



Dear Members:

This past weekend I attended the virtual State Council as one of your representatives and here is my report from my committee meetings. Here is also a link to the entire report, should you wish to look it over!

<https://aarjb2jw4n53e35fhhbquj418-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/State-Council-January-2021.pdf>

CTA is lobbying vehemently in opposition to Governor Newsom's "Safe Schools for All." That the proposal incentivizes schools to reopen despite the number of positive cases being quadruple what they need to be for L.A. County to climb out of the Purple (most restrictive) Tier seems ludicrous, but it speaks to the tremendous pressure the Governor is under from some interest groups to get our schools open as soon as possible. This proposal has not passed in the Legislature yet and we are hearing that it is losing support with the different lawmakers in Sacramento.

Cal/OSHA's requirements for employers to provide safe workplaces was revised 6 days ago and they are putting out a new report and guide that bargaining units need to have copies of. The information should be available soon and can be accessed here:

<https://schools.covid19.ca.gov/>

The state budget is actually looking good, all things considered. Seven billion dollars in various forms of COVID relief has already been sent to California. Your chapter leaders are monitoring how much your district got and how it is being spent. Negotiations continue to be a priority and your local will be bargaining soon. Stay in touch with your site rep.

There is one-time additional revenue in the amount of 4.6 billion dollars that Newsom is asking the Legislature to act on so this money can be sent to districts. This one-time money is called "Expanded Learning Time & Academic Intervention Grants" meant to help school districts face the learning loss from the pandemic, once reopened. Congresswoman Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, from the 80th district (Southern San Diego) is putting together AB 104 to help address how districts should/can spend this money. CTA has been working with her. An Omnibus Bill Task Force has been created to help her with issues like amended graduation requirements and credit/no credit guidelines for issues surrounding the COVID crisis. This Expanded Learning Time money could be released to districts as soon as February so they can plan for as early as summer school offerings. Many chapters are frustrated with the notion of just letting kids catch up in summer, noting that it is in summer that struggling families get help from students with summer jobs. These communities would like to see the money not have to be spent just by the end of summer. There are lots of new bills coming to the floor regarding Bereavement Leave and contact tracing and other safety policies. Keep in mind that the Governor's proposals will continue to be negotiated between now and the final deadline for adopting a budget on July 1. Until the final budget is agreed upon by an act of the state lawmakers, these are all proposals.

Policy regarding vaccination was a part of the conversation in many of the meetings. There are questions over who can and/or should be compelled to be vaccinated. (Can the vaccines be mandated? How best to reach herd immunity, etc.) Member who teach at the Community Colleges also have concerns that were discussed. We have policies that address vaccination of minors but there is no mention in our policy vis-a-vis

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young adults who attend community college. Keeping all of our members' workplaces safe requires that we look at our CTA policies now that public health guidelines are here for COVID vaccination. We were all asked to be on the lookout for areas where new policy may need to be added to address the new challenges that the pandemic poses to our profession.

There was a very moving moment in the General Session when the names of 12 teachers who have lost their lives to COVID-19 were all read aloud. This somber moment reminded me what a light we are to our students and their families as we navigate through this difficult time together.

Chapters are being encouraged to apply to CTA for a membership engagement grant to get reimbursed for zoom costs. This is a perfectly appropriate use of these grants. The applications can be found here. There is money for chapter grants so please explore this option.

<https://www.cta.org/for-educators/scholarships-awards>

Reminder: deadline for NEA Representative Assembly candidates is coming up this week! Apply!

See this NEA slideshow with lots of information on what NEA is doing right now for us all:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/149KI9HBDQAVVNuohuKN4RPtjfSGuXEgh19nWnNdAflw/edit#slide=id.gaad434ca94_0_0

Credentials and Professional Development would like as many members as possible to fill out this survey: Locals should please pass this link on ASAP!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BDLQDJ2>

California ranks 38th in per pupil spending, sadly. Approximately \$11,000 per student v. nat'l average of \$13,000. This is unacceptable, especially considering that California is the 5th largest economy in the world. While big moneyed interests were successful in their campaign of misinformation against Prop 15, please just know that Schools & Communities First got more votes than any losing proposition in California history. We came close and we won't give up.

Lastly, be sure to notify the SBUT Office at (310) 921-2500 or your chapter president if you are asked to sign an agreement regarding school safety. You may be giving up your rights to negotiate.

Stay safe,

Samantha Weiss, CTA State Council Representative

