



March 5, 2026

CTA-AE News This Month!

¡CALIFORNIA ASPIRING EDUCATORS!

For over 160 years, our union has done the unprecedented, demanded and established free, equitable, and community-centered public schools for every student.

Today, our schools, our students, and our communities face attacks from a federal government that is willing to target families, propagate fear, and normalize cruelty and injustice. But what else but a strong union to meet this moment, and lead the fight back and forward?

We have launched and sustained an unprecedented number of campaigns, turning our words into action and commitments into movements. We learn and lead alongside community leaders, relentless in our pursuit of justice and the dismantling of white supremacy culture.

Across California, Aspiring Educators are stepping forward. Building chapters, engaging members, strengthening solidarity, and preparing to lead our classrooms and union.

Our State of the Union is clear: We are united. We are unafraid. We are unapologetic. We are just getting started.

¡Vamos con todo CTA-AE! ¡Si se puede!

In Solidarity,
CTA-AE President Gabriel Mendoza Jr.

Chapter Development Updates

Dear Aspiring Educators,
I hope you are all doing fantastic! I want to take a moment to congratulate our newest CTA-AE Chapters!

- UCLA
- Crafton Hills College
- Modest Junior College

Your hard work is incredible, and we are so excited for you to join the aspiring educator community!

As we continue to visit you all across California, I am also sharing our CTA-AE Chapter Toolkit, a tool for you and your members to learn more about all things CTA-AE!

[Chapter Toolkit](#)

We are looking forward to seeing you all in the next couple of months! Keep fighting the fight, we are just getting started!

In Solidarity,
Sofia Reynoso Sandoval
Executive Vice President

Message from the Secretary-Treasurer

Dear Aspiring Educators,

I hope you are doing well! As we continue building momentum across the state, I want to personally remind you to [register](#) for the “Building Power, Shaping Futures” Conference happening April 18-19. This conference is an incredible opportunity to connect with fellow aspiring educators from across California and to strengthen our collective voice as future educators. Don’t miss the chance to attend and be sure to sign-up!

We also want to hear from you. What is your chapter currently working on? Please keep us updated so we can celebrate your successes and share your impact statewide.

In the coming month, we’re excited to begin visiting more chapters across California. We look forward to deepening our connection with you and other aspiring educators as we travel throughout the state. We’re excited to meet you and learn more about your work!

Let’s continue building power and shaping the future together.

In solidarity,

Dahlia Schilling
Secretary-Treasurer

REGISTER TODAY: Spring Event & Regional Assembly 2026: BUILDING POWER, SHAPING FUTURES.

Each recognized AE chapter can be sponsored for up to 7 AE members and 1 advisor.

Dates:

Saturday, April 18 - Sunday, April 19, 2026

Location:

Sheraton Gateway Hotel
Los Angeles, CA

We hope to see you there!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

BUILDING POWER, SHAPING FUTURES.

2026 CTA-AE Spring Conference

Connect with chapters and members from every corner of the state to exchange hard-won perspectives, ignite inspiration, and strengthen our collective voice in powerful, unapologetic advocacy.



April 18-19, 2026

Los Angeles, CA

Register today.



Nominations are open: CTA-AE Awards & Recognizing Graduating AE Members!

At the Spring Event, we honor CTA Aspiring Educators Members, Chapters and Advisors. Awards will be held at the Awards Ceremony over dinner. Members may apply for an award themselves or nominate someone else. An applicant may apply for multiple awards.

Nominate your chapter, chapter members, and/or chapter advisor [HERE](#).

Deadline for nominations: March 19, 2026

GRADUATING MEMBERS

We also recognize CTA-AE graduating members (members who are transferring schools; graduating with a Bachelor's Degree; graduating with a Master's Degree; completing Teaching Credentials.)

To be recognized as a graduating member during the Spring Event, fill out a submission with your name, information, a photo [HERE](#).

Deadline for submissions: Sunday, April 12, 2026



CTA-AE Chapter & Member Spotlight

Region 1

Hello Everyone!

This is Luis Tovar, Region 1 Director. I am delighted to announce the start of our initiative, When We Fight, We Win to begin visiting chapters, and begin strengthening connections between our amazing chapter leaders and the statewide board. On February 18th, President Gabriel Mendoza, Jr. was able to attend the Berkeley Chapter and kick off this initiative, where local members had the opportunity to ask questions, learn about their connections to CTA-AE, and opportunities to mobilize teacher power across the state. I had the pleasure alongside CCTC Liaison, Jacob Trindade, to attend the UC Davis CTA-AE chapter and to continue this project, where we discussed Prop 55, local issues in the Davis area, and what next steps in building the Davis chapter.

Region 4

Hola a todos,

This is Giselle Reyes, Region 4 Director supporting aspiring educators across Riverside, Imperial, San Diego, and Orange. As I continue to text, call, and meet with aspiring educators in person I'm learning more about the barriers our chapters are facing and their organizing highlights as a team.

Aspiring Educators this is the time to speak up, connect with our local vendors, and build villages of support for our students together.

Connect with me: ctaae.gisellereyes@gmail.com





California Teachers' Association - Aspiring Educators, National Charity League, and Chico Marketplace present the 20th annual,



Cinderella's Closet



3/28	11 AM - 1 PM
3/29	11 AM - 1 PM

NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS

Drop Off Locations:

- CTA Office
- Meriam Library
- Liberal Studies Office
- MESA
- Chico Market Place

Addresses!



NOW accepting donations of dresses, accessories, and formal wear in all sizes!

For more info follow our Instagram:
chicostate_ctaae

January 2026 State Council

During the January State Council, delegates voted on recommendations for statewide offices for the 2026 midterms. No endorsement for governor was made, with a decision expected in March to allow more time for candidates to demonstrate support for public education. Most other recommendations passed with little opposition, including reaffirming Richard Barrera for Superintendent of Public Instruction. Although there was strong interest in delaying some congressional and assembly endorsements, the council

proceeded to ensure sufficient time for NEA vetting before the primaries.

The Legislative Committee reported that no legislation was available for review, as the state had not released bills before the deadline. As a result, the upcoming March State Council is expected to have a particularly heavy legislative workload, along with a more extensive report from your AE State Council representatives!

The Language Acquisition Committee reviewed a New Business Item proposing a waiver of SBAC testing requirements for newly enrolled students during their first four years in California schools. The goal is to allow time for English language development before high-stakes testing. While concerns were raised about potential impacts on funding tied to testing data, the committee expressed unofficial support for further development of the proposal into legislation.

In the Assessment and Testing Committee, we reviewed documents on the future of technology in testing in the classroom and the impact that it has on English language learners. There was discussion of platforms such as iReady and IXL, and that they are not suitable for autistic learners and English language learners, and some districts completely eliminated them. Teachers have reported feeling overwhelmed with the data from the platforms, making it difficult to analyze the results given. Districts are being coercive in demanding that students do testing even if it is not mandatory. Students feel overwhelmed with testing that results in significant drops in scores, even if it is not reflective of performance in classrooms.

On the note of devices in the class, there are restrictive measures of devices being used in the classroom and how they will affect classrooms, even going as far as mentioning Meta glasses. Usage of technology is going as far as being completely denied unless mentioned in their IEP.

There was a call for teachers to bargain with school districts to bring these issues into their contracts.

Although there was no new legislation reported, they mentioned AB 1454, which is to address the low reading and language arts scores. Not much was discussed on this due to the lack of time. However, it's something to look out for.

There was a call for teachers to join as panelists in new ELA/ELD reviewers to provide information for the California State Board of Education. This is to give educators a say in the instructional materials across California!

State council representatives are looking forward to the March State Council!

Introducing our new State Council Representative: Natalie Villalobos

Dear Aspiring Educators,

My name is Natalie Villalobos, and I am proud to be serving as one of your State Council Representatives! I am a third-year undergraduate student at UC Berkeley studying Sociology and Education Sciences, and I plan to become an education lawyer.

My goal is to advocate and share the voices of those who have been underrepresented in the education system. I am excited to serve our community and work with the CTA - Aspiring Educators to raise the voices for those who go unheard!

In Solidarity,
Natalie Villalobos
CTA-AE State Council Representative

REAC Director Updates

Dear friends,

As February comes to a close, REAC would like to remind our members that Black History must be recognized in all of our classrooms. We have been working on creating a post honoring a handful of Historic Black Educators throughout California, and are excited to post it soon!

It was a pleasure getting to meet those who attended our first Immigration Justice is Education Justice Panel on 2/10/26, where Giselle Reyes and Andrei Mojica joined our REAC team to share their views and resources for Immigration Justice in CSUs, Community Colleges, and UCs.

Warm regards,

Declare Your Candidacy for CTA-AE Statewide Board 2026-2027

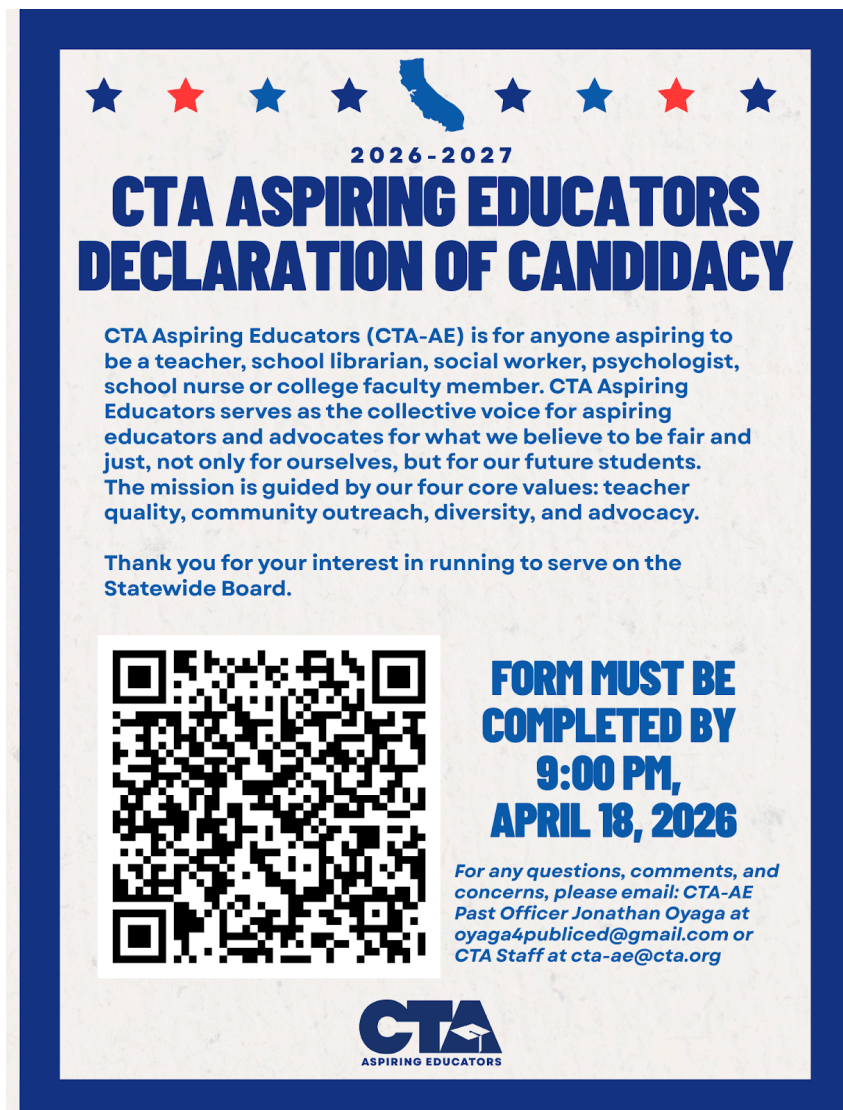
Interested in joining the CTA-AE Statewide Board for the 2026-2027 term? The following Statewide Board positions are elected during the annual Spring Event & CTA-AE Regional Assembly (April 18-19, 2026 in Los Angeles):

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary-Treasurer
- Regional Directors: Region 1, Region 2, Region 3, Region 4
- 4 REAC Directors
- 3 State Council Representatives and 1 alternate

Candidates must be enrolled Aspiring Educator members and attend the Spring Event & RA. You can enroll to be an AE member [HERE](#).

[Declare your candidacy today!](#)

Deadline to declare candidacy: 9:00 PM on April 18, 2026




The poster features a blue border and a white background. At the top, there are eight stars (blue, red, blue, blue, a blue outline of California, blue, blue, red, blue) and the text "2026-2027". The main title is "CTA ASPIRING EDUCATORS DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY" in large, bold, blue letters. Below the title, there is a paragraph of text describing CTA-AE and its mission. A QR code is located on the left side, and a bold notice on the right states "FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY 9:00 PM, APRIL 18, 2026". At the bottom right, there is contact information for questions. The CTA Aspiring Educators logo is at the bottom center.

2026-2027

CTA ASPIRING EDUCATORS DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY

CTA Aspiring Educators (CTA-AE) is for anyone aspiring to be a teacher, school librarian, social worker, psychologist, school nurse or college faculty member. CTA Aspiring Educators serves as the collective voice for aspiring educators and advocates for what we believe to be fair and just, not only for ourselves, but for our future students. The mission is guided by our four core values: teacher quality, community outreach, diversity, and advocacy.

Thank you for your interest in running to serve on the Statewide Board.



**FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY
9:00 PM,
APRIL 18, 2026**

For any questions, comments, and concerns, please email: CTA-AE Past Officer Jonathan Oyaga at oyaga4publiced@gmail.com or CTA Staff at cta-ae@cta.org

CTA
ASPIRING EDUCATORS

Message from the CCTC Liaison

Dear Aspiring Educators,

My name is Jacob Trindade-Dutra, and I am proud to be serving as your Statewide Board CCTC Liaison. I am a graduate student at CSU Stanislaus pursuing a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, and I possess a B.A. in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Child Development.

I am excited to strengthen our ever-growing collective voice as aspiring educators. I anticipate many challenges for us moving forward, and am excited to dredge them head on. As aspiring educators, it is our duty to assist in keeping the community informed and united.

New information can be a lot to digest, especially when websites are tricky to navigate. My goal is to ensure that all of our aspiring educators are knowledgeable in the many possibilities California has to offer for future teachers! I hope to make my time here on the board informative for you all.

In Solidarity,
Jacob Trindade
CTA-AE CCTC Liaison



Message from the Communications Director

Dear Aspiring Educators,

My name is Daniella Averill, and I am proud to now be serving as your Statewide Board Communications Director! I am a sophomore Math and Education Sciences major at UC Berkeley, and I plan to become a California K-12 Math Teacher.

I am excited to contribute to strengthening our collective voice as aspiring educators during a time where the federal government would see us silenced. As aspiring educators, it is our duty to stay informed and act as beacons in our families, schools, and communities!

I hope to make staying informed more accessible and intuitive for you all. My goal is to ensure that spaces like this newsletter and our Instagram continue to provide you with the resources you need in a clear, actionable format, as you work towards achieving your goals as aspiring educators!

In Solidarity,
Daniella Averill
CTA-AE Communications Director



NEA-Retired Jack Kinnaman Scholarship for Aspiring Educators

Every year, NEA-Retired offers the Jack Kinnaman Scholarship of \$3,500 for Aspiring Educators. The scholarship application can be found at nea.org/retired. The deadline to apply is April 15, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. To access the only application, [click here](#).

Apply for CTA Scholarships

[César E. Chávez and Dolores Huerta Education Awards Program](#)

Deadline: March 6, 2026

This award program provides recognition for educators and their students who demonstrate an understanding of the vision and guiding principles embraced by César E. Chávez and Dolores Huerta.

[LGBTQ+ Safety in Schools Grant & Scholarship Program in Honor of Guy DeRosa](#)

Deadline: May 29, 2026

The grant program will support groups, projects and presentations that promote understanding of and respect for LGBTQ+ persons. In addition, the scholarship program will support self-identified LGBTQ+ active CTA/CTA Aspiring Educators (CTA-AE) members enrolled in a teacher/counseling credential or graduate program who are pursuing a career in public education and who understand the importance of LGBTQ+ educators as role models in our public schools.

Get Your Chapter Recognized

AE chapters are the core of our aspiring educators' union strength. To start a chapter, or to recharter your school's chapter, follow these 5 easy steps:

1. Fill out the Chapter Recognition Form below and at: <https://bit.ly/25-26ChapterRecognitionForm>;
2. Show proof of official club status on campus;
3. Show proof of elected leadership, ie: Chapter President;
4. Show proof of at least one advisor, ie: faculty in your campus School of Education; and
5. Share your governing documents, ie: Chapter By-Laws – we have samples you can use!

In addition to all the benefits of being a CTA-AE Member, recognized CTA-AE Chapters receive additional benefits.

Please see below for 5 reasons to become a CTA-AE Chapter:

1. Sponsorship to attend CTA-AE's events like our Fall Event on November 8 - 9, 2025 or Spring Event and Representative Assembly on April 18 - 19, 2026;
2. CTA-AE gear like t-shirts, tote bags, pens, pencils;
3. Access to scholarships and awards for school through the [CTA Foundation's Scholarship Programs & Awards](#);
4. Opportunity to meet with CTA-AE Chapters across the state and with [NEA Aspiring Educators](#); Members, and Chapters across the nation; and

5. Voting rights at CTA-AE's Representative Assembly.

Link to charter chapter: <https://bit.ly/25-26ChapterRecognitionForm>

If you are a member whose chapter has not yet been recognized, feel free to contact cta.ae@cta.org.



You received this email at NGallosa@cta.org because you are signed up for CTA updates. [Click here to unsubscribe.](#)
© 2026

California Teachers Association
1705 Murchison Drive Burlingame, CA, 94010, USA

[CTA.org](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)