

Congress Reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

The 2015 reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) replaces the flawed “No Child Left Behind.” Among other things, it reduces the amount of standardized testing and ensures that educators’ voices are part of decision-making at federal, state and local levels.

On December 10, 2015, educators across the country breathed a collective sigh of relief when President Barack Obama signed the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). The ESSA builds upon the critical work states and local educational agencies (LEAs) have implemented over the last few years, but what is there to like really in the new law?

The year was 2002 and then president George W. Bush was eager to prove that he could live up to his promise of being the “Education President.” Politicians were eager for more “accountability” in the classroom. Bush took the lead and helped to shape what would become, No Child Left Behind—the reauthorization of the ESEA. NCLB required standardized testing of students and a system of penalties for schools whose students scored below benchmarks chosen to demonstrate proficiency. Teachers felt they spent too much valuable time teaching to the tests and schools were stuck in no man’s land as they stretched to reach their required AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress). Newly elected president Barack Obama tried to ditch NCLB when the

ESEA came up for renewal in 2008, but he lacked the necessary Congressional votes. By December 2015, there was broad bi-partisan support—something unheard of in this era of obstruction and government shutdowns.

Senator Lamar Alexander, A key architect of the new law believes the role of the Federal Government will be very different from what it was under NCLB. He says, “What I believe is that when we take the handcuffs off, we’ll unleash a whole flood of innovation and ingenuity classroom by classroom, state by state, that will benefit children.” Pleased with the reauthorization, President Obama said that President George W. Bush had good intentions, but it “often forced schools and school districts into cookie-cutter reforms that didn’t always produce the kinds of results that we wanted to see.” He went on to say that the new law “creates real partnerships between the states, which will have new flexibility to tailor their improvement plans, and the federal government, which will have the oversight to make sure that the plans are sound.”

More About ESSA

- While testing is still required in grades 3-8 and once in high school, states must revamp their accountability and can greatly scale back the testing component previously driving teaching
- Districts still have to reform low performing schools, but they get to choose the interventions that are implemented—schools with

students who are historically disenfranchised must be flagged

- Districts can eliminate evaluations based on student test scores
- States are required to adopt challenging standards, but they can choose to move away from Common Core State Standards
- States will have to measure English language proficiency
- There will be more flexibility for use of Title I funds
- Educators will have a voice in decision making at the local, State and Federal levels
- Requires multiple measurements of student success in elementary, middle and high school
- Incentivizes supports and interventions tailored to local needs

For more information:

<http://educationvotes.nea.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Why-educators-support-the-Every-Student-Succeeds-Act.pdf>

For the full Act:

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114s1177enr/pdf/BILLS-114s1177enr.pdf>

With less testing and more opportunities to teach to standards teachers have a hand in developing, ESSA presents an opportunity to make a difference in every child’s life.



2016 WHO AWARDS

WHO, “We Honor Ours” is an opportunity to recognize members for their contributions to the teaching profession through work in their local union chapter. The CTA Bay Valley Service Center Council provides a dinner event each year to thank all recipients for their dedication and effort. The chapters in SBUT are fortunate to have an abundance of such members, and were pleased to recognize these five at the awards dinner this year.

When longtime Social Studies teacher Jeff Hromadka had a disagreement with his union, he didn't get angry, he got involved! What started as a lively exchange over ideas about an experimental schedule at one of the school's challenging sites, resulted in CVSTA gaining an energetic representative and executive board member.



Jeff Hromadka, CVSTA

Jeff brings years of classroom teaching experience to the executive board creating a bridge between those teachers who are newer to the profession and the experienced veterans who have fought the good fight for many years. He uses his considerable skills to recognize the value and importance of all of our members—helping to create a more trusting environment.

The bargaining team found his assistance invaluable when considering changes in a recent calendar and schedule. What may have seemed like an automatic rejection of a proposal initially, turned out to be something all parties could support and the students and staff benefited from the more creative solution. Working together, they were able to come up with some-

thing far better than the original.

Over the past few years, Jeff has done what we hope all members do—pay attention to the work of the union; stay engaged and be open to ideas that advance our power and stature and be willing to get involved in the struggle! Centinela Valley Secondary Teachers Association is pleased to recognize Jeff for his continued work and camaraderie.

Rhonda Becker has worked for years at one of Manhattan Beach's elementary schools. The parental expectations and demands of administration have always been high. The phenomenal work of teachers at the site has always been the reason that parents and administration have had such high expectations in the first place.

After all the work she and her colleagues did in building the founda-



Rhonda Becker, MBUTA

tion of a multi-award winning school, Rhonda has stepped up to represent the members now that administration seems hell-bent on working these teachers beyond the limits of reasonable moral decency. Rhonda is fearless when the need to confront administrators arises, but she is grounded in the essentials of fairness and

respect which always guide her actions on behalf of our members.

Rhonda's willingness to step into this role has played an instrumental part in the renovation of unity at both her school and among members at all of our district sites.

Stephanie Hubbard has been diligent in her role as an elementary school MBUTA rep. Union work requires a strong grasp of the rights and responsibilities of our members under the contract—and the added need to use diplomacy to help maintain the strong positive relationships between parents, administration and teachers.



Stephanie Hubbard MBUTA

In this regard, Stephanie has helped develop a more positive image of what it means to be a union member and a union leader at her school site and throughout the district.

Stephanie's calm focused energy combined with her informed passionate opinions have been instrumental in informing and energizing members. She has been forthcoming and vocal at school board meetings—speaking up for the implementation of new programs in such a way that they do not infringe on the rights of teachers.

Her voice is a welcome one in the many places that she exercises a leadership role and our membership is fortunate to have her as a galvanizing force. Stephanie has brought a much needed perspective to Rep Council and her willingness to think of new ways to unify our members is an indispensable part of our organizing strategy.

Tracy Bufano has been an invaluable member of PVFA, first serving as a site rep for seven years and then moving into chapter leadership and serving on the Executive Board as Secretary/Treasurer for the last five years.

Tracy has always done her utmost to support all members at her site



Tracy Bufano, PVFA

as well as being an advocate for all elementary teachers. During a major struggle with the district over elementary prep time, Tracy was a strong proponent of the elementary position that

helped secure an MOU to move toward a resolution to the problem. Tracy has been a major contributor during Rep Council meetings in making sure that elementary school teacher issues are kept front and center. Her meeting notes are thorough and well written, and always timely. She takes care of meeting incentives and ensures that the chapter finances stay on track. In addition to working in her union, Tracy also volunteers to help feed veterans at her lodge on a regular basis.

Tracy's pleasant disposition makes her a pleasure to be around and PVFA is privileged to have her on our team.

RBTA honored Diane Kleen who represents Adams Middle School on RBTA's Representative Council. Diane is a tenacious advocate for her colleagues.

When Diane stepped forward to become a rep, she began to organize members by site meetings and educating the staff on their rights and their need to stand together

for change. Diane spoke to district administrators and school board members about the issues at their site. Diane worked to unite the staff to create positive change.



Diane Kleen, RBTA

When problems with an administrator were causing conflict at the site, Diane worked tirelessly to gather data on a site survey. After the survey was submitted to the superintendent, the administration of Adams was changed. Diane is an outstanding teacher, a strong student and teacher advocate, and Adams is a positive place to learn and teach because of her dedication.

CONGRATULATIONS

to RBTA member **Sarah Robinson** who was recently elected to the CTA State Council as the Minority-At-Large Representative. Sarah joins SBUT members Pedro Martinez (CVSTA), Ben Bellingham (CVSTA), and Jason Calizar (PVFA) as representatives at the state level.

Read more about State Council at sbut.org/ctastateco.htm

Our Core Values-Social Justice

As members of your local association, you are also a member of CTA and NEA. In 2013 CTA celebrated 150 years of advocacy. The California Teachers Association has become one of the strongest advocates for educators in the country. CTA includes, among others, teachers, counselors, school librarians, social workers, psychologists, and nurses. These educators in the K-12 school system are joined by community college faculty, California State University faculty, and education support professionals to make CTA the most inclusive and most powerful voice of educators in the state.

Reflecting on that rich heritage, members and their leaders across the state developed, over the course of two years, a strategic plan of action for the next 150 years. Key to CTA's vision for the next century and a half is our commitment to social justice. CTA's long-standing commitment to social justice, equity and diversity is a core value of our organization.

It dates back to CTA's first fight, which was to establish free public schools for all children, including students of color. The principles of social justice, equity and diversity integrally shape and guide the implementation strategies for all the other focus areas of the strategic plan.

The plan is built on the following definition of social justice:

We, as educators, have a responsibility for the collective good of students, members, community and society while ensuring human and civil rights for all. Social justice is a commitment to equity and fairness in treatment and access to opportunities and resources for everyone, recognizing that equality is not necessarily equitable. Social justice means that we work actively to eradicate structural and institutional forms of oppression such as racism, sexism, classism, linguisticism, ableism, ageism, heterosexism, gender bias, religious bias, xenophobia, and other "isms" and biases.

PETITION GATHERING EFFORT—SBUT SHINES!

Proving once again the deep level of commitment to public education and California's children, SBUT members stepped up when called on to gather signatures for a state-wide initiative that would extend for 12 years Gov. Jerry Brown's Proposition 30 income tax increase on individuals earning over \$250,000 to pay for education and health care.

56 SBUT members collected 970 signatures toward the effort. CTA's region 3, of which SBUT is a member, set a goal of 37,500 signatures, and finished the project with a whopping 52,587! As these signatures are submitted and counted with the rest, we are confident that there will be enough to qualify the initiative for the November ballot.

INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE VOTERS
 The Attorney General of California has prepared the following circulating title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:
(15-01154) TAX EXTENSION TO FUND EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Extends by twelve years the temporary personal income tax increases enacted in 2012 on earnings over \$250,000 (for single filers; over \$500,000 for joint filers; over \$348,000 for heads of household). Allocates these tax revenues 89% to K-12 schools and 11% to California Community Colleges. Allocates up to \$2 billion per year in certain years for healthcare programs. Bars use of education revenues for administrative costs, but provides local school governing boards discretion to decide, in open meetings and subject to annual audit, how revenues are to be spent. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Increased state revenues annually from 2019 through 2030—likely in the \$5 billion to \$11 billion range initially—with amounts varying based on stock market and economic trends. Increased revenues would be allocated under constitutional formulas to schools and community colleges, budget reserves and debt payments, and health programs, with remaining funds available for these or other state purposes.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
 THIS PETITION MAY BE CIRCULATED BY A PAID SIGNATURE GATHERER OR A VOLUNTEER. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW THE PROPOSERS OF THIS PROPOSED INITIATIVE MEASURE HAVE THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW THIS PETITION AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE MEASURE QUALIFIES FOR THE BALLOT.

All signers of this petition must be registered in _____ County. (Fill in name of signer's county here.)

REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY	1. Print Your Name: <u>John Doe</u> Sign As Requested To Vote: <u>John Doe</u>	Residence Address ONLY: <u>123 Maple Street.</u> City: <u>Anytown</u> Zip: <u>90000</u>
	2. Print Your Name: _____ Sign As Requested To Vote: _____	Residence Address ONLY: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
	3. Print Your Name: _____ Sign As Requested To Vote: _____	Residence Address ONLY: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
	4. Print Your Name: _____ Sign As Requested To Vote: _____	Residence Address ONLY: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
	5. Print Your Name: _____ Sign As Requested To Vote: _____	Residence Address ONLY: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
	6. Print Your Name: _____ Sign As Requested To Vote: _____	Residence Address ONLY: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
	7. Print Your Name: _____ Sign As Requested To Vote: _____	Residence Address ONLY: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

DECLARATION OF CIRCULATOR
 (to be completed in circulator's own hand after above signatures have been obtained)
 My residence address is _____
 I circulated this section of the petition and witnessed each of the appended signatures being written. Each signature of this petition is, to the best of my information and belief, the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be. All signatures on this document were obtained between the dates of _____ and _____.
 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.
 Executed on _____ at _____

NOTE: ALL SIGNATURES ARE VALID IF SHADDED AREAS IN THIS BOX ARE NOT COMPLETED.
 1. Fill in name of signer's county here.
 2. Registered voters sign here. All voter signature blocks need not be completed for the petition to be valid.
 3. In addition to printing your name, sign here as circulator.

State voters passed Proposition 30 in 2012 to avert about \$6 billion in cuts to education. The measure created three higher income-tax brackets for taxpayers earning \$250,000 or more and raised the sales tax by one-quarter of 1 percent for four years -- together raising an estimated \$8 billion this fiscal year. The proposed initiative will continue only the supplemental income tax, generating from \$5 billion to \$11 billion annually in 2019, the first year it would take effect, according to the legislative analyst.

We remember all too well the drastic cuts to education funding that resulted in furlough days, stagnant salaries, stagnant benefits caps while benefit premiums increased, layoffs, and the loss of retirement dollars through those years. We eagerly await the outcome of your hard work and commitment. THANK YOU to all who participated!

DON'T LET YOUR CREDENTIAL LAPSE

Don't run into difficulty by allowing your credential to expire. Please go to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing website to check yours: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/> and follow the "search for an educator" link.

While it's nice if your district sends out reminders before your credential expires, they are not required to do so and each one of our chapter districts has had members who have NOT received such notices—even when reminders were sent to others. Ultimately, it is your professional responsibility to maintain a valid credential.

Confirm the date your credential expires. If you need to renew, follow the "online services for educators" link. It's advisable for you to renew it as soon as possible (no more than a year before it expires). Pay the fee and answer the questions truthfully. Check back in a few days to see that your credential has been granted. Print out an unofficial copy (the official copy stays online) and get it over to your district (Email is good so that you have verification of time/date.)

So take a moment to follow the link(s) described above and make sure you are up-to-date and put a reminder in your calendar of when to renew.

Check out your summer discount opportunities at
tsaspecialservices.com
 and
est.us.com
 (access code: ETF72G)

SBUT Summer Office hours:
Monday—Thursday
10:00am—2:30pm

SBUT Members—Summer drawing!
 Call or email the office by June 3, 2016
 to win 1 of 9
 \$10 AMC Movie Gift Cards
 Email: lnewton@sbut.org (Lissa) or sbut@aol.com (Elise)