

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

OCTOBER 2024

National PTA adopts change to resolution on gun safety

In a historic vote during National PTA's 2024 Virtual Convention, delegates voted to adopt an amendment to the association's [resolution on Safe Storage of Firearms](#) that calls for the association to support legislation requiring adults to be accountable for storing their firearms safely.

Firearm injury is now the leading cause of death for children under the age of 19. [Research shows](#) that parents are most concerned about their children experiencing gun violence at school. Research also shows that most firearms used in school shootings perpetrated by shooters under the age of 18 were acquired from the home or the homes of relatives or friends.

"For too many years we have been at a crisis point.

No parent should fear for the safety of their child every time they leave home for school or anywhere else. And no child should live in fear wondering if a shooting could happen at their school," said Yvonne Johnson, president of National PTA. "As the nation's oldest and largest child advocacy association, National PTA delegates have bravely taken a stand to push for policies that will make our schools and communities safer and save lives. As our association has done for over 127 years, we remain committed to raising the voices and concerns of parents and we will never stop speaking loudly and demanding more for every child, young person and family across our country."

Read the full statement from National PTA [here](#).

Why California State PTA supports Propositions 2, 3, 4 and 5

California State PTA Board of Managers voted to support four state propositions after extensive study. Each of the measures could significantly impact the lives of California's children, youth and families.

Prop. 2 would authorize \$10 billion in general obligation bonds for repairs, upgrades, and construction of facilities at K-12 public schools and community colleges. The state's school repair fund was last replenished in 2016 and is nearly empty. CAPTA has a consistent history of supporting statewide public education facilities bond measures.

Prop. 3 would amend the California Constitution to recognize the fundamental right to marry, regardless of sex or race and to remove language stating that marriage is only between a man and a woman. National and California State PTA have a number of policies, positions and resolutions supporting the rights of LGBTQ+ youth and families and supporting equal rights under the law.

Prop. 4 would authorize \$10 billion in general obligation bonds to increase the safe drinking water supply, reduce drought and flood risks, improve forest health and wildfire protections, and protect communities and natural lands from climate risks. CAPTA supports measures that prevent, control or eliminate hazards to the health, safety and well-being of all children and youth, and that protect and conserve natural resources.

Prop. 5 would amend the California Constitution to allow for the approval of bonds with a 55 percent vote, rather than the current 2/3 approval requirement, for affordable housing for low- and middle-income Californi-

ans, and for local infrastructure projects. CAPTA has a long history of supporting legislation that improves the lives of children, youth and families in our schools and communities.

More information about the propositions, including links to the CAPTA study reports, is available [here](#).

Fourth District PTA

Advocacy Training Workshop

Friday, October 4

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**North Orange County ROP Center
385 N. Muller Street, Anaheim**

- Hear from California State PTA President Shereen Walter
- Meet Dr. Stefan Bean, our new Orange County Superintendent of Schools
- Get information about the four propositions that CAPTA supports
- Learn about school bonds— what they are and how they work
- Hear updates on state legislation from CAPTA Director of Legislation Kathleen Fay.
- And more!

Open to all PTA members!

Bills supported by California State PTA are chaptered into law

The following bills supported by California State PTA were passed by the State Legislature and signed or approved by the governor:

AB 1005 Allows a probation officer to refer an offense committed by a minor to a youth court that implements restorative justice practices, rather than filing a petition in juvenile court.

AB 1252 Creates the Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the Department of Justice and establishes a Commission to End Gun Violence. Within one year the Commission must report on the implementation and effectiveness of gun violence prevention laws.

AB 1796 Requires school districts to notify family of CTE, AP and IB or other courses available to their student at each school.

AB 1805 Includes the case of Mendez v. Westminster School District of Orange County into standards for history and social science.

AB 1863 Enhances the Feather Alert system by improving communication among law enforcement, tribes, and CHP for quicker and more effective responses to missing indigenous people.

AB 1955 Forbids public schools or their governing boards from enacting policies that require the disclosure of a pupil's gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression without the pupil's consent, and forbids school employees from disclosing this information without a pupil's consent. Also requires the state Department of Education to develop supports and resources for families of LGBTQ pupils.

AB 2173 Authorizes the use of "emotional disability" in special education services in place of "emotional disturbance," which is viewed as stigmatizing.

AB 2927 High school students must complete a one-semester personal finance course to graduate, beginning with the class of 2031.

SB 1410 When the mathematics curriculum framework is revised in 2025, The Instructional Quality Commission is asked to consider allowing pupils in grade 8 to be offered the opportunity to take Algebra I or Mathematics I.

First phase of student database will be available soon

The first phase of California's new education database is expected to go online by the end of the year.

The [Cradle-to-Career Data System](#) (CCDS) is a longitudinal database designed to track California youngsters from early childhood into their working careers. By combining information from 16 state agencies and education institutions, it will allow educators, policy-makers, parents and the public to determine which programs and strategies are the most effective in assuring student success over the long term. It will also allow state lawmakers to make more informed budget and policy decisions.

The system will track students over time, but individual information will be kept private.

The first phase to go live will be a [student dashboard](#) with information about homeless youth, foster children, students with disabilities, English learner status, drop-out rates, parent education levels, and age of entry into school. Future dashboards will deal with early education, college and career readiness, transfer outcomes, financial aid, employment outcomes, and teacher training and retention.

The CCDS will be available to the public. Parents and students will have access to analytical tools, summaries of key student and employment outcomes, and a research library. Students and their families can use these features to assist them with college and career planning, college-eligibility monitoring, electronic transcripts, and access to financial aid and other services.

The CCDS is expected to be fully functional by the 2025-26 school year.

What's it like to go to Sacramento Safari?

Here are some comments from last year's attendees:

- ★ I loved my experience and learned so much!
- ★ I realized the power of advocacy.
- ★ It is always an amazing experience!
- ★ It is such a unique experience to be part of the legislative process and it feels empowering to be a part of our larger group.
- ★ It was really cool getting to go to the capitol building and into legislative offices.

Experience it for yourself in 2025!
Fourth District PTA
Sacramento Safari
February 24 and 25

CAPTA Advocacy Calls

Be sure to participate in monthly Advocacy Calls with the California State PTA Advocacy Team. The virtual meetings will provide you with up-to-date information that will help you do your job as the advocacy representative for your PTA unit or council. The next call is on Monday, October 21 at 7 p.m.

For more information and go to [CAPTA.org](https://www.capta.org).

The Advocacy Communicator is published by the Fourth District PTA Advocacy Team and is intended for distribution to local PTA units and councils. President: Ellen Gravitt. Director of Advocacy: Candi Kern. Communicator Editor: Gisela Meier 1520 Brookhollow Drive, #40, Santa Ana, CA 92705 (714) 241-0495 www.fourthdistrictpta.org