

California Teachers Association State Council Report March 2022

State Council Delegates: Sarah Robinson, Chris Cannon,
Samantha Weiss, Temisha Brame Carter



Caucus Meetings

Chris and Temisha attended the ***African American Caucus*** - ethnic caucuses are formed and executed for the uplifting of historically underrepresented groups. All CTA members are afforded an opportunity to join and participate in ethnic and/or special interest caucuses.

Committee Updates

Financing Public Education (FPE) Committee and Legislative Subcommittee - Temisha is assigned to the FPE committee. The Legislative subcommittee was responsible for looking at 81 bills and recommending that CTA take a position (support, oppose or watch). For informational purposes, FPE is charged with holding the line on Prop 98* funding without encroachment and/or redirection of allocations.

The committee recommended the position of OPPOSE for 20 bills referencing TAX CREDITS as they could reduce revenue. The committee recommended a SUPPORT position on 1 wealth tax co-sponsored by the CA Teacher Federation; for all other bills, a WATCH position was recommended.

Special Education - Chris is assigned to the Special Education committee. The committee proposed language to add to CTA's policy that adds policy (1st reading; adopted) on IEPs (currently CTA has no policy on IEPs). Additionally, the committee proposed language on Multi-Tiered Systems of support (adopted). The committee proposed and adopted language to support the policy for graduation requirement to continue IEPs after age 18.

The committee also worked on a New Business Item (NBI) to reduce the best practice caseload from 28 (policy is 18 years old and was last reviewed 15 years ago). If adopted, the reduction could be lobbied for and become a part of the education code. Members on the floor asked the body to consider the NBI for immediate action and adoption.

- *NBI#: 3/22-10*

CTA shall seek out coalition partner(s) to collaboratively sponsor new legislation to the California Education Code adding caseload caps for each special education program and classification.

Required Rationale (why CTA's action is requested): (100 words or less) Special Education identification is increasing the number of students with IEPs. Students deserve a free and appropriate education that can be reached their Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). This cannot happen in overcrowded and under-resourced classrooms. CA Ed Code Section 56362 (c) addresses caseload caps of 28 students for RSP. Historically, there has been a critical shortage/retention of Special Education teachers/support staff in California. Increased enrollment of students with special needs is prevalent, this is critical. Each student deserves quality, focused Special Education services from trained and fully qualified educators/support staff, an equitable and enforced student to teacher ratio is just.

Civil Rights in Education—Sarah is assigned to the Civil Rights in Education Committee. The Committee took action on 17 bills, the positions on each can be found in the full report book. The Committee made a recommendation to the CTA Board of Directors to develop a procedure for students to address State Council as well as introduced new policy language. All members interested in participating in the CTA Ethnic Minority Early Identification & Development Program (EMEID) should apply. The deadline is April 8 and more information can be found [here](#).

Presentations/Recognitions

- Teacher of the Year
- Women's Month
- Cesar Chavez, Delores Huerta and Farm Workers (past and present)

Major/Key Topics



Fossil Fuels - Students (passionate and pictured) traveled from Oakland, CA to urge CTA by way of CalSTRS to divest in fossil fuels that destroy the Earth, take land and/or harm people. CTA hosted a forum on the divestment in fossil fuels. The conversation of divestment in fossil fuels has been a long discussed and never acted upon topic by CTA by way of recommendation from CalSTRS as the rate of run has been financially greater than the impact to the Earth and the humans who occupy it.

- Educators are on **STRIKE!** Support their Strike Funds:

- [Sacramento City Teachers:](#)
- [Rohnert Park Cotati Educators:](#)
- [Minneapolis Federation of Teachers:](#)



- CTA has allocated 20 million dollars for small locals to have **release time** for engagement.
- State Council approved a position of SUPPORT for AB1614 (Muratsuchi). This bill would increase LCFF base funding, providing more financial support for all of our schools.
- The Language Acquisition Committee had a robust discussion on the use of the **term English Learner (EL)** and whether the term is appropriate for use. The policy subcommittee will be working on recommendations for potential CTA policy-related changes to terminology at future State Council meetings.
- The Civil Rights in Education Committee (chaired by our own Sarah Robinson) proposed a timely addition to CTA policy language which outlines our support for student empowerment and the role of educators in supporting it.
 - CTA believes in the empowerment of student voices. Educators in all fields shape the minds of the future leaders and are obligated to ensure that all students are offered a safe space to use their agency, to be seen, heard and validated. Educators have a duty to model dialogue and listen critically. With intent towards action, CTA and students may participate in debate

reciprocally and respectfully. It is through these spaces that all students may lift their voices to express their needs, their advocacy, and leadership with an emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion.

- The Credential and Committee presented for 2nd reading the newly adopted language regarding:

Credentials: Qualified Instructors (page 262)

- "Any fully credentialed educator performing professional responsibilities, regardless of title, should be considered to have demonstrated competence and to be qualified to perform those same or equivalent duties under any other title, and that this educator should be granted any newly required credential, certification, or authorization covering these responsibilities. Additional teaching authorizations shall not require clinical practice."

Rationale: This addition to policy is needed to ensure that fully credentialed teachers are not required to incur the added expense and burden of supervised clinical practice requirements connected with adding authorizations to their credential.

- The Assessment and Testing committee referred to the CTA Board a request to waive testing, although some testing has already begun as follows:

District I Meeting - The district led by Chris Bushee, CTA District Board Member, reviewed and reported out on all the committees.

Upcoming Meetings/Conferences:

- June Council - May 20 -22nd (Westin Bonaventure, Los Angeles)
- NEA RA - July 2-6 (Chicago, IL)
- President's Conference - July 14-17 (San Francisco)
- Summer Institute - July 24-28 (UCLA, Los Angeles)

The details of all business related to the March State Council can be found in the [March State Council Report Book](#).

Election Results

NEA Alternate - Laura Finco

NEA Executive Committee Recommendation - Christine Sampson-Clark (from New Jersey)

In Solidarity,

Temisha Brame-Carter (CVSTA), Chris Cannon (CVSTA), Sarah Robinson (RBTA), Samantha Weiss (PVFA)