CONNECTING: your CHILD, your SCHOOL, your PTA, your CALIFORNIA STATE PTA
The mission of the California State PTA is to positively impact the lives of all children and families.

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www.capta.org
Dear PTA Members,

This edition of PTA in California is all about connecting. We all know how important it is and after more than a year of isolating and distancing, we are all ready! During this season of “Thanks,” I am grateful for each of you — for being connected to a community of people whose mission is improving the lives of children.

Did you know connecting is not just a way to get things done or have fun — there are real health benefits. Research shows that human connection is more important to your health than almost any other factor. People with more social connections typically have better physical and mental health, increased immunity and longevity.

There are plenty of reasons to be connected. PTA has been connecting families, schools and communities for almost 125 years.

In this issue we will share some of the lessons we have learned over the past year, ways we’ve learned to connect even when we couldn’t be together physically. We’ll share great ideas and some upcoming exciting opportunities.

PTA has been around for more than a century and its mission has not changed, but how the work is carried out is always evolving. You are the vital connection in PTA. As a member you make a difference. This is your kind of PTA — you are connecting, including, inspiring and growing PTA. We want to support and help you along your PTA journey.

I want you to know we are all here for you. You are part of an amazing association that has faced challenges before and its strength comes from the team of people who know the importance of caring for and prioritizing all of our children.

If you want to connect more — join me for a Screen Side Chat each month. I’d love to know how things are going for you and your PTA.

Thank you for your dedication, commitment, and service. Thank you for all you do to serve children and families in California. This is your KIND of PTA.

Carol Green
2021-23 President
Message from the Executive Director

Dear PTA Members and Leaders,

Now more than ever, connections and relationships matter. The reopening of schools and communities brings us all closer together, which is vital to the health and well-being of our children and families.

Of course as we connect, we need to adhere to the health and safety standards set forth by our state and local communities. What the pandemic has taught us is that we can “PTA” in more than one way and many of you have done just that with creative local membership challenges, large attendance at your Zoom PTA meetings, volunteering to help welcome back students to campus, and parenting with patience!

As we reopen schools I want to share that one of best programs we offer is a full insurance package for every PTA in California. This ensures our PTA’s are safe and reliable partners as we return to school campuses. We also offer the latest information and guidance on our COVID-19 webpage at capta.org. If you are looking for resources for students, parents, and teachers in all subjects and grade levels, please go to our website and check out the Resource Library.

California State PTA has advocated for connections and relationship building for 125 years this February, 2022. Happy Birthday!

Thank you for your membership and your commitment to positively impacting the lives of all children and families in our great state!

Sherry Skelly Griffith
Executive Director
Organizational Goals

Help All California PTAs Chart Their Path

California State PTA leadership recently voted to adopt goals to guide the organization’s work over the next two years.

These goals shed light on what we believe is essential for our 125-year-old organization to sustain its relevance and achieve its mission of positively impacting the lives of all children and families.

California State PTA 2021-23 Organizational Goals

As you read our goals we encourage you to learn more about each one by accessing the links provided.

- Build and sustain school communities where everyone feels welcome and valued by promoting, practicing, and embracing inclusiveness at all levels of PTA with a focus on diversity and equity.

- Represent, inform, and mobilize members and the public to advocate for the protection, education, health, safety, and well-being of all children and youth.

- Strengthen our voice for children, youth, and families by rebuilding, retaining, and increasing membership.

- Support and develop leaders.

- Promote and build collaborative and inclusive family engagement to create positive outcomes for every child and youth.

- Serve our members through relevant programs to honor our legacy of improving the lives of children, youth, and families.

State Leaders Are Here to Help

In adopting these goals, the California State PTA leaders (including the Board of Directors, District Presidents and the rest of the Board of Managers) commit to supporting our local leaders in the more than 3,000 local PTAs throughout California.

Learn more about the Board of Directors or reach District Presidents throughout California and read the descriptions of Commissions and Committees included in the Board of Managers.

We are all here to help you create your kind of PTA.
Every term, the California State PTA Board of Managers adopts goals that will drive what potential laws we support or oppose. The 2021-2023 California PTA Legislation Team focused on connecting its Advocacy Goals to our values of inclusion and representation for ALL. Director of Legislation Lea Darrah led the team's creation of these ambitious goals to reflect our commitment to equity and justice. These were adopted without changes.

This year, at the meeting to adopt these goals, a member of the Board of Managers asked us to explain the goals in everyday language instead of 'legislative advocacy' terms. This article aims to explain what we mean.

**Goal 1:** Advocate to achieve justice for all children, youth and families to have their essential needs met. We will speak up for every child, youth, and family to have basic needs met on an everyday basis (such as quality food, healthcare, housing, mental healthcare, jobs, and education) to feel healthy, valuable, and capable.

**Goal 2:** Advocate for shared power and belonging for all children, youth, and families to address the impacts of systemic and institutionalized injustice. We will connect the communities we serve to the people and groups who make big decisions, such as laws and how taxes are used. We believe that big decisions affecting the everyday lives of regular people should be made with, not for, regular everyday people.

**Goal 3:** Advocate for a full and culturally responsive curriculum to meet the diverse needs of our student population. Every student should learn about historical, scientific, and artistic role models they can identify with. We will support schools and classrooms that teach with stories that include people who are like all our children, how they helped build America, how they keep America thriving, and what makes a person an American.

**Goal 4:** Elevate the student voice to create an inclusive, positive, and supportive school climate. We support students being an equal part of making decisions in their schools and school districts. We are asking adults to listen to what students, at any age, are telling them, and then make decisions based on what the students say they need—not for them, but with them.

**Goal 5:** Promote physical and mental wellness beginning in early childhood. Science tells us that what happens in a person’s life between ages 0-5 plays a big part in how they will be as older kids and adults. We are going to support caregivers and speak up for every child, so they have the best chance at a happy and healthy life.

**Goal 6:** Advocate for stable and sustainable public school resources to bring California within the top 10 states in per-pupil funding. We aim to connect the financial thriving of our state directly to helping all our students in reaching their full potential. If California was its own country, it would be the 5th or 6th richest country in the world. We believe that our state’s children should experience education that matches the financial might of California.
We all join PTA for different reasons. From the great PTA programs at your school, to the support and best practices developed over years, to the advocacy efforts for all children — joining PTA makes sense.

Parents, teachers, and administrators often join to support the great programs put on by the PTA at their local school. Local PTAs can develop and sponsor all kinds of programs to benefit students. While you've had to adapt to include hybrid or virtual options — programs developed together by families and school staff support students at the school and increase the family-school connection. Just by joining the PTA, friends and family members send a strong message to the young people in their lives that they value education and are partnering with their school.

For community leaders and business owners, joining the PTA is a way to support education and family engagement in your community. It’s also a way to encourage community involvement and civic engagement.

School administrators appreciate PTA’s support structure for volunteer leaders and a long history of best practices and financial procedures. They also value the PTA insurance and guidelines for running a non-profit organization.

PTA volunteer leaders gain skills and receive support as they add value to their community.

“I joined PTA for my kids. I continue to volunteer for all the families I’ve met who want the best for their children. I can’t think of a better way to contribute to my community than by advocating for what’s best for all of our children — just by joining, you do that.”

– Carol Green, President
California State PTA
PTA Fights for Your Child’s Education, Safety, and Welfare

Beyond all the benefits at your local PTA, you are part of the largest child advocacy association in the country, which influences policies and laws locally, statewide, and across the nation. From ensuring adequate public school funding to advocating for a full curriculum and system of continuous improvement, PTA members are making a difference. PTA gives you a “seat at the table” when important decisions are being made. PTA advocates for laws to protect our children. PTA members join together to have a voice for children – together we can do more.

PTA Fights for Your Child’s Education, Safety, and Welfare

PTA Fights for Your child’s education from ensuring adequate public school funding to advocating for a full curriculum and system of continuous improvement, PTA members have helped make a difference. When you join PTA, you join a nationwide coalition of parents, families and communities who fight for education and fight to ensure your child, and all children, can succeed and thrive.

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PTA Fights for Your child’s education from ensuring adequate public school funding to advocating for a full curriculum and system of continuous improvement, PTA members have helped make a difference. When you join PTA, you join a nationwide coalition of parents, families and communities who fight for education and fight to ensure your child, and all children, can succeed and thrive.

Only One PTA

There are many parent groups out there, but there is only one PTA. Connecting families, schools and communities for 125 years, PTA is the largest child advocacy organization in the country. If you care about the future, we know you care about children, for their education, health, safety, and welfare. For more than a century PTA has been advocating for all children and we continue that work today. This is your kind of PTA – you belong in PTA.

Join us today
Helping “Digital Native” Kids Navigate the World

By Mary Perry, California State PTA Communications Commission

We often think of today’s young people as “digital natives” who navigate tablets and cell phones as if they were born to do it. They practically were after all! But a five-year-old’s ability to log into their favorite app, or a 14-year-old’s familiarity with the latest social media, does not mean they know how to navigate in the digital world. Keeping our kids safe and helping them thrive in that world is a big challenge for parents/caregivers and educators alike.

Thankfully, the experts in all things digital at Common Sense Media and Common Sense Education have made it their mission to provide guidance and a roadmap. They also sponsor Digital Citizenship Week (each October) to bring attention to that work.

“Digital citizenship is the responsible use of technology to learn, create, and participate.”
- Common Sense Media

For more than a decade, Common Sense Education has developed and refined a school curriculum around Digital Citizenship. In 2021 they updated that work in a new publication called, Teaching Digital Citizens In Today’s World. The curriculum covers six major topics based on questions we need to help kids address, in order for them to navigate the digital world they live in. (The following is adapted for parents from that publication.)

“How can I use media in ways that give meaning and add value to my life?”

During the pandemic, the issue of media balance and parents’ concerns about screen time shifted as young people depended more on online devices to stay connected to school, friends, and family. Going forward, they need to develop strategies for balancing media in their lives and to explore the impact that their use of media and technology can have on their health, well-being, and relationships.

“How can I keep my data safe and secure?”

While we all have rights to online privacy, children have special privacy rights and protections under federal law. Students need to learn the difference between private information they should not share and the benefits of safe online sharing, such as learning and connecting to their interests. (October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month as well.)
“How can I cultivate my digital identity in ways that are responsible and empowering?”
For young people, digital media can be an important avenue for self-expression and for creative sharing, but that is not without risks. Students need to learn how to slow down and self-reflect before sharing and consider the impact of what they share about themselves, others, and the future.

“How can I communicate effectively and positively to build relationships?”
That question becomes increasingly important as young people enter their teenage years. Students need to explore the benefits and drawbacks of digital media in their relationships, and think through various scenarios related to how they communicate online.

“How can I connect positively, treat others respectfully, and create a culture of kindness?”
Harmful and abusive digital behavior can take many forms, including cyberbullying, digital drama, and hate speech. Students need to learn what to do if they’re bullied online, how to stand up for others who are bullied, and strategies for building positive, supportive communities.

“How can I be a critical consumer and creator of news and media?”
Covering a broad set of skills and dispositions, news and media literacy includes students learning how to assess the credibility of online sources, understanding how and why media is produced, and reflecting on their responsibilities as thoughtful media creators and consumers.

Common Sense has created a wealth of resources for families covering these topics (in English and Spanish). They’re organized based on student grade levels, can be printed out, and are meant to be shared.

Does your school or PTA want to put together a digital citizenship campaign or event? Plentiful resources are available, including an implementation guide that walks you through how to make the campaign a success.
In an organization with more than 3,000 local associations, in a state with more than six million public school students, California State PTA needs a structure that connects us all. That’s why our organization operates at multiple levels as this graphic shows and as this webpage further explains.

Making connections is the name of the game for the California State PTA Leadership Services Commission. For example, we presented five, 90-minute trainings for 135 District PTA leaders throughout California this fall. The workshop topics included Treasurer, Secretary, You’re on the District Board Now, Parliamentarian, and Membership. At each level of PTA the basic operational responsibilities are the same. Why just District PTA leaders? Each level (starting with our state PTA) is expected to connect with the next level to provide technical support and a helping hand when needed.

The 27 District PTAs provide critical training and nearly round the clock assistance to local PTAs within their regions. District PTA leaders also work alongside the California State PTA Board of Directors to assure necessary work for the statewide organization is accomplished.

Through this coordination, training, and support, associations and their leaders undertake the essential functions of any successful business: leadership and teamwork, sound financial practices and transparency, communication, member/constituent/customer engagement, work within the school and in the community, tax filing requirements as a trusted nonprofit organization, successor identification, and the legal structure of bylaws and job descriptions.

While the business role is important, every PTA in California needs to also address our primary mission: to positively impact the lives of all children and families. That means working within and outside the schoolhouse doors: including the welfare of children, education, health, digital and social media literacy, nutrition, early childhood education, juvenile justice, street safety, product safety, parent education, and more.

Every PTA association — from our school-level units, to local councils, to regional districts — welcomes members who show their support by joining, and those who choose to volunteer.

Here’s our message to all Californians: “If you have time, PTA can help you use it wisely and feel valued for your contribution. It’s easy to find your niche. To support PTA or volunteer, you need not have a child enrolled in school — join PTA today. Connect with your local PTA unit, council or district, which proudly supports children and their families.”
Family engagement is the core of what we do in PTA — it isn’t a program to do once in a while — it’s a practice that we must embrace in all we do to help form connections between schools and families/caregivers. Throughout the last year and a half what we have known about the connections between schools and families/caregivers has shifted in many ways. Let’s see how family engagement has pivoted and how we can keep moving forward this school year.

By Heather Ippolito, Vice President for Family Engagement

During Lock-down

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<td>Families got to see what their students were doing in school and participated in their child’s educational experience daily.</td>
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<td>We missed connections and relationships that were generally made at the school during family nights, PTA meetings, and drop-off and pick-up conversations that had to be shifted to a virtual space.</td>
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<td>Not all students and families experienced the same things. Many faced the lack of technology, racism, or food/job/healthcare insecurity, to name a few of the challenges.</td>
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<td>Family engagement looked different. The events and opportunities that were part of our traditions (Harvest Festivals, Graduation Ceremonies, etc.) had been altered or canceled.</td>
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<td>We often looked at things with a deficit lens. The conversations focused on learning loss, lack of social interaction with peers, and all of the things that the pandemic took away from our children.</td>
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Entering the 2021-22 school Year

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<td>When the community comes together we can do amazing things. Let’s continue the partnerships we developed over the last year and a half that allowed us to feed children, bring technology into homes, and connect community services to those in need.</td>
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<td>Many families haven’t been on the campus for over a year, and some have never set foot on the campus. Spread out welcome events past the first week of school (we need to reestablish connections). Offer opportunities for families to reconnect with the school — a choice of in person, virtual or hybrid options allow more families to participate.</td>
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<td>Families are a key part of the education team and need to be included on the journey. They are the experts on their child and their contribution needs to be honored, respected, and valued.</td>
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<td>As schools and families reimagine new ways to work together it will take risk, change, learning, and repair. We have the opportunity to change some traditions to focus on equity in our programming to help everyone feel welcomed and included.</td>
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<td>Look at some positives that came out of the pandemic: increased time together, stronger family connections with the school/teachers, skills like resilience and grit. While our children were met with challenges, they have gained skills that we never imagined (including impressive technology skills and a mastery of teleconferencing platforms).</td>
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Let’s not lose this momentum for increased family engagement and connection. Check out our weekly Family Engagement Friday posts on the California State PTA blog.
Preparing for parent-teacher conferences.
Ethnic studies model curriculum for high school students.
Understanding the California Department of Public Health’s (CDPH) new Public Health Order, Vaccine Verification for School Workers, and what it means for parent volunteers on campus.
Changes to the Independent Study law and what your rights are as parents.
Options for high-quality distance learning.
Format for local school board meetings and access to public comment as a result of recent amendments to the Brown Act requirements.
Addressing learning loss and accelerated learning strategies.
Measuring student learning and changes in state testing.
Local protocols for instruction, after-school activities and athletics during PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events and when air quality issues arise.
Strategies to support student wellness and mental health resources.

The 2021-21 academic year is underway, and students across the state are back in classrooms. Now is a great time to connect to your child’s education by engaging with your local school leaders about these important education initiatives:

To learn more about issues impacting your child’s education, visit www.capta.org and then click “Focus Areas” and “Education.”

By Laura Mudge, Vice President for Education
8 Steps to Effective Advocacy

By Dianna MacDonald and Beth Graves Meyerhoff, California State PTA Legislative Advocates

California State PTA supports children and families and advocates for laws that protect the health, safety, welfare, and education of children throughout California. Are there issues or concerns in your local community inspiring you to become an advocate?

Here are eight steps that will help you make sure your voice is heard:

1 Identify the Issue.
   What are your questions or concerns?
   What do you hope to accomplish?
   The first thing you need to do as an advocate is to identify the issue you want to focus on. What do you hope to accomplish? Whether you need a crosswalk at your school, your child is struggling in class, or you want to draft or support legislation — you have to start with identifying the issue.

2 Identify who your audience is and find your allies.
   Who do you need to contact to accomplish your goals?
   Can you identify a team or allies to help you accomplish your goals?
   When our children are struggling, we can pretty easily figure out who we need to speak with. We can start with their teachers, then possibly the principal or even the school superintendent or school board if the issue is more complex. Identifying those we need to speak with is critical for the strategy. Having clear questions and concerns outlined before the meeting can help us find a resolution of our concerns or issues.

   It is always easier to tackle an issue if we have a team working with us to make an impact or a change. Sometimes it starts with just you and that is powerful but anytime we can identify others to join our movement, it can result in a quicker action by decision makers.

3 Do your research on the issue.
   Do you have statistics or data to document your issue or concern?
   How has this issue been addressed by other schools/districts/communities?
   If we have statistics, or memorable facts about why we need to change or act on something, we have a much better idea of who we need to engage. If you want to have a crosswalk put in at a busy intersection where children walk to school, research traffic statistics about that area. Have there been safety issues, ticketing issues, documented incidents in that particular area? Finding out these facts and doing your research helps you to share your story.

Steps to Advocacy, continued on page 15
4 Seek two-way information and identify key issues and possible solutions.
   What are the key issues?
   What are the possible solutions?
When you have identified who you and your team need to meet, start by asking them questions. We need to find out all the reasons or roadblocks that could impact the change we want to make. Is it funding, lack of staff, or is it just that perhaps they are used to doing things the same way they have always been done? Consider potential arguments and how to counter those arguments.

5 Regroup and change strategy if needed.
   Do you need a new or updated strategy?
Once you hear the concerns or the arguments against or even in favor of the change you are seeking, regroup and map out your new or updated strategy. The main thing is not to give up. Any time we want to see a change, it is rare that we can have an instant fix.

6 Ask for action.
   What is your ask?
   Do you have stories or examples to communicate information?
Once you have gone back, taken a breath, and perhaps revised your strategy or approach, it's time to return to the decision makers to ask them to act. Figure out who your best speaker is on the issues. Can you bring in an expert on the issue? Practice, practice, practice when you are presenting to any group or decision maker and make sure you know your material. Be prepared for questions. Be clear with your ask. Listen carefully and ask questions. Use stories or examples to communicate information.

7 Documentation.
   Do you have a notetaker for meetings and a record of contacts?
Take notes during meetings as well as names and contact information for people you meet with. Keep a file of written responses, including emails.

8 Follow-up.
   If you did not reach a solution, is changing strategy or compromising a possible solution?
The only failure in trying to achieve a change is giving up if it doesn't happen quickly enough. Consistent communication, building relationships, and gathering allies to help you in your cause is key. Sometimes you may not succeed in attaining your primary goal no matter how hard you try. Are there possible compromises to reach a solution?

PTA does an incredible job of empowering its members to speak up and speak out to create the change we want in the world. Persist, we cannot and must not give up. Our children and families count on us, the change makers. We must be brave and connect the faces and stories of our children, and their needs, to our decision makers. We have to be vulnerable and share our stories with our communities and families to help them see that they too can be changemakers. PTA’s advocacy is woven throughout the 125-year history of our organization’s advocating for change and we must continue.
Governor Signs a Wealth of PTA-Supported Bills into Law

During the most recent legislative session, the California State PTA Legislative Action Committee supported the bills listed below that Governor Gavin Newsom has signed into law. You’ll find a complete list of Assembly Bills (AB) and Senate Bills (SB) on which California State PTA has taken positions on the California State PTA website, Advocacy tab. Each bill we list includes up to date information about its status, our PTA position on the bill, and as appropriate tells you which of our advocates is actively working on the bill. Our bill list is separated into these topic areas: Community Concerns, Health, Education, and Family Engagement.

**Community Concerns Bills**

**AB 27** (Ruiz) sets up processes for helping identify the needs of our homeless youth and families, and helps ensure that all homeless students are identified.

**AB 57** (Gabriel) implements a school-based program in conjunction with local school districts and local law enforcement agencies aimed at teaching students how to report all suspected hate crimes.

**AB 367** (Garcia) requires all public schools with grades 6-12, California State Universities, and community colleges to provide free menstrual products in student restrooms. California State PTA sees this as related to education and health equity.

**AB 742** (Calderon) authorizes individuals, via their tax filing, to contribute to a public fund which supplies homeless children with school supplies and health-related products.

**AB 1200** (Ting) bans toxic perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in paper food packaging and requires cookware manufacturers to disclose hazardous chemicals in their products. **AB 652** (Friedman) extends the PFA prohibitions to juvenile products.

**SB 28** (Caballero) expands the authority of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to regulate cable video franchises and prohibits video providers from denying access to their services on the basis of a potential subscriber’s income.

*Click here to see a full list of Community Concerns bills.*

**Health Bills**

**AB 309** (Gabriel) requires development and website posting of model referral protocols for addressing pupil mental health concerns, contingent on funding.

**AB 366** (Rubio) changes foster placement policies for sibling groups and requires reporting on whether foster youth have received comprehensive sexual health education. California State PTA supported this bill to ensure foster children are provided with the information they need to make intelligent choices regarding their sexual health.

**SB 14** (Portantino) requires schools to excuse an absence for a pupil’s mental or behavioral health and requires the CDE to recommend related best practices and training programs for schools.

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**PTA-Supported Bills, continued on page 17**
Education Bills

AB 14 (Aguiar-Curry) prioritizes the deployment of broadband infrastructure to vulnerable and unserved communities by extending funding for the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) through 2032.

AB 104 (L. Gonzalez), signed in June, 2021, as an emergency measure, helps parents protect their students from some of the effects of lost instructional time during the pandemic. Click here to read more about the details of the bill.

SB 4 (L. Gonzalez) increases funding in order to help close the digital divide and meet the connectivity needs of our families.

SB 224 (Portantino) ensures that students in grades 1-12 will receive age appropriate mental health education at least once during elementary, middle, and high school, a requirement California State PTA supports for all students.

SB 628 (Allen) establishes the CA Creative Workforce Act which promotes employment and training for creative workers. California State PTA supports the arts and also programs that assist families through job creation, training, and placement.

SB 722 (Melendez) protects students by requiring school districts to have at least one qualified adult supervisor, trained in appropriate safety techniques, present at school-sponsored activities.

SB 737 (Limón) overhauls the California Student Opportunity and Access Program and authorizes the Student Aid Commission to fund projects that increase accessibility of postsecondary opportunities and financial aid for pupils from underserved communities.

Family Engagement Bills

SB 29 (Umberg) required county election officials to provide ballots and ballot tracking services to voters in the 2021 special election. AB 37 (Berman) made that permanent. California State PTA believes it is important to provide voters with timely options for casting their vote, including vote-by-mail ballots.

AB 48 (L. Gonzalez) limits the use of rubber bullets and tear gas/pepper spray to only peace officers that have received training on their proper and reasonable use for crowd control. California State PTA recognizes that organized demonstrations can increase public awareness of important issues and generate public will to bring about change.

AB 26 (Holden) ensures that all law enforcement agencies in California have specific policies related to officers’ use-of-force when an incident includes force that is “clearly beyond what’s necessary.”

AB 469 (Reyes) requires the CDE to share the current school year’s roster of pupils with the Student Aid Commission in order to facilitate pupil completion of college financial aid forms.

AB 546 (Maienschein) requires counties to verify stable housing and support is in place for youth aging out of the foster care system in order to prevent homelessness.
SB 354 (Skinner) facilitates placement of foster youth with relatives and extended family members who have criminal records but do not present a danger to the child, reducing the disproportionate placement of children of color in non-relative foster care or group homes.

Click here to see a full list of Family Engagement bills.

More Advocacy Successes in 2021

At the close of the 2021 Legislative session, the California State PTA Legislation Team looks back at a few of the historic measures which we supported.

Senate Bill 796: A Step Closer to Historic Justice for a Southern California Family
By Beth Graves Meyerhoff, California State PTA Education Legislative Advocate

In a historic moment, the issue of reparations was addressed by Governor Gavin Newsom when he signed Senate Bill (SB) 796 (Bradford). The bill authorizes Los Angeles County to transfer two parcels of land to the descendants of Willa and Charles Bruce. The property, located in Manhattan Beach, was wrongfully taken from its owners in the 1920s simply because of their race. Click here to read more.

AB 856: Established Protocols for Safe Return to School
By Vinita Verma, California State PTA Community Concerns Legislative Advocate

California State PTA supported Assembly Bill (AB) 856 (Maienschein), and was pleased to see it signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on July 23, 2021. The bill addressed the much-needed COVID era protocols for the safe return of students to exercise and physical activity after testing positive for, or experiencing symptoms of, COVID-19. Click here to read more.

Governor’s Signature on AB 417 Supports College Access
By Beth Graves Meyerhoff, California State PTA Education Legislative Advocate

College opportunities for incarcerated teens and adults increased significantly when Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 417 (McCarty) into law on October 6, 2021. AB 417 authorizes 50 of California’s community colleges to join the Rising Scholars Network in order to increase the number of justice-involved students attending. Click here to read more.

California Supports Diversity with New Ethnic Studies Graduation Requirement
By California State PTA Legislation Team with the Health/Community Concerns and Education Commissions

With the governor’s signing of Assembly Bill (AB) 101 Ethnic Studies (Medina), California is the first state in the country to require that every high school student take an ethnic studies course in order to graduate. This bill requires schools to offer ethnic studies beginning with the 2025-26 school year and makes it a state graduation requirement beginning with the 2029-30 school year. Click here to read more.
California State PTA's
Electronic Membership System

We are excited about the progress our online membership system TOTEM has made, making joining and renewing PTA membership at the local level easier.

More than 2,400 local PTAs have processed more than 300,000 memberships using our online membership system. So consider this your invitation to get started.

Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/starttotem to learn more about this electronic membership system designed specifically for PTAs in California!
FARM FRESH TO YOU

Farm Fresh to You has been farming organically since 1976 and has built a sustainable network of California farms that deliver organic produce, meat, dairy, eggs, and so much more straight to your doorstep all year! There's no commitment, no contract, no delivery fees and no service fees. Payment is made after delivery so you can inspect the goods first - you "Pick it or Skip it"!

California State PTA members can get an ongoing 15% discount by using promo code CAPTA when ordering through the Farm Fresh to You website. Simply enter your zip code, then select your delivery options, box size, and items.

If your zip code comes up as "not deliverable," Contact Neily Messerschmidt to set up your account manually: call (916) 514-0175 or email messerschmidt@farmfresh toyou.com.

Click here for a downloadable flyer with more information.

SKYONE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

SkyOne is proud to partner with California State PTA! SkyOne Federal Credit Union is a full-service, not-for profit financial institution with a network of over 66,000 ATMs and 4,000 shared branches. For over 70 years we have been helping people like you to achieve their financial goals.

Take advantage of this special offer for California State PTA members. Join SkyOne today and receive $25! Plus, SkyOne will reimburse your California State PTA membership dues for the first year! Enter promo code CAPTA. Click here for more information.