

A message from

Colleen A. R. You,
President



“Informing and educating parents about the new LCFF and LCAP is a top priority for California State PTA.”

Now is the time to seize the parent engagement moment

Well-informed, engaged parents make a vital difference in the health and education of children.

California’s new **Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)** and **Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs)**, as well as new academic standards and a new state testing system, present a historic opportunity to usher in an era of even greater parent and family engagement in our schools.

This is an exciting time – a moment we all must seize. It is especially crucial that as parents we engage both to support our own children’s education, and to help guide state and local policy and decision-making so that all children will succeed.

Informing and educating parents about the new LCFF and LCAP is a top priority for California State PTA. We have many great resources, such as this special edition of *PTA in California*. Be sure to visit www.capta.org to learn even more.

We know there are no shortcuts to raising student achievement or to successful parent engagement. It takes an investment of time, resources and an ongoing commitment.

We also know that authentic engagement is much more than a one-time check-box on a form. It’s about building a culture at every school where parents and family members feel welcomed, respected and appreciated – a culture where

information is freely shared and input is sought and genuinely considered.

Many school districts are already doing excellent work to engage parents, but there is much more to do across the state, especially to reach and engage parents from all school sites, all backgrounds and in all languages.

A vital premise of the new LCFF is that decisions affecting student success are best made by those closest to the classroom. Our research-based **PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships Assessment Guide** provides a valuable framework to facilitate local conversations about your school district’s goals for parent and family engagement, as required by the new LCAP. We recommend that every district’s plan address the six accepted national standards, and that educators and parents have conversations together about the indicators, based on local priorities and needs. We also recommend that, while parent engagement is specifically identified as one of the eight state priority areas that all LCAPs must address, districts should be sure to embed parent engagement components throughout their entire plans.

On behalf of your entire state PTA Board of Managers, I want to thank you for the commitment you make each day to your children, grandchildren and all of California’s children!

The greatest promise of the new era of engagement is that parents, teachers, school staff, administrators, school board members and community members will talk more frequently and work together more effectively.

The results, when we do, will be amazing for children.

