



Volume 34, Number 1

July 2009

Major Cuts to Education and Children's Services In State Budget Solution

Governor Vetoes Additional \$489 Million In Spending

On July 24 a negotiated agreement on a proposal to close California's approximately \$23 billion budget deficit was approved by the Legislature and sent to the Governor. The package included a combination of shifts and deferrals and spending cuts:

- \$15.3 billion in spending cuts
- \$4 billion in revenue accelerations (changes the timing of tax payments, not the total amount owed)
- \$500 million in fund shifts
- \$2.1 in borrowing from local government property taxes
- \$1.2 billion in one-time savings as a result of moving pay for state employees from June 30 to July 1 2010

The breakdown of the \$15.3 billion in cuts is as follows:

- \$5.7 billion from K-14 education (37% of the total cuts)
- \$2.8 billion from higher education
- \$1.2 billion from human services
- \$2.0 billion from health
- \$2.0 billion from transportation
- \$0.5 billion from resources
- \$1.1 billion from public safety

The Governor's offices notes that these cuts, on top of the \$15 billion in cuts made in February, amount to approximately \$30 billion – roughly one-third of the entire state budget. They also clearly note that the budget includes no new taxes.

In response to the draft package PTA President Jo Loss said, "California State PTA and our nearly one million members have serious concerns with the long-lasting negative impact this budget will have on children and families in California. We recognize the state is facing an unprecedented fiscal crisis, but we are angered that our legislative leaders are choosing to solve the budget primarily with cuts to critical services rather than identifying sufficient sources of new, ongoing revenue to provide a more balanced approach."

K-12 Education Cut \$5.7 Billion

To avoid suspending Proposition 98, the constitutionally guaranteed minimum funding level for schools, in the 2009-10 budget year, the agreement reduced Proposition 98 funding for 2008-09 by capturing unallocated categorical that had not yet been sent out to school districts by the Controller. Revenue limit funding, which provides general fund revenue for school districts and county offices of education will be cut by 2.4 billion in 2009-10 or

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

about \$390 per student. In addition \$1.7 billion of 2009-10 payments to school districts will be deferred to 2010-11.

The final package does include restoration of the 2008-09 cuts by certifying that a maintenance factor was created due to the cuts to education. The budget agreement also provides school districts some added flexibility to deal with these significant cuts:

Suspend the requirement that student with disabilities pass the California High School Exit Exam to graduate from high school.

- Allows for a reduction of up to five days of instruction to 175 days through 2012-13.
- Suspends the requirement that school districts purchase newly adopted instructional materials through 2012-13.
- Eliminates the requirement for school districts to set aside funds for routine maintenance.
- Allows school districts to sell surplus property and to use the funds for general purposes for three years.
- Lowers the reserve for economic uncertainty to one-third of the amount required.

Community Colleges and UC/USC

The agreement reduces 2009-10 funds for community colleges by \$696.1 million, but anticipates that a portion of the reduction will be backfilled with federal economic recovery funds (ARRA) and revenues from higher student fees, which would increase from \$20 per unit to \$26 per unit beginning with the 2009-10 academic year. It will also provide some added flexibility in the use of categorical funds.

The proposed budget includes \$2 billion in cuts to US and CSU, but it also includes reimbursement of \$1.2 billion in ARRA funds. Cuts proposed by the Governor to the Cal Grant Program were rejected, but \$32 million in general fund costs were shifted to the student aid fund.

Healthy Families

Funding for the Healthy Families Program, which provides health care to nearly one million children from low-income families, was reduced in 2009-10 by \$124 million. It is assumed that First 5 California Children and Families Commission will backfill these reductions. The program stopped enrolling eligible children on July 17 and will soon begin dropping eligible children from the program.

This will jeopardize health coverage for hundreds of thousands of children. The California Medical Association estimates that 450,000 children will be dropped from the program. More than 7,000 children have been put on the wait list in the week since the freeze began.

Human Services

The budget package identifies a number of reforms in the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKS) Program. The Governor's office estimates that the short-term reforms will save \$510 million in 2009-10 and \$600 million annually beginning in 2011-12. Many of these reforms will result in significant cuts to families with children when parents have "timed off" aid or have not met work participation requirements. However, the agreement does exempt parents or caregivers of young children from having to meet work participation requirements from July 1, 2009 to July 1, 2011. It restores childcare service for CalWORKS families transitioning out of the program. Cost-of-living allowance (COLA) for CalWORKS grants will be eliminated starting in 2010-11.

Fees for various categories of foster care providers, including foster family agencies and group homes, will be reduced by 10% for a total savings of \$26.6 million. The School Age Community Child Care (Latchkey) program will be eliminated 8-31-09. These children will receive priority placement in other subsidized programs.

Because the entire budget package was not approved by the Assembly, on July 27 the Governor used his veto pen to eliminate an additional \$489 million in spending, which will leave California with a \$500 million reserve. For the complete list of vetoes, go to www.dof.ca.gov. □

Debbie Look

Director of Legislation

School Finance, Charter Schools Bills Advance

Believe it or not the Legislature has continued to work on something besides the budget. However, bills that involved any spending of consequence either died or became two-year bills that will need to move to the second house by January 31. Some of the priority bills supported by PTA include the following:

AB 8 (Brownley) requires the Director of Finance and the Legislative Analyst to convene a working group that will make findings and recom-

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

mendations to the Legislature and the Governor by December 1, 2010 regarding restructuring California's school finance system. Another school finance bill by Assemblymember Brownley is **AB 851** that requires the base revenue limit for each school district for the 2011-12 fiscal year to include an adjustment computed as specified in an effort to begin simplifying school funding. Both of these bills will likely be heard August 17 in the Senate Appropriations Committee. PTA also took a support position on **ACR 54 (Brownley)** putting the legislature on record as working to bring funding for California's schools up to the national average.

AB 451 (DeLeon) would increase amounts available to school districts, county offices of education and charter schools that have been identified under NCLB/ESEA for corrective action, and expand eligibility for grants to districts that have schools that have been identified for corrective action for several years, even though the districts themselves have not been identified for corrective action. The hope is to provide sufficient resources for corrective action to have a better chance for success. When AB 451 was heard in Senate Education on July 15, it was determined that a two-house working group will be convened to look at AB 451 and SB 742 (Romero) together, since both bills seek to improve outcomes for low performing schools.

AB 572 (Brownley) would prove that charter schools are subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act, unless it is operated by an entity governed by the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, in which case the school would be subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. The bill would also require charter schools to adopt strict conflict-of-interest policies. This bill would provide greater accountability for taxpayer funds used by charter schools. AB 572 is on the Senate floor awaiting a vote when the Senate returns from recess.

AB 1025 (Conway) would require volunteer coaches or coaches paid by non-school organizations to obtain from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing an Activity Supervisor Clearance Certificate issued by the commission upon verification of the candidate's personal identification and completion of a fingerprint-based background check. This bill awaits action by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Brian Bonner
2007-09 Education Advocate

Update on Physical Education Bill

A significant but controversial bill introduced early this year is AB 351 (Salas), Physical Education. PTA took a Support position on AB 351, but it failed to meet the deadline to move forward in the Assembly. On July 2 Assemblymember Salas amended the content into another bill, AB 1569. The hijacked bill also failed to move out of the Senate Education Committee and is currently stuck in the Senate Rules Committee. The intent of the author is to address the graduation requirements and course credits related to physical education, California Cadet Corps, cheer or dance team, color guard or drill team, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, and marching band. Physical education is the only school subject that has mandated minutes for instruction which in the secondary schools is 400 minutes each ten days. The issues surrounding the bill are whether being exempt from Physical Education requirements to take the aforementioned classes meets physical education standards and whether a credentialed teacher was instructing the students during these alternate classes/activities.

San Diego Unified School District, sponsor of the bill, organized an effective campaign to garner support. The urgency of this bill has impact statewide, but many questions remain surrounding the credentials of the instructors for the specialized curricular activity. At one point the discussion revolved around the instructor having two credentials, one in Physical education and the other in a specialized area.

While the bill remains confusing and offers lingering concern, some good things have come out of the campaign. After months of requests, the California Department of Education finally issued guidance due to pressure from AB 351. The State Board of Education also amended its frameworks in response to concerns that were raised. The documents with the changes are available from the California Department of Education and the Committee on Teacher Credentialing.

AB 1569 (Salas) Physical Education is officially a 2-year a two-year bill, and the California State PTA will consider whether to transfer support from AB 351 to the new bill early next year when it comes up for consideration.

Suzan Solomon
Education Advocate

Building a Comprehensive Data System for California Schools

The California State PTA has taken a SUPPORT position on **SB 19 (Simitian)**, an important bill that will guide the next steps in the implementation of California's longitudinal student data system. Dollars are included in the Federal Stimulus Package to assist states in making progress in the development of education data systems, which is one of the new administration's priorities. Policymakers are hopeful that California will receive the needed financial assistance from the federal government to add to the momentum created by the long awaited rollout of CalPads in August and the release of the McKinsey group last year. That report provides a framework for building a comprehensive data system for California public education.

Also last year the Governor signed into law SB 1298 (Simitian) Chapter 561, Statutes of 2008, that enacted the Education Data and Information Act of 2008. SB 1298 called for the Legislature to convene a working group to make recommendations relating to the governance of education data that includes:

- The organizational structure of the governing entity.
- The governing entity's relationship to other agencies.
- The scope of the governing entity's authority and responsibilities.
- Methods for holding the governing entity accountable.
- Methods for ensuring that the work of the governing entity primarily serves the purposes of continuous educational improvement as well as ensuring the privacy of data under its control.

The SB 1298 working group has been meeting since early this year, with the Legislative Analyst taking the lead. It is anticipated that the report of the working group will be in draft form this fall.

Evaluating California's Standards and Accountability System

California State PTA has taken a SUPPORT position on **AB 97 (Torlakson)**, a bill that would establish a mechanism by which California can review and update its education content standards in reading/language arts and mathematics to ensure they remain rigorous and on the cutting edge. This could

be helpful as the movement to national core standards for states unfolds. California is part of that movement. AB 97 appears to be headed to the Governor's desk.

Another important bill that is headed to the Governor's desk is **AB 476 (Torlakson)** that calls for a comprehensive evaluation of the STAR Program in advance of the 2011 reauthorization of California's student testing program.

Cecelia Mansfield
Education Advocate

State Budget Cuts Will Impact Children's Health

The Healthy Families program currently covers nearly one million low-income children between 100-250% of the federal poverty level. Cuts in proposed state dollars will potentially deny over 500,000 children healthcare coverage. A wait list would deny over 350,000 children entry into the Healthy Families program over the course of the budget year. In addition, the size of the cuts would force California to drop hundreds of thousands of additional children. For every dollar California cuts in Healthy Families, the state loses two dollars in federal matching funds.

Other cuts include decreased funding for the Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment program. The purpose of this program is to improve the health of low-income children, by providing a full range of screening, diagnostic, and treatment services. Additionally, there are cuts to maternal and child health care, including the Black Infant Health Program, Adolescent Family Life Program and Access for Infants and Mother program which enables mothers and newborn babies to get prenatal and post-natal care.

One of the emerging chronic illnesses of young children is dental disease. This budget proposes to suspend the children's dental disease prevention program. Last, but certainly not least in the era of swine flu, the budget cuts eliminate the immunization program.

When looking at these cuts it is important to remember that these cuts are in addition to the cuts made in February 2009. These cuts will dramatically impact the health of the children of California.

Shayne Silva,
Health Advocate

HELPING FOSTER YOUTH

One theme that has characterized the legislative work of the Parent Involvement Commission the last few years has been a focus on the support and services needed by emancipating foster youth – those youth approaching their eighteenth birthday who are about to “age out” of the child welfare system.

There are currently more than 74,000 youth going through California’s foster care system. They are there because people who were supposed to protect them did not. They may have been beaten, sexually or emotionally abused, physically abandoned or starved. They may be pawns in a family dispute. Their parents may have been doing or selling drugs in the child’s presence. On average, these children spend three years in the foster care system bouncing around to five different temporary placements before they get a permanent foster home.

About 4,500 foster youth “aged out” annually, ready or not. One in four will be jailed within two years of emancipation; more than half will be homeless, institutionalized, or dead within five years of leaving the system. More than half are high school dropouts; only 3 percent get a college degree. Almost half are unemployed at age 21.

California State PTA has taken support positions on a number of bills this year that offer the promise of better outcomes for our foster youth. Bills marked as **2-Year Bills** have stalled in the legislature this year and may be taken up in January.

AB 12, (Beall) repeals the existing Kin-GAP Program and would require the state to exercise its option under federal law to establish a new Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program. It also requires the State Department of Social Services to amend its foster care state plan required under federal law to extend AFDC-FC benefits to foster youth up to 21 years of age. **2-Year Bill.**

AB 167 (Adams) requires school districts to exempt a pupil in foster care who transfers to the district in grade 11 or 12 from the additional graduation coursework requirements the governing board has adopted. **Senate Appropriations Suspense**

AB 270 (De La Torre) requires county welfare departments to prepare a document verifying the date on which the child entered the jurisdiction of the juvenile court and the date on which that jurisdiction is expected to terminate, all addresses of residence while under the court’s jurisdiction, a voter registration form, and a selective service registration form. It would also require that county welfare de-

partments screen the dependent of the courts and file for federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) if the child is likely to be eligible for benefits and would require the court to continue jurisdiction if these documents are not provided. **2-Year Bill.**

AB 345 (Torlakson) excludes emancipated foster youth from the regional occupational center or program (ROC/P) adult participation cap of 10% scheduled to become operative in the 2011-2012 fiscal year. **2-Year Bill.**

AB 719 (Bonnie Lowenthal) creates the Transitional Food Stamps for Foster Youth program effective July 1, 2010. Independent foster care adolescents who are not eligible for CalWORKs or Supplementary Security Income program benefits would be eligible without regard to income or resources for one year. **Senate Appropriations Suspense.**

AB 769 (Torres) expands priority for state-funded preschool programs to children who have a biological parent who is, or who has been within the previous six months, under the jurisdiction of the delinquency or dependency court. This bill is expected to pass out of the Senate and go to the Governor for his signature or veto.

AB 921 (Jones) requires the juvenile court, whenever it orders a hearing to terminate, on the basis of age, the jurisdiction of the court over a dependent child or ward who was in foster care, to order the social worker or probation officer to provide to the dependent child or ward a written notice stating that the person is a former foster child and is eligible for the services and benefits that are available to a former foster child through public and private programs, and to provide to the ward all necessary information regarding the availability of, and assistance to enable the ward to apply for and gain acceptance into, federal and state programs that provide independent living services and benefits to former foster children for which the person is or may be eligible.

AB 1393 (Skinner) requests the California Community Colleges (CCC) and the University of California, and requires the California State University (CSU), in order to ensure stable housing for current and former foster youth, to give priority for campus housing to current and former foster youth with first priority for housing open for uninterrupted year-round occupation and next priority for housing open for occupation most days during the calendar year. This is another bill that is expected to go to the Governor for his signature or veto.

SB 114 (Liu and Pavley) extends Medi-Cal benefits to independent foster care adolescents,

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

automatically enrolling them without a new application or interruption in service. **2-Year Bill.**

SB 654, Leno extends eligibility for independent living skills education to former foster youth placed with non-related legal guardians. **2-Year Bill.**

*Michael Butler
Parent Involvement Advocate*

Community Concerns Bills Span Broad Spectrum of Issues

The Community Concerns subject area spans a very wide area of key issues of interest to PTA members, and PTA has taken positions on 18 bills Community Concerns bills introduced this year. Two resolutions were adopted, Four are 2-year bills that will be held until January 2010 when the Legislature reconvenes and 12 bills are moving through the Legislature.

PTA has taken positions on two bills that reflect priorities established by recent convention resolutions. Based on a 2007 resolution, Comprehensive Waste Reduction in Schools, PTA has taken a SUPPORT position on **AB 747 (Emmerson)** which encourages schools and school districts to participate in beverage container recycling programs in addition to the paper recycling programs already in place in many areas. As a result of the Teen Driving Safety resolution passed at this year's convention, we are tracking several bills. One of these bills is including **AB 959 (Garrick)**, which is continuing to undergo amendments. PTA has a WATCH position on this bill.

Reform of the Juvenile Justice system is also an important issue. **AB 114 (Carter)** would allow counties to adopt a restorative justice program requiring juvenile offenders to be held accountable for their actions while maintaining public safety, and PTA has an APPROVE position on this bill. PTA has taken a SUPPORT position on **AB 999 (Skinner)** addressing the fact that juveniles in California serve proportionally longer sentences than adult offenders. It would allow juvenile offenders to earn good behavior and program time credits, encouraging participation in educational, drug and alcohol treatment and vocational training programs in order to secure earlier parole consideration.

School safety is another area under the Community Concerns umbrella. PTA has a SUPPORT position on **AB 668 (Lieu)** increasing the prohibition for possession of weapon from 1,000 feet to 1500 feet from a school. PTA also has a SUPPORT position on **AB 870 (Huber)** that deals with a loophole in current law by clearly prohibiting razor blades or box cutters on school grounds except when authorized for school projects or in the course of a person's employment.

California State PTA continued to support Assemblymember Torrico's efforts to save the lives of newborns. PTA has a SUPPORT position on AB 1048 (Torrico) that would extend the Safe Surrender provisions from 72 hours to 30 days. This would allow a parent to surrender a child up to 30 days old at a designated Safe Surrender site without threat of prosecution.

Inhalants are a growing concern in the area of drug abuse by adolescents and pre-teens. **AB 1015 (Torlakson)** addresses this problem by making it a misdemeanor to sell or give away containers of nitrous oxide. The include "whippets" sold for the purpose of making whipping cream, but which can be dangerous or even fatal when inhaled due to their pure nitrous oxide concentration.

Finally, an concern to many parents is internet safety, given the amount of time children spend online. AB 632 (Davis) would require social networking sites to provide a disclosure to users advising them that an image uploaded to the website is capable of being copied, without their consent, by persons who view the image. Although this bill alone will not necessarily make the internet safer, it may help to increase the awareness among young people of the potential dangers of posting visual images.

Debbie Look

2007-09 Community Concerns Advocate

DC Corner

National "Common Core State Standards" Movement Begins

The National Governors Association's (NGA) Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), partnering with Achieve, ACT, and the College Board, announced their plan to create a "common core of state standards" in language arts and math for grades K-12. Forty-six states and three territories, including California, have joined the state-led process. The goal is

(continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

to have a common core of state standards that states can voluntarily adopt; states may choose to include additional standards beyond the common core as long as the common core represents at least 85% of the state's standards in language arts and math. It builds directly on recent efforts of leading organizations and states that have focused on developing college- and career-ready standards and ensures that these standards can be internationally benchmarked to top-performing countries around the world.

NGA and CCSSO are coordinating the process to develop these standards and will assemble an expert validation committee to provide an independent review of the common core standards, as well as grade-by-grade standards. The common core standards are expected to be completed in July 2009, while the grade-by-grade standards are expected to be finished by December 2009. These standards will be research and evidence-based, internationally benchmarked, aligned with college and work expectations and include rigorous content and skills.

In the 26 years since the release of *A Nation at Risk*, states have made great strides in increasing the academic rigor of education standards. Yet, America's children still remain behind other nations in terms of academic achievement and preparedness to succeed.

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan spoke on May, 29, 2009 about this issue, "We want to raise the bar dramatically in terms of higher standards. What we have had as a country, I'm convinced, is what we call a 'race to the bottom.' We have 50 different standards, 50 different goal posts. And, due to political pressure, those have been dumbed down. We want to fundamentally reverse that. We want common, career-ready, internationally benchmarked standards...."

Congress is anticipated to seriously commence the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/No Child Left Behind (ESEA/NCLB) this fall. Isn't timing everything?

Key House Appropriations Committee Rolls Out Budget Allocations

By July 24, 2009, the House is expected to approve appropriations for the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. If the full House does not dramatically alter the work of the Appropriations

Committee, they will have adopted increases for all these departments above the rate of inflation, and over amounts requested by the Obama Administration.

The House increases **Department of Education** funding only modestly over the current year (1.9 percent growth, leaving aside economic recovery act funding), and provides virtually the same amount as the Administration. Title I aid for school districts serving low-income K-12 students is level-funded at \$14.5 billion. These funds were temporarily increased by \$10 billion in FYs 2009-2010 as part of the economic recovery act. The President's budget recommended cutting Title I appropriations for FY 2010 down to \$12.99 billion, not counting recovery funding.

Both the President and House Appropriations Committee flat-fund special education programs through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) at \$12.58 billion. The House Committee increases English Language Acquisition from its current level of \$730 million to \$760 million; the President's budget provides level funding.

The President requested eliminating the Even Start program, which tries to help parents and their young children improve literacy skills. The House Committee agreed to continue the program at \$66.454 million, just below its current level. The Administration instead focused on two new initiatives, the Early Learning Challenge Fund (with a funding level of \$300 million), and Early Childhood Grants (funded at \$500 million), and to increase funding for Early Reading First from \$112.5 million to \$162.5 million. The House did not provide any funding for the two new initiatives, and provided \$35 million less for Early Reading First.

Migrant education modestly increases over current year spending by both the Administration and House Appropriations Committee. A number of smaller education programs serving rural communities, Native Americans, and homeless children and youth are all level-funded. Also flat-funded are vocational programs.

The Appropriations Committee and the President agree on keeping the maximum Pell Grant size at \$4,860.

In **Health and Human Services** funding, the House and President agree on flat funding Community Health Centers at \$2.19 billion (excluding the \$2 billion in ARRA funds). Rural health programs are cut, from nearly \$149 million in FY 2009 down to \$130.1 million in the House bill (the President proposed \$124.7 million). The House bill would raise mental health program funding by 4 percent

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)

over the current year (2.3 percent above the President's request).

The annually appropriated portion of the Child Care and Development Block Grant is level-funded by both the House and the President for yet another year, at \$2.127 billion (excluding the \$2 billion in ARRA funds for FYs 2009 and 2010). Head Start would rise from \$7.113 billion in FY 2009 to \$7.235 billion, with the President and House Appropriations agreeing (excluding the ARRA funding of \$2.1 billion for FY 2009.)

The Social Services Block Grant remains flat funded at \$1.7 billion. Most appropriations for child welfare services are level funded. Exceptions include \$20 million in newly proposed Adoption Opportunities funding. Family violence/battered women's shelter funding is raised to \$133.8 million, a 4.7 percent increase over FY 2009. Both the President and the House eliminate abstinence education as ineffective. Instead, both would newly fund Teen Pregnancy Prevention Community Grants at \$110 million.

Within the **Department of Labor**, the House increases funding for YouthBuild from \$70 million in FY 2009 to \$100 million. The President did better for YouthBuild, recommending \$114 million for FY 2010. YouthBuild provides opportunities for poor young workers to receive training in construction, get high school or post-secondary education, and/or move into construction employment.

Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act

The House Education and Labor Committee, chaired by Rep. George Miller (Martinez), marked up HR 3221, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965. As passed by the Committee (by a vote of 30 to 17), the bill included six new elements and 13 changes.

HR 3221 would invest \$40 billion to increase the maximum annual Pell Grant scholarship to \$5,550 in 2010 and to \$6,900 by 2019. It would also invest \$3 billion to increase college access and completion support programs for students; increase funding for the College Access Challenge Grant program; fund innovative programs at states and institutions that focus on increasing financial literacy and helping retain and graduate students; expand the Perkins Loan program; keep interest rates low on need-based or subsidized federal student loans and simplifies the FAFSA form;

HR 3221 would also create an Early Learning Challenge Fund program, which would award competitive grants to states that implement comprehensive standards-based reform of the state's early learning system that will transform early education standards and practices, build an effective early childhood workforce, and improve the school readiness outcomes of young children. More information can be found at: <http://edworkforce.house.gov/>.

Merit Pay for Teachers

President Obama seeks to add hundreds of millions for teacher merit pay programs, an investment in a reform that has often drawn criticism from teachers unions. Even as education officials have eliminated 12 programs they say are not proven to benefit students – a savings of \$550 million – the department requests \$517 million for performance pay grants, up from \$97 million in FY2009. In addition, the stimulus law included an additional \$200 million for such programs. Secretary Duncan has indicated that states that fail to use student performance to evaluate teachers may not be eligible for some ARRA grant funding. Throughout his campaign, Obama repeatedly endorsed performance pay plans, provided they were teacher approved. The administration's priority in the budget indicates an attempt to promote merit pay in schools nationwide.

Linda Mayo

2007-09 Federal Advocate

Sacramento Update is published five times per year in July, October, January, February/March, and April/May by the California State PTA Legislation Team, 2327 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95816, (916) 440-1985, FAX: (916) 440-1986. E-mail: Legislation@capta.org. World Wide Web address: <http://www.capta.org>. All rights reserved. PTA is a registered service mark of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

President..... Jo Loss
 Director of Legislation..... Debbie Look
Sacramento Update Editor... Cecelia Mansfield
 Education Advocate..... Kim Anderson
 Education Advocate..... Patty Scripter
 Education Finance Advocate..... Cecelia Mansfield
 Community Concerns Advocate... Patti Christiansen
 Health Advocate..... Shane Silva
 Parent Involvement Advocate..... Michael Butler
 Federal Advocate..... Kayla Plourde
 Articles appearing in this newsletter may be reprinted in PTA unit, council and district newsletters only. Please credit the California State PTA.