

Dear Members:

CTA's State Council meetings continue to be virtual and we met this last week to conduct the business at hand. Topic of much discussion was the May Revise and the hefty "one time" monies that have come and will continue to come our way to help schools adapt to unique needs that COVID has dictated in order for us to safely operate our schools. Sacramento is waiting for more Federal guidance on how best to allocate these funds. The real challenge for our districts will be the long game because, despite hefty dollars now, we are going to have to be really purposeful in how we spend those dollars as three or four years out, things look more bleak. A lot of the monies will need to be committed by the end of this summer so it's important for locals to give input on how those monies will be spent. These monies will go a long way to freeing up funds in the General Funds, as much as districts may deny such.

In our President's Report, E. Toby Boyd spoke of the tremendous challenges that teachers have been faced with this past year and how we have met those challenges head on. It is a time to be incredibly proud to be a teacher because we know that despite the varied settings, and changes, we have not only adapted, but we've helped our students to adapt. The impact that we have had to lift and lighten our students' spirits is immeasurable. Toby went on to honor five distinguished teachers as California Teacher of the Year recipients. I was particularly moved by the words of one of the recipients, Jim Klipfel of Saugus High School in the Hart District. Mr. Klipfel said that this year every teacher should be awarded teacher of the year. Congrats to Jim and we agree! Please read about all the winners [here](#).

California is conducting state-wide testing this year and as inscrutable as that may be, at least parents can opt their children out of testing [here](#).

CTA would like to know what members think distance learning should look like for next year. Some of our students and educators will still need distance learning environments and we need to inform the legislature what that should look like. Please give CTA feedback about this [here](#).

I am excited to report that there are two upcoming Special Education Conferences and they are virtual and free. One will be in November and the other is right around the corner, April 30 to May 2. Teachers can register [here](#).

One major policy update to report: CTA now recommends that a full year of Kindergarten be a necessary prerequisite for advancement to 1st grade.

Quick update on CalSTRS: Chris Ailman, Chief Investment Officer for CalSTRS, reported that the CalSTRS fund has doubled in the last 10 years. Much of the growth is due to the Federal Reserve pumping a lot of money into the economy. CalSTRS has had a very steady, long-term, diversified investment strategy. Half of the resources that CalSTRS invests in are in global stocks and the rest is invested in a variety of sectors such as real estate, cash, and fixed income.

If anyone is thinking of retiring, then the following websites to access retirement information include: [www.mycalstrs.com](http://www.mycalstrs.com) [www.cta.org](http://www.cta.org) <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov> [www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov) [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org)...[www.ctainvest.org](http://www.ctainvest.org) [www.nirsonline.org](http://www.nirsonline.org) [www.letstalkpensions.com](http://www.letstalkpensions.com) [www.ssfairness.org](http://www.ssfairness.org)