a role to each person, including leader and note taker.
- **Be respectful.** Dress in a business-like manner. Arrive on time. Listen to what the legislator says. Leave after your appointed time, unless the legislator continues the conversation. Build a positive relationship.
- **Present PTA positions.** Research those ahead of time. If you're not sure about an issue that comes up in the conversation, tell the legislator you will get back with the information. Personal positions should be communicated at another time.

Not sure who your legislator is? Go to: [find your rep.](#)

- The California State PTA arts education [page](#) has links to a number of resources.
- CAPTA partnered with [Create CA](#), a statewide arts education coalition, to produce a comprehensive [Parent's Guide to Arts Education in California Public Schools](#), available in English and Spanish.
- Create CA also created an easy way to contact your school leaders and let them know that arts education is important, necessary, and mandated! Find it [here](#).

Ed100 for high school students

Getting students involved in your PTA or PTSA is a wonderful way to hear their perspectives on activities at the school. It's also a great opportunity for students to gain leadership skills and learn effective ways present their issues and concerns.

Ed100 has launched a new effort to help high school students get involved in education issues. The Ed100 Academy is a year-round membership program that any student can join for free. Each month members will be invited to join virtual discussion sessions to learn about the education system, connect with student leaders from all over the state, and contribute their ideas. The first session will be held on Tuesday, October 19, at 6 p.m.

Ed100 is also looking for at least one adult ally at each high school to make sure students hear about the Academy and apply for it.

For more information and to apply as a student or adult go [here](#).

Sacramento Safari March 7 and 8, 2022



We plan to be back in the State Capitol, where the action is! Don't miss out on the most exciting advocacy event of the year. Your PTA should budget about \$700 per person, including flights.

- ★ Hear from key speakers on issues that affect children and schools
- ★ Learn about the inner workings of state government
- ★ Advocate directly to our legislators
- ★ Network with other PTA leaders
- ★ Visit our beautiful state capitol building

Open to all PTA members.