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# CTA Liaison News

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By CTA Vice President Dean E. Vogel and Secretary-Treasurer Gail Mendes

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## Commission's Report Shows Decline in Number of Teacher Candidates

The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing at its September-October meeting in Sacramento reviewed its Annual Report Card on Teacher Preparation Programs. The review determined that while many programs do an excellent job of preparing new teachers, the number of persons seeking to become teachers has dramatically declined over the past two years. The report also noted a drop of 23,000 candidates, a 35% decline, over the past five years.

CTA Liaisons pointed out that the decline reflects the abysmal levels of state financial support for public education and the desperate need to increase school appropriations.

The Commission also received an update on the Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) program, finding that the program has provided effective transitions into teaching for new educators. In fact, the report determined that 87% of teachers participating in BTSA programs in 2004-2005 were still teaching five years later.

[The CCTC's webpage is www.ctc.ca.gov.](http://www.ctc.ca.gov)

*CTA's Liaisons to the CCTC are Harold Acord, Alexandra Condon, Kathy Harris, and Courtney Woods-Ziani.*

## Governor's Mental Health Fund Veto Impacts Special Education Students

The Advisory Commission on Special Education reported that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's veto of mental health funding may harm public school Special Education students, including those who are currently in a private school setting. The panel heard that the reduced funding levels could mean that these students would be returned to a general education setting, where their special needs may not be met effectively.

The vetoes are also prompting financial concerns, because school districts may become the payer of last resort.

Members of the Advisory Commission continued their discussions on alternate verification methods for students with special needs. Tier 1 qualification would require these students to achieve a score of 300 on the California State Test in English and in Algebra. Tier 2 would involve the student demonstrating proficiency by displaying a portfolio showcasing her or his knowledge. Both of these tiers are reportedly in "pilot phases." Current juniors and seniors with special needs are still exempt from having to pass the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE).

The panel noted that the Assembly is working on a proclamation designating December 3 as the Day of the Special Educator.

The Advisory Commission's website is [www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/as/acse.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/as/acse.asp).

*CTA's Liaisons to the Advisory Commission on Special Education are Jennifer Moon and Barbara Schulman.*

### Close-up

## CABE Works to Ensure That All Students Receive Quality Education

CTA Liaisons works closely with the members of the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE). A non-profit organization founded in 1976, CABE aims, in the words of its mission statement, "to promote bilingual education and quality educational experiences for all students in California."

The organization's members include more than 5,000 educators and others in over 60 chapters in the state. CABE members celebrate the cultural, racial, and linguistic diversity of California's students and population and seek to impart a respect for the diversity that strengthen both the state and the nation.

CABE's 36th Annual Conference, "Language, Culture, and Leadership: Co-creating Community," is

scheduled for March 23-26, 2011 at the Long Beach Convention Center. The conference schedule includes over 200 workshops, 15 speakers and children's authors, and over 25 institutes covering a wide range of subjects and all levels of education.

The C A B E website is <http://www.bilingualeducation.org>.

CTA's Liaisons to C A B E are Chris Bushee and Rosalinda Quintanar.

## Community College Number Freeze is Reducing Share of Full-time Faculty

CTA Liaisons are warning that a decision by the Board again this year to relax the requirement that the colleges increase the number of fulltime faculty would harm students. Technically a "freeze" on meeting the Faculty Obligation Number, the board's decision has resulted in an increase in the number and percentage of part-time faculty in the state's community college system.

Because part-time faculty often teach at more than one campus or have other positions, students face reduced time to work with these faculty members, compared to full-time instructors. Liaisons have been urging Community College Chancellor Jack Scott not to ask the Board to continue the freeze.

The Community College Board of Governors' website is [www.cccco.edu/ChancellorsOffice/BoardofGovernors](http://www.cccco.edu/ChancellorsOffice/BoardofGovernors).

CTA's Liaisons to the CC Board are Lynette Nyaggah and Ron Reel.

## State PTA Expresses Concerns About Media Treatment of Educators

During the State Parent Teachers Association (State PTA) meeting in October, PTA members expressed their concern about the treatment of teachers in a recently released "documentary," "Waiting for Superman," and their treatment by talk show hosts, including Oprah Winfrey. The group also heard a

presentation from Liaison Greg Bonaccorsi about the shortcomings of "value-added" evaluations of educational personnel.

The California Pupil Services Coalition website is [www.naswca.org/cassw/cpscfactsheet.htm](http://www.naswca.org/cassw/cpscfactsheet.htm).

CTA's Liaisons to the State PTA are Greg Bonarccorsi and Les Nakasaki.

## CTA Ballot Box Victories Will Pave Way to Wins in Sacramento, with Your Help

The election victories CTA won on November 2 will begin to translate into other important gains for our students, our members, and public education, with your continued help.

Newly elected friends of education, operating under the new rules approved by voters, will be looking hard at ways they can restore cuts to public education, which has suffered devastating reductions of more than \$21 billion.

These efforts still must overcome harsh resistance from anti-public education forces, who would like to use the suspension of Proposition 98 as a way to gut school funding even further.

Your efforts and the efforts of your colleagues around the state made the difference on November 2. Your efforts are needed again to shore up friendly elected officials as they work to restore these cuts.

You can help by signing up to become a CTA budget advocate. As a budget advocate, you'll receive special bulletins and alerts that will let you continue to play an important role in this ongoing battle.

By responding to these e-mails by writing, calling, or visiting your lawmakers, you'll help keep the pressure on our new governor and newly elected lawmakers to support public education.

To sign up, simply send an e-mail with your address and zip code to [budgetadvocate@cta.org](mailto:budgetadvocate@cta.org). We'll do the rest.

If you haven't yet, you can also sign up for a free subscription to the *CTA Liaison News*. Just send an e-mail to [dbasurto@cta.org](mailto:dbasurto@cta.org).

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