Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator

FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM NOVEMBER 2026

CAPTA urges full funding of Prop. 98 in next budget

By the CAPTA Legislative Advocacy Team

The 2026-27 state budget sets the Proposition 98 guarantee at $128.1 billion, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office**.** That is good news for students in many ways. However, it also holds back money schools are owed, and that is why thousands of PTA members spoke up this year.

What the 2026-27 Budget Does for TK-12 Students

Proposition 98 funds both TK-12 schools and community colleges. Of the $128.1 billion, about 11 percent goes to community colleges, and the rest, roughly $114 billion, supports TK-12 schools and state preschool. For TK-12 students, the budget includes:

- A 4.31 percent increase to the Local Control Funding Formula, which covers a 2.87 percent cost-of-living adjustment plus an additional increase
- $1 billion in ongoing funding for community schools
- A $5 billion one-time block grant that districts can use for local needs
- Higher funding for special education

The budget also makes Proposition 98 the funding source for the entire California State Preschool Program, including community-based providers previously funded outside it. To keep that shift from crowding out other school programs, the state raised Proposition 98's minimum share of state revenue from 39.3 percent to 39.6 percent, about $813 million in 2026-27.

The state also repaid $1.9 billion it had held back from schools the year before.

What the 2026-27 Budget Holds Back

The budget also withholds about $3.9 billion that schools and community colleges are owed for 2025-26, pushing that payment into a future year. That is less than first proposed. The Governor's January budget would have held back $5.6 billion. After PTA members and our coalition partners spoke up, the May Revision reduced the withholding by $1.7 billion, to $3.9 billion. That is real progress for students, and it shows advocacy makes a difference. But $3.9 billion is still owed to schools.

This is part of a pattern. For the third year in a row, the state has used budget maneuvers to delay or reduce money owed under Proposition 98. Schools must make staffing and program decisions in the spring, so money that arrives late, or not at all, makes planning for students much harder. Funds held back today could have kept a counselor, sustained special education and mental health services, or covered rising instructional costs.

PTA Members Took Action

California State PTA's mission is to positively impact the lives of all children, youth and families, and this year our members carried that mission to the State Capitol.

Through California State PTA's Take Action alerts, thousands of PTA members sent more than six thousand digital messages to their legislators and the Governor in two campaigns, urging them not to withhold Proposition 98 funding owed to schools. PTA leaders from districts and councils statewide reached out to their own representatives, and families shared their stories on social media.

We also stood with our partners in the Education Coalition, the nine statewide education organizations that speak with one voice on the state budget. Together, we met with legislators throughout the spring, joined the Coalition's March 24 lobby day, and attended the Coalition's May 21 press conference on the West Steps of the State Capitol. In all letters sent about the 2026-27 budget, the Coalition strongly opposed the withholding and urged the Legislature to reject it.

The withholding shrank from $5.6 billion to $3.9 billion, but the final budget did not eliminate it. Legislators heard, clearly and repeatedly, that California families expect the state to keep its promise to students. That message matters as the next budget takes shape.

What Comes Next

The state has not yet said when it will pay the $3.9 billion. The newly elected Governor will release a proposed 2027-28 budget in January 2027, and California

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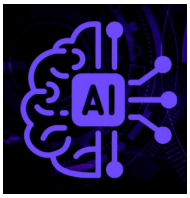

Fourth District PTA

Advocacy Forum
Monday, November 9
4 to 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

Screens, Smartphones and AI

What parents need to know about tech in school

OC school district leaders will discuss:

- Impact of new phone rules
- Digital literacy and AI policies
- Teacher training
- Student privacy and data governance

Register by 11/6

Two bills sponsored by California State PTA become law

Two bills co-sponsored by California State PTA have become law.

SB 747 (Wiener) – Civil Rights Protection creates a legal pathway for people whose constitutional rights have been violated by government officials to seek justice, including the recovery of attorney's fees and costs.

If a state or local police officer violates your constitutional rights — through an unlawful search or excessive force, for example — you can take them to court and seek damages. But if a *federal* agent does the same thing, it's much harder to hold them accountable. Recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions have narrowed the legal options available to people harmed by federal officers, leaving a significant gap in protections.

SB 747 closes that gap. It creates a clear pathway under California state law for individuals to sue any government official — federal, state, or local — who violates their constitutional rights. The bill does not create new rights. It simply ensures there is a meaningful way to enforce the rights we already have, including protections for free speech and peaceful assembly. It also protects us from unreasonable search and seizure, and for equal protection under the law.

CAPTA's position is grounded in our *Democracy in Practice: Constitutional Principles, Human Rights and Civic Integrity* position statement, adopted in August 2025, which states:

To preserve and protect our democracy, elected officials, government agencies, and the public must understand, honor, and uphold the established principles embedded in the U.S. Constitution.

California State PTA co-sponsored this bill because we believe constitutional protections — freedom of speech, due process, equal protection, and more — belong to everyone, including children, immigrants, and families.

CAPTA and Prop. 98

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State PTA and the Education Coalition are already urging state leaders to fully fund Proposition 98, provide stable ongoing funding, and fully fund any new requirements they place on schools.

Your voice will be needed again. Here is how to stay ready:

- Learn the basics on our **Proposition 98 page**
- **Sign up for California State PTA newsletters and Take Action alerts** so you hear from us when it counts.

Ask your school district how state funding decisions affect your students.

Thank you to every PTA member who took action this year. When we speak together, we speak for every child.

SB 1048 (Becker) – California Seal of Climate Literacy establishes a new State Seal of Climate Literacy to recognize high school graduates who have demonstrated mastery in climate literacy disciplines and attained green skills. California State PTA co-sponsored this bill in keeping with our commitment to K-12 environmental education that connects classroom learning to real-world action and career readiness.

Participating school districts can offer students the opportunity to graduate with a Seal of Climate Literacy on their diplomas, signifying their completion of relevant science and climate literacy coursework and hands-on experiential learning projects in their communities. In attaining the Seal, students will gain college-preparatory and career-relevant skills and experiences that will enable them to both understand and act on the challenges of a changing climate.

Join us for Ed100 Lunch Bites!

Have you ever wanted to know how the complex California education system works?

Let us help guide you through Ed100's online course that empowers you to make a positive impact in your school and community. Each week we will discuss a chapter with an opportunity to share our varied perspectives and stories across Orange County

You can join anytime through the end of January. For those who can't join us during lunch, we also offer a 7 p.m. same-day option as well!

Discussions start November 2, so **join now!**

Get the facts on teacher pensions

Teacher pensions and their cost to school districts often become a political issue in school districts. It's important for parents to understand how California's pension system works.

Ed100 offers a comprehensive look at the teacher pension system in this newly updated **chapter**. Get the facts!

Sacramento Safari

February 22-23

An advocacy trip like no other!

- Registration opens November 16.
- Get all the information you need **here**.
- Remember that you must book your own flights.

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

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, November 2026

Details are in the November issue of the *Advocacy Communicator.*

- For the last three years the state has held back billions of dollars that are owed to school districts under Prop. 98 requirements, with a promise to pay later. This late-arriving money makes it difficult for districts to budget for the year. California State PTA has joined with eight other education groups to advocate for full funding of Prop. 98. CAPTA urges us all to participate in this effort. The article in the newsletter includes a link to an explanation of Prop.98.
- We're all concerned about AI and other technology in our schools. Fourth District PTA will present an Advocacy Forum on this topic on Monday, November 9, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Administrators from several Orange County school districts will tell us what they are doing in their schools. You can register using the QR code in the newsletter.
- Two bills that California State PTA sponsored were passed into law. One creates a legal pathway for people whose constitutional rights have been violated by federal agents to seek justice. The other creates a California Seal of Climate Literacy that high school students can earn.
- Fourth District PTA has a new program called Ed100 Lunch Bites. We meet virtually at lunch on Mondays to learn about the California education system through Ed100 chapters. If you can't make it for lunch, there's a 7 p.m. option. Sounds like a fun way to become more informed. The link to register is in the newsletter.
- Speaking of Ed100, the chapter on teacher pensions was recently updated. Teacher pensions often become a political issue in school districts and it's important for us to know the facts.
- Registration for Sacramento Safari opens November 16. Who is our PTA sending?

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