

# ADVOCACY INSIDER

September 17, 2020



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## 2021-22 SCHOOL FUNDING UPDATE

### California Needs to Close a Projected \$20 billion Education Shortfall

Despite urgent calls to the legislature and Governor by the Education Coalition to prioritize and identify additional revenue to close a projected \$20 billion\* education state budget shortfall, the legislative session closed with NO new funding.

"We can't continue to kick the can down the road when it comes to funding our schools and students," said Celia Jaffe, California State PTA President. "We need to address the growing student equity gap that is continuing to worsen during this global pandemic and we call on our state leaders to take this opportunity to create a long-term, stable funding source for schools."



### **\*2021-22 Education Budget Shortfall**

	K-12	CCC	Total
Deferrals	\$11 billion	\$1.5 billion	\$12.5 billion
Foregone COLA (20-21)	\$1.2 billion	\$167 million	\$1.4 billion
Projected Prop 98 Reduction	\$5.6 billion	\$693 million	\$6.3 billion
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$17.8 billion</b>	<b>\$2.4 billion</b>	<b>\$20.2 billion</b>

*Note: CCC=California Community Colleges; COLA=Cost of Living Adjustment*

To date, the federal Government has not provided any new additional relief to California schools. To balance the budget, California is projected to use deferrals—late payments to schools—to “balance” the budget. This can create additional expenses for local school districts and cash flow problems, as they await payment of funds owed by the state.

California State PTA is supporting several funding proposals:

**1. Additional revenue streams**, such as suspending or eliminating tax expenditures (which includes credits, deductions, exemptions, and exclusions) and imposing additional taxes on high income individuals, or corporate tax changes. PTA supported AB 1253 Santiago that would have imposed an additional personal income tax on taxpayers with incomes above \$1 million but this did not get through the legislature this session.

**2. Proposition 15** on the November ballot that will tax commercial and industrial real property based on market value, rather than purchase price. This is estimated to generate between \$6.5 and \$11.5 billion for schools and local communities. This money would be allocated 40% to schools and 60% to local governments. Californians will soon be bombarded with messages about Proposition 15. This Ed100 blog written by California State PTA advocate, Carol Kocivar, "[Can Proposition 15 Untangle California's Funding Problems?](#)", provides a summary of what you need to know.

*The Education Coalition is comprised of the nine statewide K-12 education associations including the California State PTA that work closely to advocate for the 8.4 million students in California's public schools.*

## SB 793 UPDATE

### We did it!

SB 793 (Hill), the bill to outlaw the sale of flavored tobacco was signed into law by the Governor on August 28th. Thanks to all of you who called, wrote letters or completed the PTA online request to email your legislators. This was a hard-fought campaign and every one of you made a difference in the outcome. Because of you, beginning January 1, 2021, it will be illegal to sell flavored tobacco in California. This is the power of PTA.

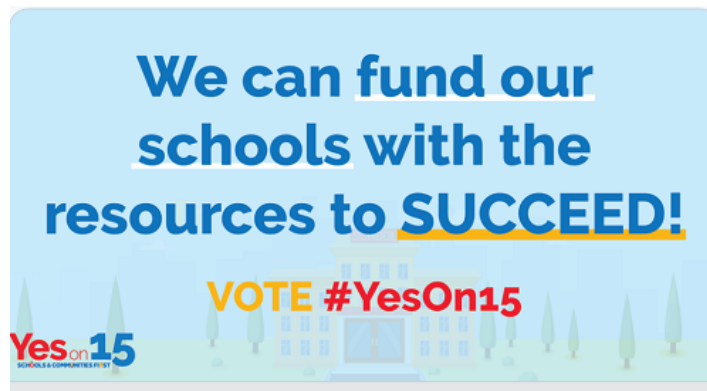


But wait, our work may not be done. On August 31, a request for a referendum on SB 793 was submitted to the Secretary of State. The Attorney General gave it a title and on September 10 and it was approved to collect signatures. The group submitting has to collect 623,212 signatures by December 10, 2020. According to the Secretary of State website, "if the required number of registered voters sign this petition and the petition is timely filed, there will be a referendum challenging the 2020 law on the next statewide ballot after the November 3, 2020 general election." This means the challenge would prohibit the law from being enforced unless the voters vote in favor of the law when the referendum is on the ballot. The next general election will most likely be 2022.

This referendum drive is funded by the tobacco industry. Hopefully they will not succeed but if they do, we must be ready once again to fight for the health of the children and youth of California.

We will continue to follow this and keep you updated.

## PROPOSITION 15 FUNDING CALCULATOR



Find out how much your school district or direct-funded charter school will receive by [clicking here](#).

Find out how much your county and schools will receive by [clicking here](#).

## THE LEGISLATION SOCIAL MEDIA CHALLENGE CONTINUES!

Our legislation social media challenge is still going strong! Please visit the [Advocacy page](#) on the California State PTA website to find social media post templates which you can post to your unit, council or district social media accounts. There are templates for each of the following topics:

- Census 2020
- Get Out the Vote
- Yes on Proposition 15 – Schools and Communities First
- Yes on Proposition 16 – Opportunity for All Californians

LEGISLATION  
Social Media  
*Challenge*

It's fast, easy and we challenge you to participate. Use the hashtag **#PTA4Kids** on Twitter so we can like or retweet your post.

## DON'T MISS THE NEXT ADVOCACY WEBINAR

Join California State PTA Director of Legislation Shereen Walter and members of the Legislation Team on **Wednesday, October 7th** from 7:00-8:00 p.m. for the monthly webinar in which they discuss the latest legislation affecting families and children and their recent advocacy efforts.

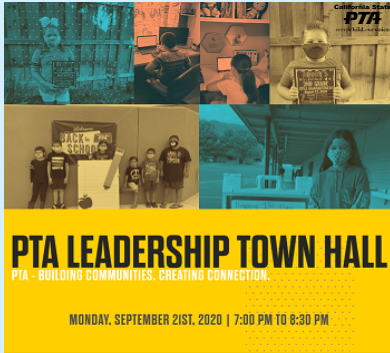
**Registration link:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/31940121174953740>

If your computer does not have speakers or you otherwise have trouble hearing the audio once you've logged in, mute your speakers and call (631) 992-3221 to hear the discussion. Use attendee PIN number 300-067-555. (**Note:** you cannot use this phone number to hear the webinar unless you are registered and logged in.)



# TAKE ACTION!

## Attend the Leadership Town Hall on September 21



Join the California State PTA Board of Directors for a town hall meeting where we will discuss why PTA is more important than ever during these challenging times.

**REGISTER NOW**

## Tell Us Your Arts Success Story



Whether you started an arts club at your school, raised funds for arts programs, or voiced concerns about arts education to your school board, we want to hear your story.

**SHARE NOW**

## Apply Today for a CE Scholarship or Program Grant



Did you know you can apply for a continuing education scholarship for yourself, or a program grant for your PTA? Don't wait – the deadline is October 1st!

**LEARN MORE**

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