

January 26, 2026

CTA-AE News This Month!

Buenas Tardes CTA Aspiring Educators,

This year, CTA Aspiring Educators are choosing action over silence and courage over comfort. In a moment that demands more from all of us, we have decided to organize around three clear priorities:

Chapter Building and Membership Development. Our members shape who we are, and the Statewide Board has committed to visiting every chapter this year because showing up matters. Chapter Leaders, we ask that you please respond to the email sent out by Secretary-Treasurer Dahlia that asks for your chapter meeting dates as soon as possible.

Prop 55 Campaign. When 1 in 6 educators could face job loss and \$15 billion dollars are on the line, aspiring educators step into the fight to fully fund our schools. We will gather all the necessary signatures and pass this proposition. Our students' futures are not negotiable.

Immigration Advocacy. Immigration justice is education justice. We refuse to accept a reality where masked, unidentified agents terrorize our communities. We will fight for our students, fight for our families, and fight forward together.

CTA-AE, esta lucha es nuestra. It is personal and deeply felt by our students, our families, and our communities. We will not back down. Vamos con todo CTA-AE!

In Solidarity,

The CTA-AE Executive Board

Gabriel Mendoza Jr. | 2025-2026 CTA Aspiring Educators President

Sofia Reynoso Sandoval | 2025-2026 CTA Aspiring Educators Executive Vice President

Dahlia Schilling | 2025-2026 CTA Aspiring Educators Secretary-Treasurer

CTA Scholarships

Join our conversation on Saturday, February 1, 2026 on zoom, about CTA-AE Scholarships that are available to Aspiring Educator members! Learn about CTA-AE Scholarships, deadlines to apply, and more. Register for this zoom conversation at the QR code below.



COST SHOULD NOT DECIDE WHO GETS TO TEACH.

- CTA-AE in Honor of L. Gordon Bittle Memorial Scholarship
- Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Scholarship
- Cesar E. Chavez and Dolores Huerta Education Awards Program
- LBTQ+ Safety in Schools Grant & Scholarship in Honor of Guy DeRosa

Saturday, February 1st, 2026

@5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

ZOOM: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/HRDKTZOOM](https://bit.ly/hrdktzoom)



REGISTER

REGISTER TODAY: Spring Event & Regional Assembly 2026

We are so excited to finally share the details about our CTA-AE Spring Event and Regional Assembly 2026: BUILDING POWER, SHAPING FUTURES.

This event will focus on building collective power and strengthening connections among aspiring educators across California. We will connect with chapters across the state, including newly established chapters, to share ideas, and learn about the work we are doing. We will engage in discussions around Proposition 55, explore how to effectively organize at the local and statewide level, and learn about tools to create meaningful change within your chapters.

We will also continue our conversations on why immigration justice is education justice, highlighting the work chapters and advocates across California are doing to protect immigrant communities.

Dates:

Saturday, April 18 - Sunday, April 19, 2026

Location:

Sheraton Gateway Hotel
Los Angeles, CA

We hope to see you there!

[REGISTER HERE](#)



CTA-AE Chapter & Member Spotlight

Region 1

Hola a todos, reporting from Region 1, it's Luis Tovar.

This month has been exciting for our membership across Region 1, with the UC Berkeley AESAP chapter taking on a new member-centric approach to recruitment and engagement this semester. Centering the general member's accessibility and availability needs, the chapter is allowing all interested members to have a say and voice in deciding their meeting times, hoping to strengthen participation and a shared ownership of our AE Chapters.

In addition, UC Berkeley AE has maintained a visible presence on campus by tabling on Sproul Plaza, alongside CTA members to promote collective action, including efforts to put Proposition 55 on the ballot, with the campaign to support prop 55 emerging as a centerpiece of our Union writ large.

Region 4

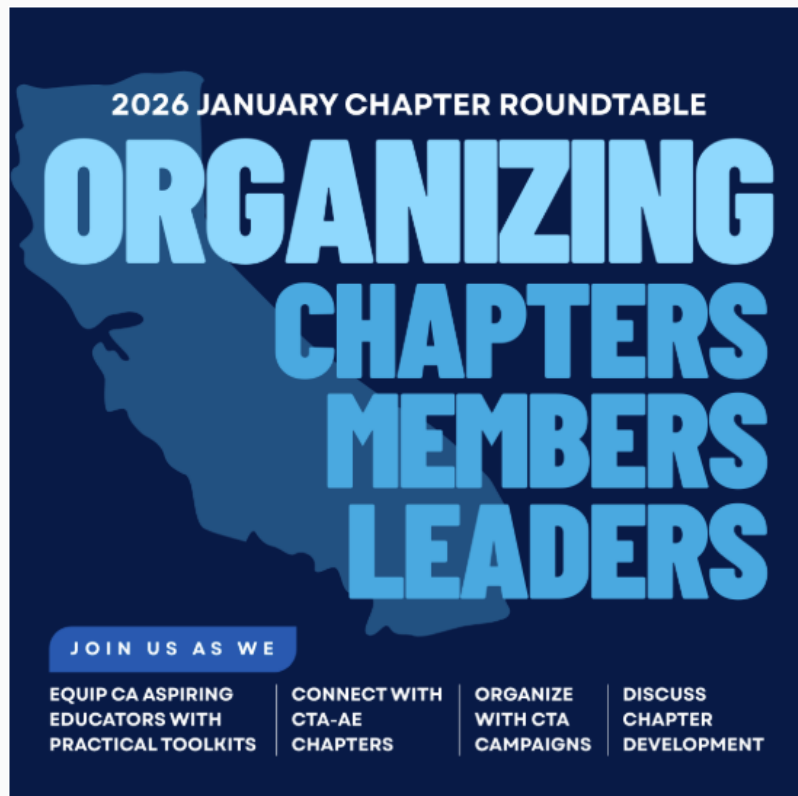
Hola a todos, welcome back! This is Giselle Reyes, your region 4 director supporting aspiring educators and chapters to establish their CTA-AE clubs, activities, and echo their concerns.

1. Congratulations to Cal State Long Beach for establishing an Aspiring Educators chapter on their campus!
2. San Bernardino Valley College AE: students organized a successful clothing drive for children ages 4-12.
3. Santa Ana College Club Apple AE: students and community members are mobilizing to raise funds for hygiene products, college supplies, and support their Undocu-Scholars Affinity Center.
4. California State University, Northridge AE: students collaborated to host a special event to

provide resources and toys for children and families in their community.

5. University of California, Davis AE: hosted a meeting to hear more about the UC Davis credential and master program.

I am looking forward to getting to know our allies in Public Education, join our roundtables this Sunday, January 25, 2026 on zoom. Feel free to invite me to your chapter zoom meetings. I'm looking forward to coming to your campus in the upcoming weeks!



Sunday, January 25th, 2026 @2:00 PM
<https://bit.ly/HRDKTzoom>



October 2025 State Council

The State Council Representatives are looking forward to attending State Council, January 23-25, 2026. We'll submit a report in next month's newsletter!

REAC Director Updates

Hello educators!

This is Elias Antunez, with updates on our upcoming plans for 2026. As we begin our first week back into our Spring sessions, we need to build momentum promptly, as the safety and dignity of our students and educators have continued to be challenged during Winter Break. Our REAC team has had the opportunity to convene with active-minded organizations this month, where we discussed the solidarity in our efforts to mobilize not only chapters, but also fellow organizations during these urgent times. We look forward to sharing more on how we can mobilize local chapters and like-minded organizations in 2026.

For upcoming events:

Our REAC team will be part of the "Why Immigration Education is Education Justice" panel on February 10, 6:00 PM PST, and ask you all to be part of our conversation grounded in real experiences and connect

immigration justice to our broader communities of equity, safety, and human rights in education.

On February 24, 2026 REAC plans to promote our "Home is Here" training provided by the CTA to our AE Chapters.

We would also like to ensure that May Day is on all our radars, as an opportunity to demonstrate how large and diverse our voices are.

In solidarity,
Your REAC

Election Updates

We are looking for members who would like to join the Elections Committee. Committee members help organize and run elections at the CTA Spring Event and Representative Assembly. Members may join as long as they do not intend to run for office at the RA. The committee will meet twice virtually and in person at the Spring Event (April 17-19, Los Angeles). Interested in joining? Email oyaga4publiced@gmail.com expressing interest!

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

[CTA-AE Scholarship in Honor of L. Gordon Bittle Memorial](#)

Deadline: February 6, 2026

This program offers up to three scholarships of up to \$5,000 each to active members of CTA-AE pursuing a career in public education.

[Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Scholarship](#)

Deadline: February 20, 2026

The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Scholarship Program encourages Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) students to become educators, school nurses, school counselors or school therapists and to promote professional growth for BIPOC educators and Education Support Professionals (ESP) members.

[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

As we transition into the new school year, **all existing AE Chapters will need to resubmit their Chapter Recognition paperwork.** Regardless if you are an established Chapter or just starting out, please check out the instructions below.

There are 5 easy steps to becoming a CTA-AE Chapter:

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 cta-ae@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](#)