



**CALIFORNIA
TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION**



October 25, 2021

Dear Members:

Here are some highlights from what will hopefully be our last virtual State Council meeting, held October 22-24, 2021. First off, we approved the candidate recommendations made by our Political Action Committees. As you may know, we work hard year round to identify and support candidates for public office who have shown themselves to be strong defenders of public education. Included among those we are endorsing are Tony Thurmond, who we worked tirelessly to get elected and who has our continued support. I must also report that there are continued campaigns to make collective bargaining rights illegal and we refer to some of them as “drop” campaigns because they try to convince people to drop their membership. Teachers, however, know full well that it is those states that no longer have collective bargaining rights that have the worst public schools in the nation. Other forces at work to weaken public education are the various school voucher initiatives. You will see some of these drop campaign and school voucher initiatives on the ballot in November 2022 and we will call upon you to help us defeat them. A significant chunk of our resources is expended defeating a small but unrelenting and well funded group of individuals and entities.

With the signing into law of AB130, Universal Transitional Kindergarten will be phased in over the next 4 years, beginning next year in the 2022/23 school year.

The Civil Rights in Education committee reported that the CTA President E. Toby Boyd shall be writing a letter to CTA members in support of honesty in education and teaching truth in our classrooms and schools. Some of our districts have asked all of their teachers to sign documents promising that they have read their controversial issues policies. But our teachers know how important it is to teach truth to our students and we will continue to serve students undauntedly. There are some great resources at NEA.org. Click [here](#) to access some resources for all matters of equity. Furthermore, if you haven't attended an on-line Tuesday Takeover meeting, these monthly meetings by our Racial and Equity Affairs Committee are an excellent way to energize your commitment to issues of equity in the classroom. Read more [here](#).

Two matters involving CalSTRS were referred by the Retirement Committee to the Board of Directors. Sponsored legislation is being proposed to increase the CalSTRS Supplemental Benefits Maintenance Account (SBMA) payments for retirees who retired before 1999. The Retirement Committee also presented another proposal that would prevent retired members

from being held liable for overpayments when the error was caused by the local education agency (the District) or CalSTRS.

You may view the entire report here:

<https://aarjb2jw4n53e35fbqj418-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/SC-Report-October-2021-For-Web.pdf>

Lastly, if you are feeling anything like I am, that teaching has never been quite so challenging as it has become lately, then please rest assured that CTA is well aware of all the current challenges teachers are facing. I am incredibly honored to work with such an amazing group of professionals who are facing these challenges head on day-in day-out, with substitute teacher shortages, a growing general teacher shortage, record numbers of student behaviors, COVID related disruptions and added protocols, etc. The sunnier side of this storm of obstacles does seem to be peeking through the clouds. I dare say, hang in there because things are going to get better.

Sincerely,

Samantha Weiss, State Council Representative
Palos Verdes Faculty Association, 1st Vice President