



LOCAL ADVOCACY FOR SB 328 GETS THE BILL TO THE GOVERNOR

Thanks to the work of PTA leaders throughout California, PTA co-sponsored [SB 328 \(Portantino\)](#) for later school start times is now on the governor's desk for signature.

For the past several months, PTA leaders have been meeting in the local offices of their elected officials speaking up for the health, safety and success of our middle and high school students. These local meetings helped educate Senate and Assembly members about the epidemic of sleep deprivation among our teens.

Meetings and phone calls in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Diego, Contra Costa County, Orange County, Burbank, Sonoma, Sacramento and other points across the state made a big impact and generated the votes needed in the Senate and Assembly to support the bill.

Yes, local advocacy matters, especially when elected officials need to understand the impact that legislation has on the students and schools in their communities.

It's now time for PTA leaders throughout the state to ask Governor Newsom to sign this bill into law.

TAKE ACTION NOW! [Follow this link to send a letter to the governor.](#)



GOVERNOR SIGNS SB 419 STOPPING SUSPENSIONS FOR WILLFUL DEFIANCE

Governor Newsom signed [SB 419 \(Skinner\)](#) which prohibits school districts from suspending a student in grades 4 and 5 for disrupting school activities or otherwise willfully defying school staff. The prohibition extends to students in grades 6 – 8 through July 1, 2025. This gives districts an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of the prohibition for middle school students. These prohibitions apply to charter schools as well. Presently it is unlawful to suspend a child in K-3 for the same reasons.

Teachers are still able to suspend pupils from class for the day and the following day for disruptive behavior or willful defiance. A student suspended from class does not leave school but is sent to a room where extra help is available. The bill encourages principals to provide alternatives to suspensions using research-based frameworks with strategies that are age appropriate and address specific misbehavior. The bill intends for schools to use strategies that help students gain critical social and emotional skills.

According to Senator Skinner, the author of the bill, “an overwhelming body of research confirms that suspending students at any age fails to improve student behavior and greatly increases the likelihood that the students will fail, be pushed out of school, and /or have contact with the juvenile justice system.”

CAPTA, along with over 40 other groups, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) and Children Now also supported this bill.

SCHOOL FACILITY BOND SENT TO GOVERNOR'S DESK

California State PTA supported a \$15 billion bond to construct and modernize school facilities. It has been passed by

state lawmakers and sent to Governor Newsom's desk for signature. If the governor gives his okay, the measure will go on the March 3, 2020, Primary Election ballot for approval by voters.

The bond would be allocated as follows:

1. K-12 public schools – \$9 billion:

- \$2.8 billion for new construction
- \$5.2 billion for modernization
- \$500 million for Career Technical Education
- \$500 million for charter schools

2. Community colleges – \$2 billion

3. University of California – \$2 billion

4. California State University – \$2 billion

School districts would apply to the state for funding. Up to 10 percent of the construction and modernization funding for K-12 would be set aside for small districts, which often lack the staff and resources to get in line quickly for state grants.

Generally, school districts must have a local source of construction money (such as a local school facilities bond) to qualify for state funding. However, some districts that are not able to raise local funds will be eligible for full funding from the state.

The last school facilities bond was approved by voters in 2016. All of this funding has been spent or allocated.



DON'T MISS MONTHLY ADVOCACY CONFERENCE CALLS

Join California State PTA Director of Legislation, Shereen Walter, and members of the Legislation Team for monthly calls discussing current info on what is happening in the area of advocacy at the local, state and federal level. Get a chance to hear from other local leaders around the state on how they are advocating in their school and community.

A conference call line has been reserved for every first Wednesday of the following months from 7 – 8 p.m.

- October 2, 2019
- November 6, 2019
- December 4, 2019
- February 5, 2020
- March 4, 2020
- April 1, 2020
- May 6, 2020

Dial-In Number: (605) 313-4821

Participant Access Code: 604265#

To mute or unmute during the session, press *6.

If you encounter any phone issues like dropped calls or long periods of silence, please hang up and dial (805) 360-1075. This reroutes you to a different port in their system so you can enter our dial-in number directly.



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