



9 Million Reasons To Speak Up

ACTION PLAN

Take action now!

Now is the time for PTA members to take action to help California's more than 9 million children. To make our voices heard, California State PTA has developed an action plan with ideas and resources to help you mobilize your members and communities throughout the state.

In the past two years, the state has cut \$17 billion from schools, and deep cuts to social services have added to the burden borne by children and families. An additional \$2.4 billion is now being proposed in new cuts to schools, as well as the possible elimination of entire health programs that serve children. PTA strongly opposes these proposals.

We must speak up for all children now! We must demand that the state invest in their education and well-being.

The following menu lists actions your PTA unit, council and district can take. We encourage you to do as many of the activities as feasible for your group. Easy-to-use samples are included to assist you.

Your involvement will make a difference.

ACTION ITEMS – Target Dates

WRITE LETTERS TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATORS – *Begin now*

- **PTA unit, council and district leaders** submit letters on PTA letterhead to their district's Assembly members, Senators and Governor Schwarzenegger. See sample letters below.
 - [Letter to Governor from PTA Presidents.](#)
 - [Letter to legislator from PTA Presidents.](#)
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HOLD A LOCAL SCHOOL FUNDING INITIATIVE PETITION DRIVE – *Now to May 2*

- Collect signatures for the Local Control of Local Classrooms Funding Act.
 - [Petition drive plan.](#)
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR – *Feb 22 to March 5*

- PTA leaders and members submit letters to the editor to local newspapers and other media.
 - [Letter to the editor.](#)
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PARTICIPATE IN A STATEWIDE DAY OF ACTION – *March 4*

- Join us in activities with education and community partners.
- For ideas, visit www.protectourstudents.org.

LEGISLATOR LETTER CAMPAIGN – *March 5 to April 30*

- Submit letters to local legislators and the Governor. See sample letters below.
- [Letter to Governor \(state & local impact\) from parents.](#)
- [Letter to Governor \(state impact only\) from parents.](#)
- [Letter to legislator \(state & local impact\) from parents.](#)
- [Letter to legislator \(state impact only\) from parents.](#)
- PTA councils and units can organize letter campaigns.
- [Letter campaign ideas.](#)

HOLD A PASS-IT-ON E-MAIL BLAST CAMPAIGN - *Now to April 30*

- Send a message to your e-mail lists of people you know in California and ask them to forward to their California friends.
- [Sample e-mail.](#)

PLAN LOCAL RALLIES OR OTHER PRESS EVENTS – *March 15 to April 19*

- Hold a local rally at a school site; invite press, legislators, speakers, high school band.
- [How to organize a rally.](#)

MEET WITH LEGISLATORS – *March – until budget is signed*

- Schedule monthly visits to your legislators' district offices to talk about local impacts of budget cuts and hand-deliver signed letters.
- [Fact sheet.](#)
- [Tips for visits.](#)
- [Message to legislators.](#)

STATE PTA RALLY AT THE PTA CONVENTION IN SACRAMENTO – *April 29 to May 2*

- Attend the California State PTA convention in Sacramento.
- [Register for convention.](#)
- Rally at the Capitol on April 29.
- Superintendent of Public Instruction Candidates Forum on April 30.

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING TO SPEAK UP FOR CHILDREN – *Ongoing*

- Send photos and stories of your advocacy activities to communications@capta.org and legislation@capta.org.

Speak up for children.

(How many more reasons do you need?)

Find out more about how to join or support the California State PTA at

<http://www.capta.org/sections/membership/join-support.cfm>

Please visit the [California State PTA website](http://www.capta.org) – www.capta.org – for more information.