CTA’s goal is to provide the public education all California students deserve. That means we work to ensure our students have the resources and opportunities they need to succeed and thrive.

Students are at the center of everything we do.

2022-23
President’s Message

CTA’s strength is rooted in our commitment to each other and our shared values. Though we are diverse in so many ways, we all share an important focus: advocating for our students, neighborhood schools, colleges and communities. Our union is built on the belief that we are stronger together, and there is a place for everyone in CTA.

Some of our most successful efforts have been through partnerships with others who share our belief in the power of public education to change lives. Together, we focus our efforts on building strong public schools in every community — so no child’s success depends on their Zip code — and work to ensure all students have access to affordable higher education, career and technical training programs, and other educational opportunities that will prepare them for the workforce.

Public education is an investment in our future and we’ve been fortunate lately to have elected leaders who have approved record funding for our schools. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed inequities in our communities, and the state’s historic investments, including $4.1 billion for the transformative power of community schools, are crucial to providing all California students with the opportunities they deserve.

Guided by our values and powered by our unity, CTA continues our mission for even greater successes as we emerge from the pandemic. We will continue to fight for seats at the table in our local communities and the State Capitol to let our voices be heard and build strong, vibrant public schools and community colleges that serve all students.

Please take a few minutes to look through this brochure to find out more about CTA and how we can work together to provide the quality public education all California students deserve.
There’s Strength in Numbers

310,000 Members Strong

“Association in some form is the soul of modern progress...let us organize and work together. Let us make our influence felt in leading public opinion in school affairs.” This quote by CTA founder John Swett holds true today. The state’s fourth superintendent of public instruction, Swett, called for a “teachers’ institute” in 1863, which led to the California Educational Society and became the California Teachers Association in 1907.

CTA is California’s largest professional employee organization, representing more than 310,000 public school teachers, school counselors, school psychologists, speech-language pathologists, schools nurses and other non-supervisory certified school personnel, as well as Education Support Professionals (ESP) and community college faculty. CTA is affiliated with the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

CTA’s top policy-making body is the State Council of Education. The Council’s 715 delegates meet four times a year in Los Angeles. The State Council is CTA’s policy-making body, electing three state-level CTA officers and the CTA Board of Directors.
WE BELIEVE IN

Caring, committed educators who are ready to reach, teach and inspire their students, and thriving, fully resourced schools are essential to providing a quality public education to all of California’s students, building stronger local communities and helping maintain public education as the cornerstone of our democracy.

By advocating for education, collaborating with local communities, advancing social justice through educator-led program, providing quality professional development and legal services, and communicating the amazing work of educators through media and advertising campaigns, CTA fights for the quality education all students deserve.

Advocating for Every Student

CTA developed a student-centered, proactive agenda that outlines the expectations for a quality public education based on proven strategies from preschool through higher education. Our measures are:

• A well-rounded education
• Appropriate class sizes
• Access to preschool
• Safe learning and teaching environments
• Teaching all students
• Leading the profession
• Family and community engagement
• Health and support services
• Fully fund education
• Access to affordable college and careers

Public education continues to be the great equalizer and the cornerstone of our democracy. California is the fourth largest economy in the world and currently ranks 21st in the national average in per pupil funding. Investing in public education is an investment in our future.

CTA members have a legacy of working closely with their communities and education partners to fight for funding and other resources our students need. These efforts helped stop devastating budget cuts during lean times and have helped lift education funding to its highest levels ever.

Those achievements include:

• Working with elected leaders to adopt the highest public education budget in the history of our state, providing vital resources to support our students and school communities.
• Fighting for multi-layered health and safety standards to protect students, staff and communities from COVID-19.
• Successfully advocating for $4.1 billion to build transformative community schools in districts statewide – more funding than all the other states combined.
• Passing a law to guarantee minimum funding to public schools (Prop. 98).
• Helping to retain quality educators by providing a fair and secure retirement for educators.
• Passing more than $50 billion in local school construction bonds to renovate schools.
• Assisting California’s schools of greatest need, those serving low income, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and English learners, through the eight years of the CTA-sponsored Quality Education Investment Act.
• Reducing class sizes in the lowest grades to emphasize creativity and provide one-on-one instruction.

As stewards of public education, CTA is dedicated to working in coalition with other labor unions, education organizations and community groups so California’s students and schools have the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.
Promoting Quality Public Schools
Without public support, neighborhood schools will not have the resources they need to support students and help them achieve. Each year CTA runs a statewide media campaign that promotes the importance of a quality public education. The campaign includes TV, radio, digital and print advertisements, calling for the resources our students need and the funding to recruit and retain quality educators. See our advertisements at cta.org/mediacenter. The recently redesigned www.cta.org highlights news, information and events that are important to educators. CTA’s Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages (@WeAreCTA) share the latest and best in schools and education. Find educational resources, learn CTA’s views on important issues, get information for parents to help children learn, and search an extensive archive of informative articles online and from the CTA’s award-winning magazine, California Educator.

Partnering for Teaching Excellence
CTA’s Instruction and Professional Development (cta.org/IPD) is a hub where you’ll find information, resources and opportunities to build and improve your skills. There are a variety of Professional Learning Opportunities that includes National Board Certification, CTA/NEA micro-certifications, a Wellness Center, and much more. There is also a site devoted to Special Education resources which includes webinars, podcasts, and resource guides. Learn about teacher-led professional development (ILC Program) and access featured resources including a guide for new educators.

Events & Conferences
CTA trainings are offered at state and regional conferences and can be requested by local chapters. School board members have been invited to many of these trainings, which include:

• California State Standards,
• Instructional and Educational Technology
• Instructional Issues & the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)
• Classroom Management
• School Site Councils
• Assessment Literacy
• Testing and Accountability
• Special Education issues

When you attend a CTA conference, you experience engaging workshops, perspectives from some of the best content experts and thought leaders in public education, and opportunities to network with fellow educators and colleagues. The skills and information from our conferences can be immediately applied to your role as an educator and local leader.

Visit cta.org/conferences to learn more about upcoming CTA conferences and to register.

CTA.org
The CTA website makes it easier than ever to find educator resources and information about upcoming CTA events, conferences and professional development opportunities.
Social Justice

CTA supports and provides programs that promote and improve educational equity for historically underrepresented and marginalized students. CTA works with locals and districts to develop programs to ensure equity for students of color, students in poverty, students who identify as LGBTQ+ and other populations in need. For example, CTA’s work with members and local school districts includes facilitating discussions on unconscious bias in and out of the classroom, so educators can better support all students. Educators also rise to defend LGBTQ+ students and fight to defend the right to teach truth in the classroom as culture wars threaten the safety and sanctity of our schools. CTA is also working to encourage students to become teachers, with a concentration on recruiting BIPOC students into the teaching profession. Student CTA chapters on campuses statewide are student-led organizations of aspiring educators that focus on teacher quality, community outreach, diversity and advocacy.

Read more about our advocacy at cta.org/Our-Advocacy.

Engaging Communities and Building Coalitions

We know that many organizations, such as yours, share our goals for quality public schools and recognize public education as the cornerstone of building strong local communities. CTA has worked in coalition with more than 200 organizations on behalf of California students, teachers and families. CTA’s Ambassador and Liaison Program engages more than 60 state agencies and other organizations to network around issues that affect children and public education. This includes the Instructional Quality Commission, California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, California Pupil Services Coalition, First 5 California, League of Middle Schools and Families First Commission, to name a few.

As public education stewards, CTA continues to work in coalition with other labor unions, education organizations and community groups, so California’s students and schools have the resources and opportunities needed to succeed.

Collectively Bargaining Learning and Teaching Conditions

Good relationships and adequate resources within the district and community are factors in a good bargaining experience. CTA chapters are actively engaged with administrators and school boards in local school districts throughout California in collaborative efforts to make sure that changes through the state’s Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) result in maximum benefits for California’s public school students, their families, and the communities they serve. The Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAPs) have provided great partnership opportunities for school districts and local CTA chapters to have meaningful conversations in the quest for outstanding schools for every student.

The LCFF provides schools with greater flexibility and greater authority over resources and it requires each district to adopt a Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). Tied directly to the LCFF and the LCAP is the accountability system called the California School Dashboard (caschooldashboard.org).

CTA also conducts trainings for both school district and chapter negotiating teams on various approaches to bargaining, including interest-based bargaining. Together, school districts and local chapters are considering best practices when thinking about where to focus school resources in ways that improve instruction and support educators.
Cultivating Creativity with Strength-Based Learning Environments

The Institute for Teaching (IFT) provides support for teacher-driven creativity, passion, and innovation. The IFT’s strength-based approach has empowered CTA members to transform their classrooms, their schools, and their school communities with innovative ideas and student-centered learning practices.

Through special programs, research, conferences, networking, the mobilization of teachers, and community-based coalitions, CTA’s Institute for Teaching seeks to advance public education and promote the common good of our students and communities.

The IFT Board knows that school change must include two key factors: It needs to be teacher-driven, and it should be based on what is working and successful in our schools and classrooms.

Innovation Grants

One of the ways the IFT helps students and schools is by awarding innovation grants directly to CTA members and local chapters. To date, CTA members have funded 501 grant projects totaling more than $5.8 million.

All CTA members are eligible to apply for an Educator grant (up to $5,000) or an Impact grant (up to $20,000). To learn more about the IFT grant program go to cta.org/IFT.

Scholarships & Awards

CTA provides a number of scholarships to help members continue their education and to encourage others to enter the teaching profession. Educational scholarships are available for CTA members, their dependent children, Student CTA members and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) students who want to become educators.

Here’s A Sampling

CTA Scholarships

1. Scholarships up to $5,000 for dependent children of CTA members.
2. Scholarships up to $3,000 for CTA members.
3. Scholarships up to $5,000 for Student CTA members.

LGBTQ+ Safety in Schools Grant & Scholarship Program IHO Guy DeRosa

Grants up to $2,500 to support groups, projects and presentations that promote understanding of and respect for LGBTQ+ persons; scholarships up to $2,500 for self-identified LGBTQ+ members pursuing careers in public education.

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Scholarship Program

Scholarships up to $6,000 for CTA members, their dependent children and Student CTA members to encourage Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) students to become educators, school nurses, school counselors or school therapists and to promote professional growth for BIPOC teachers and ESP members.

César E. Chávez and Dolores Huerta Education Awards Program

Awards up to $550 for both sponsoring educators and their students who demonstrate an understanding of the vision and guiding principles embraced by César E. Chávez and Dolores Huerta. Award categories are written essay and visual art projects.

For a full listing of CTA’s scholarship, awards and grant programs, visit cta.org/scholarships.

Funds

Disaster Relief Fund

CTA members generously contribute to a Disaster Relief Fund (cta.org/disaster-relief), which provides financial assistance to educators who have experienced significant loss due to disasters like fires, earthquakes or floods.

Members can apply for several types of grants that may provide up to $1,500 to repair damages to their homes or classrooms. Since teachers and education support professionals often represent a significant number of residents in any given area, these grants help toward rebuilding communities that have suffered a loss.
Staying Informed

Sometimes you just want to turn the page and learn about what’s going on with public schools and colleges.

Don’t miss CTA’s award-winning publications that spotlight important issues in our public schools and community colleges, as well as amazing members that go above and beyond to reach students.

CTA’s official magazine, California Educator, is published every two months, mailed to all members and updated regularly at cta.org/educator. Subscriptions are available to people and institutions not eligible for CTA/NEA membership.

Printed four times a year, CCA Advocate, (cta.org/cca-advocate) is the official publication of the Community College Association, CTA’s affiliate representing community college faculty and educators across the state.

#WeAreCTA

All of our students, regardless of their zip code, deserve the tools, opportunities, resources and time to learn. Educators inspire students’ natural curiosity, imagination and desire to learn. Schools that nurture these values today are growing tomorrow’s inventors, thinkers, artists and leaders.

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