Spring Into Summer
Planning, Training and Association Updates

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Stay Engaged Over Summer Break

The school year may be over, but education is year-round! Stay engaged with your school community and continue your child’s education over the summer break with these tips and resources from California State PTA.

Family Engagement
- All students need ongoing opportunities to learn and practice essential skills, especially in the summer. Learn more about ways to learn over the summer at toolkit.capta.org/summer-learning
- See why summer learning is so important and download free resources from the National Summer Learning Association at www.summerlearning.org
- Read the six signs of a great summer learning program at www.summermatters.net, and make sure the one at your school checks the boxes!

Health and Community Concerns
- Sun safety is important year-round, but especially during the summer! Learn what you can do to protect your family from the sun at bit.ly/sunshinesafetytips
- Planning on enjoying the beach or pool with your kids this summer? Stay safe with tips from the American Red Cross at bit.ly/swimsafetytips
- Check out tips for how to have a healthy cookout this summer at bit.ly/healthycookouttips.

PTA Leadership
- Be sure to submit your new officer names so we can send your PTA the summer service mailing
- Set a meeting date with your principal to review goals and needs for the upcoming year
- Save the date for the 2018 Regional Leadership Conferences! Learn about the four dates and locations at www.capta.org/regional-leadership-conferences.

Legislation and Advocacy
- Register to vote!
- Educate yourself on the California gubernatorial candidates. Election time will be here before you know it!
- Sign up for PTA advocacy alerts to learn about current legislation we support or oppose at www.capta.org/legislative-alerts.

Education
- Stay engaged with your school district’s planning process and June approval of its Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). For background on what to know and what to ask, visit www.capta.org/lfcc
- Watch for the results of your students’ state test scores (for grades 3-8 and 11 only) and learn more about what they mean from the California Department of Education’s helpful website: www.testscoreguide.org/ca
- Use summer to learn more about how California’s education system works by reading the brief, interesting lessons at www.ed100.org. They’re written just for parents!

PTA Membership
- Remember to renew your PTA membership on July 1 at your local school
- Have a PTA planning party over the summer! Gather at a park or someone’s backyard and let the ideas flow
- Looking to get inspired this summer? Our Membership Monday emails are quick reads with lots of resources. Read them at www.capta.org/membership-monday.
We are the Change Makers!

PTA has been making changes to society for more than 121 years. For over a century, we have helped to implement laws that make our schools, homes and communities safer and better places. As a PTA leader in your community, you are the link that can impact change. So the question is: how do you become a change maker?

Challenge the status quo!

If we really want to see changes happening in our schools, it will take all of us challenging the status quo. We must be willing to look at how we are operating and ask, “Is this the PTA of tomorrow? Is this a welcoming and inclusive PTA that is relevant for the parents and families of today?” If not, then we must be willing to change. California State PTA has been committed to challenging the status quo in several different areas.

- We have initiated our electronic membership system and are in the piloting phase. We know that most members and potential members want the ease of joining the PTA on their phones with a debit or credit card. How exciting! Read more about the electronic membership system on page 5
- We offer Regional Leadership Conferences across California. These are workshops and leadership development opportunities coming to an area near you this summer that ensure all of our leaders have the chance to attend a conference without the expense of travel. We want all of you have the best resources and the most up-to-date training on how to effectively run your PTA
- We have set goals that align throughout the entire association. Our organizational goals, Board of Director goals and work plan are all in alignment. We are all rowing in the same direction so that we can feel the momentum, and we will keep going together in the right direction
- We developed our Visual and Performing Arts Standards Parent Guide in partnership with Create California so that our parents and members have an understanding of what art standards should be in our schools – kindergarten through grade twelve. We challenge the status quo of not having the arts woven into our children’s school days so that all children have access to a full curriculum, which include the arts bit.ly/VAPAGuide
- Last, but certainly not least, we are fighting for laws to be passed both at the state and federal level to support our students and families, and opposing laws that could harm our public education system and ultimately, our children.

We are doing these things so that we are being continuously reflective about the PTA we want to be. As PTA leaders, the work you do is vital to creating the positive changes we want to see in our schools and communities. We do more than just talk about the things we want our children to have! We work hard to make sure they have what they need to be successful in school and in their lives. Our PTAs help to ensure that our students and schools have access to programs, parent education nights, family engagement events, the arts… The list goes on and on. Thank you for being a leader in your school and for continuously fighting the good fight. PTA leaders are not change thinkers – we are the change makers!

Believe in our children, believe in PTA.

I believe in you,
Dianna MacDonald
California State PTA President
How do we stay as relevant today as we were 121 years ago? I asked this question during our 2018 California State PTA Annual Convention in Ontario, because as advocates for all children and families, the work at the local, state and federal level can be daunting at times. Tony Robbins said, “Setting goals is the first step in turning the invisible into the visible.” This is very true for our parents, families and local PTA leaders. It is our members that make schools strong and support the teaching and learning going on each day and in every classroom across this great state of California.

At California State PTA, we have been working hard to meet our organizational goals with the power of a strong base of volunteer leaders across the state and with our exemplary Board of Directors, Board of Managers and staff. To represent, inform and mobilize members and the public to advocate for the education, health, safety and well-being of all children is one of our top organizational goals. While the school year is winding down and you may be thinking of summer plans ahead, we are also in the midst of an election season here in California. California State PTA held a non-partisan gubernatorial forum during the 2018 Annual Convention with standing room only attendance. Civic engagement – now more than ever – is critical to the success of ensuring all children have safe and welcoming school environments and are provided with a full and rich curriculum, as well as support for their physical, mental and social well-being. Please remember to vote this June and November! Our public schools need you!

We hope you are getting a much deserved break this summer after the busy school year, but be on the lookout for our first ever public will campaign to increase the public’s awareness about the importance of a quality arts education for every student in K-12 public schools. We want to create an outpouring of support across the state reaching out to every sector of our society. This campaign meets our goal of ensuring that every child has a full curriculum in every subject taught in our public schools. Along with a quality arts education, we are embarking upon developing a messaging platform regarding science and the Next Generation Science Standards that are so critical to the success of all students. As you plan your goals this summer, please join us in engaging in these important areas of science and arts education.

You will find that our California State PTA website is a trusted resource and I encourage you to navigate through all the tools and materials provided there – from education policy to leadership tools – to help you make running your local PTA easy! I think you can see that we are just as relevant today at PTA as we were 121 years ago!

Sherry Skelly Griffith
California State PTA Executive Director
Introducing California State PTA’s New Electronic Membership System

PTA leaders across California have been asking for an easy way for their members to join PTA. We don’t all carry around our checkbooks or cash, and at a time when we can buy coffee with our phones and order just about anything online, we wanted to make joining PTA just as easy.

California State PTA teamed up with Moonlight Labs to design a system to meet the needs of our members and local leaders. We asked you what you wanted, and you wanted people to be able to join and rejoin easily. You wanted to invite friends and family members to join PTA through social media and you wanted it to be simple, quick and safe! You wanted the option to still take cash and checks or use whatever payment system is working well for your local PTA. We are thrilled to let you know the new electronic membership system, called Totem, is up and running and coming soon to your local PTA.

PTAs will be able to let members join online with a credit or debit card and other forms of electronic payment. That means friends and family can be invited to join with just a few clicks! You will be able to send a link to all your past members, to families who have graduated but still want to contribute, to grandparents and family members who want to support your children. Click, click done. Plus, PTAs can utilize the power of social media to increase awareness and increase membership. Anyone, anywhere will be able to join your local PTA.

Members still have the option to join with cash, check or any other payment system used by a local PTA. The electronic membership system is optional, not mandatory. With Totem, local PTA leaders will be able to access a membership list and keep track of members in the online system. They will also be able to manually enter other members (those who paid with cash or check) into the system, or download the list to an Excel spreadsheet to be used with any membership tracking system they like.

Currently, we are using the program with the statewide Golden State PTA and are piloting in local units. You are invited to join Golden State PTA, where your membership dues go towards supporting California State PTA’s scholarship and grant programs. The electronic membership system will be available soon to all PTAs in California as long as they are in good standing, are able to provide basic banking information and agree to the program guidelines.

Remember, our membership is our voice! Help us increase our membership so we can speak up for all children. We are here to help you make it easy to join and to support our children.

Email us at emembership@capta.org with any questions or feedback about the electronic membership system, and read more online at www.capta.org/join.
More than 2,000 parents, PTA leaders, educators and community leaders gathered in Ontario from April 27-29 to show they believe in children and they believe in PTA. California State PTA’s Annual Convention is the largest school-based convention in the nation and provides participants with the training, information and resources to kick-start another successful year of PTA membership and leadership.

To see all the convention excitement, visit www.facebook.com/CaliforniaPTA
PTA’s Commitment to Children

Convention Puts the Spotlight on Education

California State PTA, in partnership with Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE), puts the spotlight on education during the Gubernatorial Education Forum during the first day of convention. Moderated by ABC7 Eyewitness News co-anchor Marc Brown, the crowd learned more about each candidates’ vision for California’s public schools with a series of engaging questions.
Convention’s Business of the Association

Convention’s general meetings allowed PTA delegates to enact the business of the association and celebrate our founders’ legacy and vision in the ongoing work of California State PTA. Delegates debated and voted on items to direct our organization, advocacy and future. During the 2018 California State PTA Annual Convention, PTA delegates took action:

★ PTA delegates approved one resolution – Improving and Stabilizing Education Funding

★ PTA delegates approved the Legislative Platform, which lays the framework for PTA action on legislation

★ PTA delegates voted on amendments to the California State PTA Bylaws.

Information for these changes are available to view online at www.capta.org/convention/business-of-the-association.
Take a look for all the latest convention news and updates.

SAVE THE DATE

California State PTA Annual Convention
May 16-18, 2019 in Monterey, CA
Making a Difference in the Lives of Children and Families

PTA members and leaders have many important roles – one of the most important being the role of advocate. California State PTA represents one voice for every child, and strives to positively impact the lives of all children and families by supporting legislation that makes it possible.

Assembly Bill 2878

Family engagement is a key predictor of student success. That’s why California State PTA is sponsoring Assembly Bill 2878 by Assemblymember Rocky Chávez (San Diego). This bill cleared the California Assembly with bipartisan support and is now in the State Senate.

Research shows authentic family engagement leads to reduced absenteeism, decreased dropout rates, increased student achievement and increased graduation rates which lead to young adults who are college and career ready. This bill demonstrates a commitment to connecting families, schools and communities and to improving student outcomes. AB 2878 seeks to use research-based guidelines to define what authentic family engagement could look like in the Education Code to help guide schools. The suggested activities have been developed using research-based family engagement practices and standards, including, but not limited to, the PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships. It could also include:

- Outreach in multiple languages
- Outreach to parents and families that are underrepresented in the school, school district or county office of education
- Outreach strategies that are diverse and innovative.

Adding family engagement to LCFF Priority #3 would better reflect the true engagement local education agencies could implement, based on their local needs. It’s time to engage all parents and families for the success of our students, our schools and our state.

To learn more about AB 2878 – and all other bills that PTA takes positions on – visit www.capta.org/current-legislation.

California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act

We support California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act and encourage our PTA members to get involved in the campaign as well. This initiative will change how commercial and industrial property is taxed and raise between $6 billion and $10 billion to support our schools (40 percent) and other local governments (60 percent).

“Our schools have been desperately underfunded for years, and we need this measure to ensure our children have the resources they need in order to learn,” said California State PTA President Dianna MacDonald. “PTA believes it is necessary to close corporate loopholes that are starving our schools of much needed funding, so that our schools have resources to give our young people a world-class education. We urge parents and families across the state to support this act to give classrooms – and our children – the funding they need.”

The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act would tax certain commercial and industrial real property based on fair-market value – rather than, under current law, the purchase price with limited inflation.

- It exempts agricultural property and certain small businesses
- It dedicates portion of any increased revenue to local services and to supplement, not replace, state’s minimum-funding guarantee to schools
- It provides tax exemption for $500,000 worth of tangible personal property used for business and all personal property used for certain small businesses.

Signature gathering is currently underway for the 2020 state ballot.

Learn how you can get involved at www.capta.org/current-legislation/state-ballot-measures.


## Ending Gun Violence

Gun violence is a public-health crisis that affects us all – most of all, our children and youth. And, it’s preventable. California State PTA has a long history and proud tradition of supporting legislation and programs for the safety and protection of children, youth, and families. School safety is a critical priority for all parents, educators, students and community members. We must make every attempt to reduce violence, especially incidents that involve firearms. California State PTA supports state and federal legislation and restrictions that would prohibit the sale and possession of assault weapons for non-military/non-law enforcement use.

California State PTA also supports the rights of students to express themselves on campus through organized demonstrations, but believes that care must be taken to ensure the orderly operation of the school is not disrupted and the physical safety of students is not threatened. Leaving during school hours to attend an off-campus demonstration places the student outside the safety zone of the school and unnecessarily jeopardizes that school’s education funding. California State PTA did not organize any marches or student walkouts. We have provided guidance and resources for local PTAs that wish to support student voices.

On March 14, PTA members and leaders from across the state – and throughout the nation – made their voices heard. More than 1,000 phone calls, social media posts and emails flooded the inboxes of federal lawmakers to demand an end to gun violence. In addition, California State PTA leaders addressed gun violence, school safety and mental health issues with legislators in Washington D.C. as part of the 2018 National PTA Legislation Conference.

The power of PTA was heard loud and clear – thank you for participating! Together, we can change lives.
Save the Date

Regional Leadership Conferences

Join California State PTA leaders, local officers and volunteers for a day of leadership training, workshops, table talks and networking designed to help you succeed in your PTA leadership role. Stay tuned for more details!

**August 25, 2018**
Sacramento City Unified School District Serna Center, Sacramento

**September 8, 2018**
Tulare County Office of Education, Visalia

**September 22, 2018**
Marin County Office of Education, San Rafael

**October 6, 2018**
Ventura County Office of Education, Camarillo

www.capta.org/regional-leadership-conferences