

California State PTA

ADVOCACY INSIDER

July 28, 2020



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HELP ENSURE THAT THE ASSEMBLY HEALTH COMMITTEE PASSES SB 793

SB 793 (Hill) needs your support to clear its next legislative hurdle!

The Assembly Health Committee is voting on SB 793 on August 4, 2020. This bill, if it passes, will outlaw flavored tobacco products.

California State PTA just adopted a resolution, E-Cigarettes/Vaping, Flavored Tobacco Products and Youth Health, which seeks legislation "prohibiting the sale, marketing, and distribution of flavored tobacco products and e-cigarettes, including components, accessories, and tobacco product flavor enhancers."

Over 5.3 million kids in the U.S. now use e-cigarettes — 27.5% of high school students used e-cigarettes in 2019 compared to 11.3% in 2016. Flavors are driving the demand for use — 97% of youth e-cigarette users report using a flavored product, and 70% cite flavors as the reason for their use.

Now it is time to show the power of PTA.

Click the button below to contact members of the Assembly Health Committee today and tell them you support the outlawing of flavored tobacco products. Ask them to vote in yes on AB 793 (Hill). Be sure to include your own or your child's experience with vaping. Your personal story is the most effective way to communicate with legislators.

TAKE ACTION

PTA ADVOCACY HELPS PREVENT EDUCATION CUTS

California just adopted an education budget that gives schools about the same amount of funding as last year. Here's a bit of a PTA backstory on what happened. You might recall that the Governor's May budget proposal contained cuts to schools. Yet, the final budget avoids those cuts. So what happened? Here is part of the story.

Immediately after the Governor proposed education cuts, the [Education Coalition](#), which includes California State PTA, launched a major campaign with this warning:

Schools Cannot Physically Reopen Safely with the Funding Level Proposed in the May Revision

A virtual press conference announced the campaign and previewed a state-wide television ad. Click on the link to view the ad, ["An Unprecedented Crisis."](#)

A robust social media campaign augmented the effort.



The campaign messaging made the cuts real, by breaking down the impact on schools.

Under the Governor's proposed budget, a 10% cut (\$6.5 billion) to the Local Control Funding Formula equates to:

- ***Cutting \$1,230 per student, or***
- ***Cutting \$21,667 per classroom, or***
- ***Increasing class sizes by 19%, or***
- ***Laying off more than 57,600 teachers, or***

Laying off more than 125,000 education support professionals

The campaign had an impact. While both the legislature and the Governor believe schools are a high priority, they took different budget approaches. The final adopted budget uses the legislature's approach – avoid immediate cuts but delay payments to schools. This approach is not as severe as cuts, but districts have to spend local budget reserves or borrow money until they get the money the state owes.

The budget also relies on significant federal funding. If that does not come through, schools will face more delayed payments – or even future cuts – by the state.

This year's budget did not give schools more money, even though they have significantly greater expenses. Even before the pandemic, schools struggled to make ends meet.

We need to push for more ongoing state funding now. This includes looking at suspending or eliminating tax expenditures (which include tax credits, deductions, exemptions and exclusions) and additional strategies to generate more revenue. We anticipate next year's financial outlook will be worse.

Resources:

[California Budget Summary](#)

PTA SUPPORTS EQUITY: TIME TO ADDRESS RACISM

California State PTA is putting equity first and foremost in its advocacy efforts.

PTA's Legislative Platform Now Supports Equity

At our Statewide Annual Meeting, PTA amended its Legislative Platform to support "Equity in every aspect of life for all children and youth, while recognizing that each child is unique with individual needs and talents."

PTA Supports Affirmative Action Legislation

PTA supported ACA 5 in the California legislature. This proposed constitutional amendment coming before the voters of California in November permits the use of race, gender, and ethnic diversity as factors (but not decisive factors) in college admissions, government hiring, and government contracting.

Working with the Education Coalition to Address Racism

We are also joining with our Education Coalition partners on a task force to examine what the education community can do to further equity in our schools and communities.

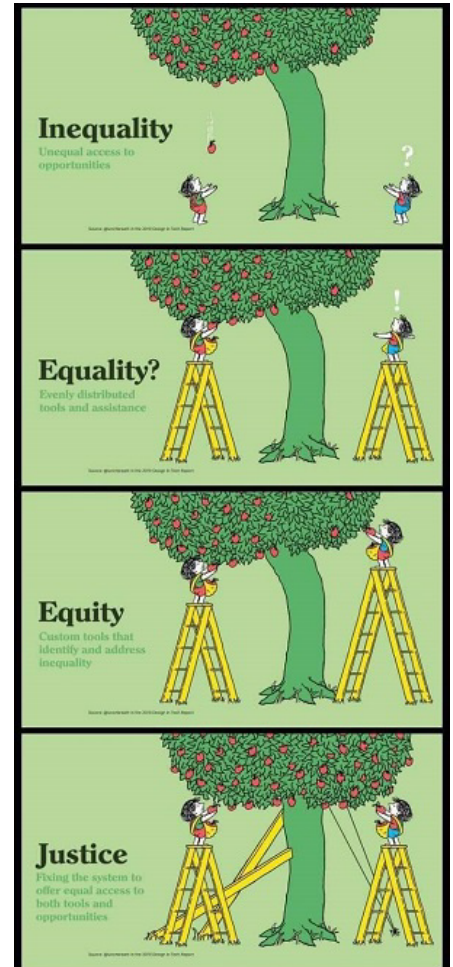
Helping PTA Units Address Racism: Lesson Plans and Discussion Guide from [Ed100](#)

We encourage PTAs to share the blog [One Way Your School Can Address Racism](#) with parents and staff.

Too many students – and adults – don't know much about the history of racial segregation in America. By understanding this history and its impact on millions of Americans, our schools and communities can start to remedy this wrong.

- Do your children know, for example, if they are white, that their middle class status may in large part be the result of [affirmative action for whites](#) – not simply hard work?
- Can they relate the impact of segregation to the unequal impact of COVID-19 on people of color?
- Can they trace housing segregation policies to the neighborhood they live in and the schools they are allowed to attend?
- Do they know that our government created many of these inequities? Can they use their skills in analysis and critical thinking to try to remedy them?

Using the book [The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America](#) by Richard Rothstein, the blog provides lesson plans and reading suggestions to help students understand one cause of racial injustice and how it affects their lives and the lives of millions of Americans.



HOW YOU CAN ADVOCATE DURING THE REOPENING OF SCHOOLS

On Friday, July 17th, Governor Newsom announced his plan for safe school reopening due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He emphasized that learning is non-negotiable and safety is foundational. The [Governor's plan](#) covers five key areas:

- Safe in-person school based on local health data
- Mask requirements
- Physical distancing requirements and other adaptations
- Regular testing and dedicated contact tracing
- Rigorous distance learning

School district decisions for in-person instruction will be determined by local health data following [guidance](#) issued by the California Department of Health.



As school districts across California continue to plan and make decisions on in-person learning, here are some tips for how you as a PTA leader can take a role and provide input into your school district's decisions.

It is important to remind school districts about the importance of including parents in the decision-making process. Clear and frequent communication with students and families is key to successfully implementing any educational plan, whether it is distance learning, in-person schooling, or a hybrid of the two.

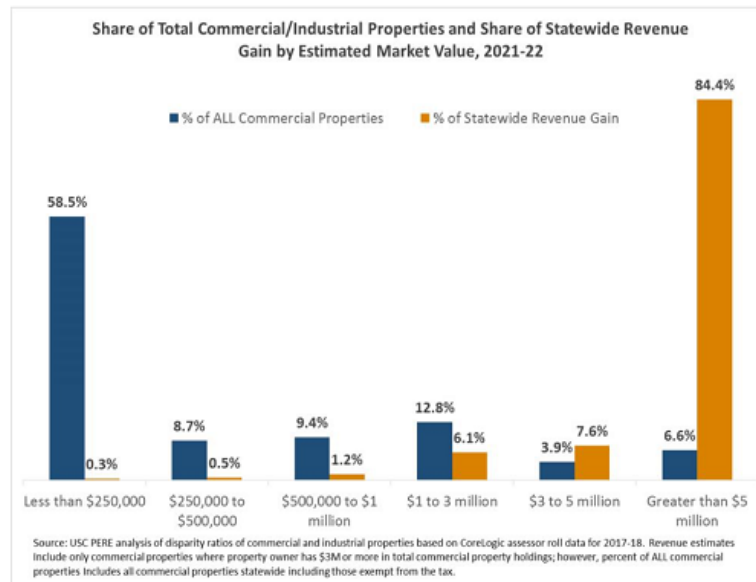
Here are some key points for your school district from PTA:

- If distance learning is to be successful for all children, all students must have access to the internet and computers or tablets, and there needs to be flexibility in timing that works for families with multiple children, adults also working from home, and other hurdles. Getting input ahead of time from local families about these issues is imperative.
- Protecting the health (both physical and mental) and wellbeing of our students and staff is of prime importance whether schools implement in-person, hybrid or exclusively distance learning.
- Guidance of health experts such as the CDC, the California Department of Public Health, and county health departments should be part of any plan for schools.
- The needs of children living in poverty and children with special needs must be effectively addressed. It is not acceptable for any children to miss out on crucial learning opportunities.
- After school and child care programs need to be available and coordinated with the school day for working families.

It is important for PTA to speak out for the health, education and safety of students, parents and staff – using these tips should help ensure that the needs of your school community are taken into account in the decision-making process.

PTA SUPPORTS PROPOSITION 15: SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES FIRST

A [new study](#) on the impact of Proposition 15, the Schools & Communities First initiative, indicates that 10% of the biggest, most valuable commercial and industrial properties would generate 92% of Prop. 15 revenue.



This PTA-supported initiative on the November 2020 statewide ballot would require that commercial and industrial real estate property worth \$3 million or more be taxed on current market value. According to Ed Trust West, California has lost \$585 billion in revenue for public infrastructure, schools, and local services because commercial properties are not assessed at market value. The residential sector now pays the lion's share for critical services.

Prop. 15 would raise as much as \$11.5 billion in additional funding for schools and local community programs and services. This money would be allocated to schools (40%) and local governments (60%). Every school district and community college will receive additional funding. Money for K-12 is allocated according to the Local Control Funding Formula to ensure it is distributed equitably.

Prop. 15 protects homeowners and renters by maintaining tax protections for ALL residential property. The measure protects small businesses by not only exempting properties valued at less than \$3 M, but exempts from taxation the first \$500,000 of value of a business's personal property.

The study also reports that:

- On average, properties that will be reassessed under Prop. 15 are under-assessed by 50% or more – meaning that they have the largest gap between their assessed and market values.
- Nearly 50% of the revenue from the measure will come from properties that have not been reassessed since before 2000.

We encourage PTA members to get involved in the campaign to bring more money into our schools and communities. You can sign up [here](#).

SHEREEN WALTER SPEAKS AT PROP 15 PRESS CONFERENCE



Shereen Walter, California State PTA's Director of Legislation, spoke at a press conference on Thursday, July 2 in support of Proposition 15, also known as the [Schools and Communities First](#) ballot initiative or the "split-roll" initiative.

The press conference was organized by the California Federation of Teachers (CFT) and the Schools and Communities First campaign. Other participants included State Superintendent Tony Thurmond, CFT President Jeff Freitas, and Los Angeles Community College District Trustee President Andra Hoffman.

To watch a video of the virtual press conference, [click here](#). Shereen's portion starts at 13:42.

To read more about this ballot initiative on the California State PTA website, [click here](#).

DON'T MISS NEXT MONTH'S ADVOCACY WEBINAR

The Legislation team has been holding monthly webinars packed with the latest information on what is happening in Sacramento, Washington D.C. and around the country that impacts our schools, children and families.

Our survey results told us that you wanted us to continue these webinars through the summer months, so here is the schedule of upcoming webinars:

- **Tuesday, August 4, 7:00-8:00 p.m.**

To register for this webinar, click here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/2338789182473643275>

To watch a recording of the July 1st webinar, [click here](#).

To view the presentation from the July 1st webinar, [click here](#).



TAKE ACTION!

Discover Math Together Virtual Summer Sessions



Join Alex Kajitani, "The Rappin' Mathematician," for fun-filled sessions that can help you help your child learn math.

REGISTER NOW

Promote Your PTA With a Banner



Adorn your fence or window with a colorful outdoor banner from the online PTA Store – there are 8 different theme options to choose from!

SHOP NOW

Did You Know That PTAEZ Is Now MyPTEZ?



PTA's online accounting and financial management system has a new name – but the same great service!

LEARN MORE