



## **Robles-Wong v. California Background**

- Oral arguments in Robles-Wong v. California will take place in the Court of Appeal in San Francisco on Wednesday, January 27, 2016.
- Plaintiffs in this case include three statewide education associations including the California School Boards Association (CSBA), the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) and California State PTA (CAPTA), nine school districts, and approximately 60 individual students and their families.
- At issue in this case is whether the fundamental right to an education – a right which was articulated by the California Supreme Court more than 45 years ago – requires the State to provide our students an education that gives them an opportunity to succeed in the global economy and to become informed citizens able to participate in civic and social life.
- The State denies that the California Constitution guarantees students any such educational right, and even takes the position that the Education Article creates no funding obligation whatsoever.
- Although funding for education has increased somewhat since the depths of the recession, California’s schools still remain substantially under-funded and under-resourced by all measures.
- Robles-Wong is designed to clarify the State’s constitutional obligation to fund an educational system that provides all students the education they need to compete and succeed in our global economy.
- The case has been pending for several years and we are hopeful that the Court of Appeal will return the matter to the superior court for trial.
- California’s health and wellbeing depends upon an educated citizenry. California State PTA believes that state funding must be adequate to ensure all children have the opportunity to succeed and that we begin to close the opportunity and achievement gap.

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