

President's Update 9-16 to 9-20

One of the relatively unadvertised benefits of membership in MEA is the protection our parent organization, CTA, grants us in Sacramento against opponents of public education and political intrusions into our classrooms. This is a summary of some of the hundreds of bills CTA fought for and against that can and will affect how we do our jobs and a daily basis. Here is a summary of this legislative session. Governor Newsom has until October 13th to sign these bills into law.

Charter Bills:

[AB 1505](#) (O'Donnell) Amends charter school laws and places a two-year moratorium on online charters.

- Removes State Board's ability to approve or renew charters unless it is demonstrated that the local district is abusing its discretion
- The bill permits a local school district to deny a charter school that would substantially undermine existing district school services.
- Denies new charter school petitions submitted to school districts that have received negative certification of their budget or are under state receivership.

[AB 1507](#) (Smith) closes a loophole in current law which allows a charter school to operate outside of its authorizing district on an indefinite basis.

- The bill ends the practice of local school districts being forced to accept a charter school in their district if it was authorized by a different school district.

[SB 126](#) (Leyva and O'Donnell) This bill ensures all for profit charter schools are held to the same transparency and accountability standards as neighborhood public schools.

[AB 967](#) (Smith) provides development, adoption, and transparency requirements for LCAPs in charter schools.

- Requires charter schools to convene parent advisory committee(s), consult with bargaining units if applicable, and publish their LCAP online
- Requires charter schools to hold public meetings before and at LCAP adoption and receive LCAP approval from their authorizer.

School Facilities Bond:

[AB 48](#) (O'Donnell and Glazer) establishes the Public Preschool, K-12, and College Health and Safety Bond Act of 2020 which will appear on the ballot in the upcoming primary election March 3, 2020.

- Pre-K to 12= \$9 billion

Student Support Services Bills

[AB 258](#) (Jones-Sawyer) would use funds that will be generated by cannabis sales (Proposition 64) to increase much-needed in-school support services to students.

[AB 1322](#) (Berman) requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to establish a school-based health program to assist school districts in providing health-related services to students and advising school districts on issues related to the delivery of school-based Medi-Cal services in the state.

Civil Rights

[AB 493](#) (Gloria) *encourages* each school to use resources developed by the State Department of Education to provide training at least once every 2 years to teachers of students in grades 7 to 12, and to other certificated employees at that school, school site and community resources for the support of LGBTQ+ students, and strategies to increase support for LGBTQ students and thereby improve overall school climate, as specified.

Parental Leave

[AB 500](#) (Gonzalez) requires K-14 districts to provide certificated and classified employees paid leave for a length to be determined between the employee and their doctor for a minimum of six weeks for pregnancy, miscarriage, childbirth and recovery.

Tax Bills

[SB 468](#) (Jackson) requires the evaluation of certain California tax credits and exemptions for their effectiveness as well as economic, social or any other benefits to the state.

- Attempts to bring transparency and accountability to California's tax incentive process by creating a mechanism for review of some of California's most costly tax expenditures.
- The bill applies to nine corporate and other tax incentives that cost more than \$1 billion a year, and include no sunset or metrics for evaluation, with an annual cost to the General Fund of \$7.3 billion in 2018-19, and a cost to schools of \$2.92 billion.

[AB 147](#) (Burke) requires out-of-state and online retailers like eBay, Etsy or Amazon to collect sales taxes like local brick and mortar California businesses, eliminating the out-of-state and online unfair advantage. **Newsom has signed this bill.**

[AB 263](#) (Burke) extends existing requirements detailing goals, purposes and objectives tax credits will achieve as well as performance indicators. It also protects taxpayer information. More info by following the bill link.

[SB 419](#) (Skinner) which is designed to keep kids in school by making permanent the pilot program that eliminates willful defiance suspensions in grades 4-5 and banning them in grades 6-8 for five years. **Newsom has signed this bill.**

School Hours

SB 328 (Portantino) would take away local control and mandate that public middle schools start after 8:00 a.m. and high schools start after 8:30 a.m.

- CTA is fighting this bill and the governor has not signed it. The reason CTA is against it is that they think local districts should determine their own bell schedules.

Bills CTA Helped Defeat This Session:

AB 249 (Choi): Would have allowed a school district to encourage a public employee to opt out of becoming a member of an employee organization.

AB 1078 (Weber): Would have extended the probationary period for certificated educators to 3 years.

SB 709 (Morrell): Requires a teacher applicant to provide information to a prospective employer on any prior allegations or investigations, even if **unsubstantiated**.

On the local level, MEA defends our workplace dignity. At the State, CTA tirelessly protects its members present and their future.

Have a great weekend!

Brian