

# June State Council Report

of Samantha Weiss, State Council Representative  
06/06/21

Dear CTA Members:

This past weekend I attended what I hope will be our last virtual State Council. While it was conducted entirely over Webex, it was still as powerful as ever. The body assembled electronically to do the work of CTA.

**The CTA budget for 2021-2022 was passed** and while we continue to have a slight dropoff in membership since the passage of Janus, our numbers are strong. Dues increases are tied to a formula that has been established by our Council. It is important to also understand that a large portion of the budget goes to personnel costs. Despite slight cost savings from being virtual, the business of our organization must continue. And that business has kept us as busy as ever throughout the pandemic. We must make a big push in the fall to get all new hires added to our membership. As you know, districts must give us all new hires' information, due to the passage of AB 119.

**Educational funding** is flowing. A total of \$28.6 billion in federal funds & \$7.1 billion in state funds are available to California schools. The first distribution of funds has already been received by LEAs. State Grants such as Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant (ELOG) & LCFF/LCAP may be used for a variety of eligible expenditures and locals should work with their CTA Staff and CTA's C4OB to make sure they have a say in how the funds will be spent in their district. Educators should have a voice in how this money gets spent. And thanks to all who took the survey last time on how to spend some of the ELOG money. Your ideas can be found on this jamboard by clicking [here](#). Lots of money coming in also for **Transitional Kindergarten** now, with all those teachers needing to be hired or placed.

**CTA supports a police-free campus.** This does not mean that CTA does not believe there should be rules and discipline. However, schools should be places where students feel safe and supported, not criminalized. Our Civil Rights in Education (CRE) committee has been working extremely hard to make sure that CTA is opposing "policies, and practices, and funding that support institutionalized racism, white privilege, white supremacy, poverty, disproportionality in school suspensions and expulsions, physical violence against our students, and other factors leading to the criminalization and demoralization of our students."

I am very sad to pass on the report that we have lost 565 educators to COVID during the pandemic. **CalSTRS has seen a 26% increase in teacher retirements** this year. Many teachers stated they are retiring due to the challenges of working during COVID.

The biggest point of controversy at our June Council was over **Career Technical Education** (CTE). Robust debate centered around the following language being added to our policies: "One year of CTE course work must be part of the course of sequence of classes required for high

school graduation.” For every job in the workforce that requires a graduate degree, there will be 2 jobs that require a bachelor degree and seven jobs that will require a two-year degree or technical industry certification. The problem of “1-2-7” is that almost every sector in the workforce is seeing a shortage in the ‘7’ category. And this problem circles back to the erosion of our technical programs in favor of college-ready programs. As much as we’d like to see all of our students go on to get higher and higher degrees, the reality is that many young adults lack the skills for many jobs that pay a middle-class wage. The good news is that in many ways college readiness and career readiness are intertwined so adding this requirement will not be as burdensome as some might believe.

Our Political Involvement Committee has recommended that CTA approve an ‘oppose’ position on the recall of **Governor Gavin Newsom** and authorize CTA to spend up to \$2 million from the Initiative Fund to support CTA positions on the 2021 fall ballot. On balance, the Governor has been a strong supporter of education and this is clearly a fight worth fighting. Local chapters will be reaching out to their members to help **oppose the recall**.

**Member Engagement Grants** have been underutilized for obvious reasons. Many chapters scrapped their plans when COVID hit. This has resulted in a surplus of funds to be applied for. Vice President Leslie Littman urged the council to alert our local chapters as to the opportunity to access these funds. Fill out an Engagement Grant form [here](#). You can also request money for your local PAC at that same site and forms for that are due soon.

Now is a great time to become more active in the Association. This summer is the perfect opportunity to train at the **Summer Institute**. The offerings will all be online and if they are anything like in years past, then they will be incredibly engaging and help reignite your passion for doing the work of defending our profession and protecting our working conditions. Here is a link to sign up. Sign up with a friend and it will be a great excuse to take over your home-office and spend the week together enriching your knowledge on how to help out your professional organization. <https://www.cta.org/event/2021-summer-institute>

Hoping you all have a replenishing and rejuvenating summer! This year was historic in so many ways.

In unity,

**Samantha Weiss, State Council Representative**

*PVFA 1st Vice President-Elect*

*SBUT Treasurer-Elect*

*PVFA Equity Team Co-Chair*

*District I Steering Committee Member & Equity Team Member*