

EDUCATION

Why do parents join their local PTA? One reason is to learn more about what is happening at their children's school. A benefit you can bring to your PTA members is current information about education using California State PTA materials as well as your local resources.



Ideas for informing your members about school and education:

Info Sessions

A brief education information session could be part of a PTA meeting or a coffee before school or an add-on tied to another event. "Before the choir concert, come to the library to hear about the new report card format from Principal Smart." "The chairman of the high school math department will be talking about course selection with eighth grade students and parents in the cafeteria during Open House."



What's new in EDUCATION?
California's new School Dashboard is a website, showing how your school and school district are doing in multiple different areas:
www.CAschooldashboard.org

When you have guest speakers, it's useful to prepare them with questions you hope they will answer. Sometimes it is effective to structure these as a conversation rather than a presentation, so instead of "death by PowerPoint" PTA leaders can ask questions and chat with the guest expert.

Website Link/Postings

Populate your PTA's website or your school website with California State PTA's informational handouts designed for parents and links to more information. Many documents are part of the electronic files that go with this service mailing. Just link to the PTA resource with a good description of what the resource is. **You are encouraged to use PTA materials. That's why we make them!**

Encourage members of your PTA to receive information directly

All members are encouraged to subscribe to California State PTA's email lists. See the "Join our Mailing List" section on the lower left of most pages of our website (www.CAPTA.org). Encourage people to follow these organizations on Twitter or Facebook or through email lists: California State PTA, National PTA, Ed100.org, EdSource.org, and your local school district and PTA district.

Use PTA handouts ... everywhere!

Ask to have a display in the school office of handouts about parent-teacher conferences or PTA's "Parents' Guide to Student Success" for each grade level.

Check out your school district's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)

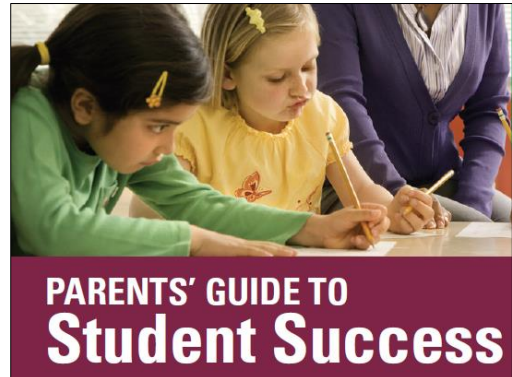
Find the LCAP on your school district website and bring a group of people to school board or district meetings to learn more about it. Parents are one of the groups that should be consulted about this important plan.

Education Resources for Parents & PTAs

Parents' Guides to Student Success

These beautiful full-color guides describe the learning standards in each grade, appropriate at-home activities to do with your child, and questions to ask your child's teacher. Separate guides for grades K-8, plus high school math and high school English.

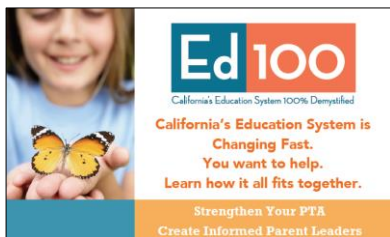
The 4-page guides are available for each grade level in English. A full set (all grades) of 2-page guides is available as a single document online in each of these languages: English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Arabic, and Tagalog.



Great for back-to-school night or parent-teacher conferences. Printable PDF documents online. Go to www.CAPTA.org/commoncore.

LCAP & LCFF Materials

Excellent explanation of the Local Control and Accountability Plan process. Learn about each of the eight priority areas with sample questions to ask at your local school district. Resources in English and Spanish. Help your members advocate locally with these materials! Go to www.CAPTA.org/lcff.



www.Ed100.org

This website serves as a cross between going to Wikipedia and borrowing your friend's class notes on the topic of the California public education system. Cut through the jargon to understand how things work in our school system. Go through it in sequence, or jump to a topic you want to look at.

Some PTAs are looking at one section per week, sending out tweets and posting about the subject to their school community.

And much, much MORE!

Go to www.CAPTA.org, under "Focus Areas" then "Education"

Subjects include: Every Student Succeeds Act, Common Core, Student Assessments, Summer/Extended Learning, Special Needs, STEM, Arts Education, Civic Mission of Schools, Homework, Career/Technical Education and School Finance.