

# PTA Mobilizes to Prevent Suspension of Proposition 98 and to Push for Passage of a Just Budget

## Budget Stalemate Continues

The new fiscal year began Monday, July 1, without a state-spending plan in place for 2002-03. As expected the debate in Sacramento over how to balance the state budget given the huge deficit is increasingly partisan and the stalemate threatens to drag on into the summer.

Late Saturday, June 29, the Senate passed the 2002-03 Budget and all necessary trailer bills. The two-thirds majority needed for passage was reached when one Republican Senator broke with the Caucus and voted for the package, in exchange for removing the proposal to restore higher rates on the top income tax brackets. The Senate has now adjourned for summer recess until August, but the Assembly continues to meet. The Assembly has been unable to garner the votes needed to pass the budget bill. At least four Republican votes are needed in the Assembly before the Budget can go the Governor for his signature.

The Senate version of the Budget largely mirrors the plan offered by the Governor in the May Revision, except that lawmakers did restore some of the Governor's cuts in the area of social and health benefits for the poor. The Budget passed by the Senate uses a series of cuts, loans, deferrals and accounting moves to fill the cash hole.

On June 30 the Assembly did pass a bill that shifts \$1.7 billion in unspent school funds from

2001-02 to 2002-03. The shift was critical to prevent the possible suspension of Proposition 98 and had to be enacted before midnight on June 30. Earlier, the Assembly Republicans had blocked **SB 1830** (Peace), which like the Budget required a two-thirds majority vote. The California State PTA supported and worked hard for the passage of SB 1830. The bill was reworked so that it required just a simple majority vote to pass and Governor Davis signed the measure Sunday night, meeting the June 30 deadline.

Some veteran budget watchers are predicting that the Budget will not be completed before the end of July or early August. The California State PTA will continue its efforts to ensure that the Budget will maintain the progress made in recent years toward improving our schools and ensuring that children and their families have quality health care and child care.

*Cecelia Mansfield, Director of Legislation*

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⌘ **Not Just a Budget...** ⌘  
⌘ **A Just Budget!!** ⌘  
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## The Master Plan for Education—What Now?

The public engagement, Information Renaissance Dialogue, is completed. Over 850 people signed up on line to participate. The local Legislative Town Hall hearings have also been completed, and a series of Legislative hearings are over.

Now it is time for members of the Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan K-University and for staff to sift through the pages and pages of responses in order to develop the final Master Plan that will be adopted by the Committee and presented to the State Legislature. The plan components that were most controversial were governance issues, a lack of specifics about adult education, and the role of technical/career education in a rigorous academic curriculum. The responses to school readiness and early childhood education were very favorable. There were many participants weighing in with thoughts and with facts about the amount and type of testing that is occurring in California schools.

As staff works to provide a plan that will be acceptable to the general public, we hope that the elements that are California State PTA beliefs will remain. PTA has testified to the importance of parent involvement from a child's earliest years through high school. PTA has emphasized the value of early childhood education, including parenting education.

PTA also strongly supports a rigorous academic curriculum that integrates technical and vocational training with college entrance requirements, so that students may always have choices. And again, PTA emphasizes parent involvement to help students make choices about the future.

After presentation to and acceptance by the California State Legislature of the revised Master Plan for Education, members of the Legislature will begin to introduce legislation in January 2003 to implement those elements of the plan that need to be in law. Some of the legislation was introduced in 2002, including **AB 2217** (Strom-Martin), which would establish a Quality School Model to help determine the cost of providing a quality education in California's public schools. PTA will study the new version of the plan and will be prepared to take positions on implementation legislation. PTA sincerely hopes that the sections it so strongly supports will remain intact. We shall keep you informed with each issue of *Sacramento Update*.

*Harriet Borson, Consultant*

### Arts Corner

## PTA-Sponsored Arts Bill Passes Out of Committee

The PTA Sponsored Arts Bill, **SB 1548** (Alarcon) passed out of the Assembly Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism & Internet Media Committee and has now been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. It passed by a vote of 9-2 out of the Assembly Education Committee on June 13, 2002. This bill would require the State Department of Education, through the California Arts Assessment Network, to develop a pool of diagnostic assessment items that may be used by classroom teachers, administrators, school districts, or county offices of education to assist them in determining the extent to which pupils are mastering visual and performing arts content standards. The bill would require the department to develop the assessment items only to the extent that funds are available for this purpose from a specified source. Thank you to all the PTA members, units, councils, and districts who sent letters of support for SB 1548.

Several Assembly members were added as co-authors to SB 1548, including Alquist, Pavley, Firebaugh, and Cohn. Assembly member Marco Firebaugh presented SB 1548 for Senator Alarcon at the Assembly Education Committee hearing. A note of thanks would surely be in order, especially for those of you who live in his district. Here is his email: [Assemblymember.Firebaugh@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Firebaugh@assembly.ca.gov)

If SB 1548 passes out of the Appropriations Committee and is approved by the Assembly without amendments, it will be sent to the Governor for his signature. We urge everyone to be ready to send letters of support to the Governor in August.

Another PTA-sponsored bill, **AB 2952** (Shelley), was introduced in February as a "spot" bill. This means the bill was being used as a placeholder, with specific language to be inserted later as an amendment. The intent of this bill was to allow instructional materials funds to be used for materials for standards-based visual and performing arts classes. Because the instructional materials program is being revised, PTA is attempting to introduce language into the instructional materials bill, **AB 1781** (Hertzberg), to allow funding for arts instructional materials. Assembly member Shelley's staff has been very helpful in this process. Thank you!!!

*Carol Kocivar, Education Advocate*

## Bill on School Fine Zones Moves to Senate

**AB 1886** (Jackson), a bill to implement school fine zones and strongly supported by the California State PTA, passed out of the Assembly and was double referred to the Senate Transportation Committee and the Senate Public Safety Committee. It passed out of the Senate Transportation on a 9-3 vote and will be heard at a special Public Safety Committee hearing on August 6, 2002. This is a six-member committee, so four votes are needed to pass the bill. Senators Burton and Vasconcellos, through their past voting records, have shown their tendency to vote no on enhancement bills. If AB 1886 is passed by the Public Safety Committee, it will be heard next in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The Legislation Action Committee, at its June meeting, took a support position on **SB 1670** (Scott), which addresses firearm safety devices. Effective January 1, 2002, all guns sold or transported in California must have a gun safety device approved by the California Department of Justice (AB 106, Scott, Statutes of 1999). This law, however, permitted the sale of gun safety devices that do not comply with Department of Justice standards. SB 1670 addresses this concern by prohibiting the sale of gun safety devices not listed on the Department of Justice roster of approved safety devices, or that do not comply with specified Department of Justice standards requiring that a gun safety device accompanying the sale of a gun be appropriate for use with the gun purchased. Additionally, since there is no procedure for certification of gun safes, AB 1670 would prohibit the sale of gun safes that do not comply with Department of Justice standards, unless the safe displays a warning that it does not meet minimum specified safety standards.

The Swimming Pool Safety Act, enacted in 1996, requires that new pools and spas at single family homes be equipped with at least one of the following safety features:

- a five foot high enclosure with self-closing and self-latching gates;
- exit alarms on all doors that lead from the house to the pool;
- self-closing or self latching doors on all locations leading from house to pool; or
- any other feature that affords equal or greater protection, as determined by a local building official.

**AB 2455** (Negrete/-McLeod), introduced this year, would require all new and remodeled pools and spas to be equipped with at least two specified safety features and expands the list of allowable features; Specifically, AB 2455 would

- expand the Swimming Pool Safety Act to cover remodeled pools and spas;
- require two, rather than one, safety features for each pool or spa;
- include four foot high mesh fences and pool alarms as allowable features;
- remove a provision of current law that grandfathers pre-1997 local ordinances; and
- require the Department of Health Services, to the extent funds are available, to develop a statewide swimming pool safety educational campaign and conduct additional studies to provide the Legislature with scientific-based information on the impact of the act on toddler drowning and make recommendations for improvement.

*Peggy Dial, Community Concerns Advocate*

### Seven Measures Qualify for November Ballot

The following measures will be presented to California voters for approval on the November 5, 2002, general election ballot:

**Proposition 46** - Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2002

**Proposition 47** - Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2002

**Proposition 48** - Court Consolidation

**Proposition 49** - After School Programs. State Grants. Initiative Statute

**Proposition 50** - Water Quality, Supply and Safe Drinking Water Projects. Coastal Wetlands Purchase and Protection. Bonds. Initiative Statute

**Proposition 51** - Transportation. Allocation of Sales and Use Taxes Raised from Sale or Lease of Motor Vehicles. Initiative Statute

**Proposition 52** - Election Day Voter Registration. Initiative Statute

The California State PTA has voted to support **Proposition 47**, the School Facilities Bond measure, and **Proposition 49**, the After School Initiative.

## Good News on Education Bills

Special education bill, AB 164 (Harman) on alternative dispute resolution, will be heard in the Senate Education Committee on August 7. PTA supports this bill, which would require the State Department of Education to establish and administer a statewide program of grant funding to support special education local plan areas (SELPAs) in conducting alternative dispute resolution programs for resolving special education disputes.

**AB 323** (Pavley) will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 5. PTA has an approve position on this bill, which would require the State Department of Education, in conjunction with the Department of Finance and the Legislative Analyst, to conduct a specified study of counties with a specified average daily attendance regarding the special education needs of juveniles who are defined as individuals with exceptional needs and who are in the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

**AB 1888** (Daucher), on class size reduction, was held under submission in the Assembly Appropriations Committee in May. The PTA had taken an oppose-unless-mended position on this bill. PTA believed that an April amendment to the bill did not simply change the priority order for implementation of class size reduction. It significantly altered existing provisions that ensure equal treatment of California school children. This bill allowed for some classrooms within the same school and grade levels to exceed the 20/1 student/teacher ratio, therefore not providing children the same opportunities and advantages of class size reduction.

**AB 2025** (Corbett), which addresses the need for a master plan for pupil services, is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 8. PTA has a long history of support for increased pupil services and adopted a support position on this bill, which would require the State Department of Education to convene a voluntary working group to develop a master plan for pupil support services.

**AB 2614** (Havice) is scheduled to be heard August 7 by the Senate Education Committee. PTA has an approve position on this bill to hire additional licensed or certificated school counselors in middle schools or in high schools that maintain grade 9 and that are ranked within the lowest decile on the Academic Performance Index

**SB 1934** (McPherson) will be heard next in the Assembly Appropriations Committee, but the date is unknown at this time. The PTA has adopted recent

resolutions in support of career education and supports this bill to require the Superintendent of Public Instruction, upon adoption of the model curriculum standards by the State Board of Education, to develop a model curriculum framework no later than June 1, 2004.

### ...information about required courses

**SB 1339** (Vasconcellos) will be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on a date as yet unknown. PTA supports this bill to require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to advise school districts that maintain high schools about the importance of making readily available to each high school pupil the list of courses offered by the school attended by that pupil that are certified by the University of California as meeting admission requirements.

### ...and bad news on one education bill:

**AB 2093** (Dickerson), which would have required the State to pass through to SELPAs any increase in federal funding earmarked for special education, was held under submission in May. For years, the PTA has lobbied at the federal level for an increase in special education funding. PTA supported this bill because we believe additional federal funds should be used as intended: to provide services to students in special education.

*Carol Kocivar, Education Advocate*

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## Controversial Bill Dies in the Assembly

**AB 2160** (Goldberg), by far the most controversial bill introduced in the 2002 Legislative session, died quietly in the Assembly on May 31, the deadline for bills to be passed out of the house of origin. AB 2160 was scheduled to be voted on by the Assembly on that day. However, Assemblywoman Goldberg withdrew her bill before the vote when it became evident she did not have enough votes to pass it out of the House. AB 2160, as it was introduced in February, would have made the processes for adoption of such items as curriculum development, textbook adoption and parent involvement programs subject to collective bargaining. The bill was amended several times, with the final amendment removing collective bargaining and creating an Academic Partnership to determine these processes. PTA maintained an "oppose unless amended" position on AB 2160 because of concern that provisions of the bill could exclude parents from participating in school district policy decisions that affect the education of their children. Although AB 2160 is now in the Assembly inactive file, there are still many bills working their way through the legislative process.

PTA has support positions on several bills, which address assessment and testing. **AB 1794** (Chavez) would allow students who have met all the requirements for high school graduation, but failed to pass the High School Exit Exam, to take a course through Adult Education to prepare them to take and pass the exam. AB 1794 is in the Senate Education suspense file and will be heard again on August 7. **AB 2600** (Pavley) would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop an alternative assessment to the High School Exit Exam for students with special needs. The bill would bring California into compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act. AB 2600 passed out of the Senate Education Committee and has been referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee. **SB 1476** (O'Connell) would provide a waiver to successful passage of the High School Exit Exam, under specific conditions, for students with disabilities. SB 1476 will be heard next on the Assembly floor.

PTA has a seek amendments position on another assessment bill, **AB 2347** (Goldberg), which would make changes to the Standardized Testing and Review (STAR) Program, including provisions that would bring the STAR Program into compliance

with the federal No Child Left Behind Act, provide alternative assessments for students with special needs, and would create a Content Review Panel to advise the State Board of Education. PTA is seeking to have parents included on the Content Review Panel. PTA also has a seek amendments position on **SB 1310** (Alpert), an accountability bill that would give direction to the State Department of Education regarding schools determined to be "state-monitored" because they have not met Academic Performance Index (API) growth targets. PTA is seeking to ensure that parents are involved in the process. AB 2347 will be heard by the Senate Education Committee on August 7. SB 1310 will be heard next on the Assembly floor.

The California State PTA has positions on three bills that address recommendations made in the draft of the Master Plan for Education:

- **AB 2217** (Strom-Martin) would create a Quality School Model to help the Legislature make better decisions regarding the allocation of resources for schools. PTA is seeking to amend AB 2217 to have a parent included on the commission established by the bill. The bill is waiting to be heard by the Senate Education Committee on August 7.
- **AB 2363** (Firebaugh) would increase the number of members on the State Board of Education and would require members to represent specific constituencies and geographic locations. PTA will support AB 2363, which is currently in the Senate Education Committee, if it is amended to ensure parent advocacy representation on the State Board.
- **SB 1453** (Alpert) would require the State Department of Education to contract with an independent entity to develop, host and maintain a system for containing longitudinal pupil achievement data on the STAR Program the, English language development test, and the High School Exit Exam. PTA believes this information is vital to an effective accountability system and supports SB 1453. The bill is currently on the Assembly floor.

Since the State Senate recessed for the summer following its approval of the 2002-03 State Budget on June 29, there are no Senate committee meetings scheduled until August. The Assembly has scheduled only a few committee meetings, and no Education Committee meetings, while it continues to debate approval of the Budget. August 31 is the last day of the 2001-2002, two-year Legislative session. All bills in the current session must be acted upon by the Legislature by that date. September 30 will be the last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature.

*Ann Desmond, Education Advocate*

## PTA Support for Parenting Education Bills

PTA supports several bills on the Parenting Education Commission subjects of parent involvement and parenting, school readiness, and after-school programs

**SB 1595** (Escutia) would promote greater parental involvement among parents of English Language Learners by identifying the specific rights to information that parents are entitled to receive, and requiring that all parents and guardians of pupils who speak a language other than English are properly notified of the rights and opportunities available to them.

PTA is committed to promoting policy and actions that will encourage and assist **all** parents to become actively involved in decisions that affect the education and well-being of their children and to promote the involvement of parents in their children's education and schools. SB 1595 is consistent with provisions of Title III of the No Child Left Behind Act. The 'purpose' and 'grants to states' sections of Title III specify that funds authorized under this title should be used to promote parental and community participation in programs that serve limited English proficient children. SB 1595 passed by a vote of 9-4 in Assembly Education Committee on June 26.

**SB 1661** (Kuehl) would create a family temporary disability insurance program within the State Disability Insurance (SDI) program. This new family and medical leave insurance would provide up to 12 weeks of wage replacement benefits to workers who take time off work to care for a new child or a seriously ill family member. This is an important parenting issue. PTA supported the California Family Rights Act (FMLA) of 1993, which grants some employees up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave; but many parents who qualify for FMLA cannot afford to be without the income. Citing growing evidence from research on infant development and school achievement, the National Academy of Sciences has made paid family leave a major recommendation. Other studies cite significant health benefits to infants and young children, and conclude that paid family leave is a cost-effective method of bettering child health.

SB 1661 passed in Assembly Insurance Committee by a vote of 11-7 on June 26. It will be heard next in Assembly Appropriations Committee, probably sometime in August.

**AB 2741** (Chan) would establish a state Children's School Readiness and Health Council to coordinate children's school readiness and health policy and program operations, including gathering research, developing a strategic plan, and providing leadership in developing a children's school readiness and health system. School readiness has been an important PTA issue since 1902, when we began to promote the establishment of kindergarten in public schools. Research and experience over the past 100 years have produced a great deal of knowledge about the broader aspects of school readiness and the importance of considering the "whole child" in our assessment of readiness to learn. The National Education Goals Panel proposed that our number one education goal should be that "all children in America will start school ready to learn." The intent of this bill is to look at ways to accomplish this goal.

AB 2741 was passed by Senate Education Committee on June 19, and was heard in Senate Health and Human Services on July 3.

Two identical bills, **SB 1478** (McPherson) and **AB 1984** (Steinberg), would provide incentive grants to encourage development of locally driven after-school programs to serve high school students. These bills have been scaled back considerably since first introduced, but still are much needed because the current before- and after-school programs do not serve students above grade 9. The program would be funded this year through the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program and would target students in low-income areas. Both AB 1984 and SB 1478 are moving along without any significant opposition, have passed policy committees in their respective second houses on consent, and probably will be heard in the Appropriations Committees in August.

**AB 2730** (Washington) is another measure to establish after school programs with tutoring, academic enrichment, and mentoring for youth from ages 13 to 18. This is a grant program to be conducted at local public libraries from funds allocated through the Carl Washington School Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 1999. AB 2730 was placed on the Education Committee suspense file on June 26.

*Betty DeFea, Parenting Education Advocate*



## SAVE THE DATE!

Save the following dates for the  
**California State PTA**  
**2003 Legislation Conference**  
**in Sacramento:**  
 February 18-20, 2003

### PTA Supports Warnings on Dietary Supplements

As if the problems of poor nutrition, sedentary life style, and obesity related diseases weren't enough, parents today need to be aware and concerned about the issue of dietary supplements. Today's adolescents face pressures to either increase their sports prowess (bulk up, in males) or to lose weight (slim down, in females). They are turning to dietary supplements. However, there is growing evidence that the use of dietary supplements containing certain substances is having severe adverse reactions including deaths and strokes.

Dietary supplements are a growing industry, and it is estimated that \$200 million of ephedra based products are sold in California each year. Dietary supplements are regulated by the Food and Drug administration pursuant to the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act (DSHEA) of 1994. Dietary supplements are classed as a separate product (from drugs) and are treated in a manner similar to food. DSHEA does not require that they be shown to be safe before they are marketed, nor does the FDA scrutinize them before they enter the market place. The FDA does not require that warnings appear on the label of these products. Some of the supplements that are causing concern are ephedra, androstenedione, and creatine.

Ephedrine is a form of stimulant, found naturally in ma huang, a group of Chinese herbs in the ephedra genus of plants. It can also be produced synthetically. Ephedrine is a powerful stimulant that affects the cardiovascular and central nervous systems. Sensitivity to the drug may vary greatly from person to person. A wide range of adverse effects, including headaches, psychoses, strokes, heart attacks, and deaths have been associated with ephedrine.

Androstenedione is a pro-hormone, one of several compounds formed in the body during production of testosterone, a potent muscle-building steroid. Use of androstenedione is becoming increasingly common among young athletes seeking to build muscle mass or increase their performance. Studies have found changes in cholesterol with a rise in "bad" cholesterol and a decrease in the "good" cholesterol, and a rise in levels of estrogen during the use of this supplement.

Creatine is an amino acid made by the liver, kidneys, and pancreas. It also occurs naturally in meat and fish. It is stored in muscle and elsewhere in the body and plays a key role in producing immediate bursts of energy. It has been shown to improve performance of athletic tasks that require brief, intense bursts of strength. According to the Consumer Reports, adverse health effects of creatine have not been systematically documented. Medical professionals believe that creatine may cause kidney problems in susceptible individuals and is likely to lead to rapid weight gain.

PTA has taken positions on three bills in the Legislature this year related to dietary supplements. PTA has an approve position on **SB 1750** (Speier), which would prohibit dietary supplements with certain ingredients from being sold to minors, and would require that dietary supplements contain warning labels.

PTA also has an approve position on **SB 1948** (Figueroa), which would require that warning labels on dietary supplements be clear and conspicuous and would also require that printed advertising carry warnings.

PTA has a support position on **SB 1562** (Speier). Since 1987-88, the Legislature has expressed its intent that school districts be encouraged to include instruction on the effects of the use of anabolic steroids to increase athletic performance. This bill would require school districts to include instruction in grades 7-12 on the effects of the use of performance enhancing substances including anabolic steroids, androstenedione, creatine, and ephedra. When the state mandates a course of instruction, this opens the door for school districts to seek reimbursement for their costs. Considering the budget situation this year, that is unlikely to happen and in fact this bill has already died. Nevertheless, parents and PTA units can still advocate at the school site level for meaningful health curricula and assemblies.

*Michael Butler, Health Advocate*

## DC Corner

### A Call for Ideas on IDEA

Committees of the U.S. Congress are gathering input from testimony at public hearings and through e-testimony for the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). At its hearing on June 6, the U.S. House of Representatives Education and the Workforce Committee unveiled a new interactive website,

“Great IDEAs for Special Education,”

(<<http://edworkforce.house.gov/issues/107th/education/idea/ideacomments/index.htm>>)

The website was created to gather comments from teachers, parents, and others. All who have an interest in special education can give opinions on what reforms are needed to improve IDEA. The committee asks for comment on accountability and academic achievement, reducing paperwork and litigation, early-intervention strategies, parent involvement, school safety, and reforming special education finance and funding.

The U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions also has held several public hearings on the reauthorization of IDEA. The committee is calling for input on accountability, academic preparation, keeping students in school, transition planning and services, and teacher recruitment, training and retention. The Senate Committee also maintains a website. For more information on the Senate hearings, go to

<<http://www.senate.gov/%7Elabor/Hearings-2002/hearings-2002.htm>>.

PTA members are encouraged to visit the House committee website to submit comments on ways to improve IDEA. National PTA has put together several resources that can serve as guidance to PTA members when submitting recommendations to the committee, including letters to the committees holding hearings on IDEA reform, that outline PTA priorities for the law's reauthorization. National PTA will work to ensure that

- Alternative education services for students who are suspended or expelled from school are maintained;
- Congress meets its obligation to provide mandatory full-funding of IDEA; and
- The current IDEA structure is preserved and not altered to allow special education funds to be used to finance voucher programs.

These resources are available on National PTA's members' site at:

<<http://www.pta.org/cfplus/legis/issues/issidea.htm>>  
For additional information regarding IDEA, go to  
<<http://www.pta.org/ptawashington/issues/idea.asp>>

#### FEDERAL BUDGET UPDATE

Both houses of Congress have now completed their Budget Resolutions for FY 2003. The House spending plan essentially mirrors the President's proposed budget released in February which provides an overall increase of about \$1.4 billion in funding for the Department of Education programs, including a \$1 billion increase in Title I grants to schools in low-income areas. But the increase is offset by cuts of about \$1.2 billion to other important education programs. National PTA supports the Senate Resolution, which would allow more money for education.

#### ESEA: Next Step is Implementation

The newly reauthorized federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), now known as the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act contains many important reforms and a strong parental involvement component threaded throughout. The next step is implementation at the state and local levels. PTA leaders and parents must be active in ESEA implementation to make sure that the law is implemented effectively, and that the benefits of the improved parent involvement and strengthened accountability provisions are realized.

To assist PTA members working on ESEA implementation in their states, National PTA has developed “The Next Step Is Yours: National PTA's ESEA Implementation Guide”. The guide was designed to help PTA members and other education advocates understand the implementation process with regard to the key PTA issues of parent involvement, assessments, state and school report cards, supplemental services, flexibility, and teacher quality. For each PTA issue, the guide provides background information, PTA's position, website links for additional information, and sample questions that PTA members can use to help them participate more effectively in the implementation process at the state, school district, and school levels. Also included is a section of frequently asked questions for parents who may be new to the education advocacy process, and a list of the U.S. Department of Education regional offices. The guide is available online at the PTA members' site

<<http://www.pta.org/cfplus/legis/issues/issesea.htm>>

*Betty DeFea, Federal Advocate*