Advocating for Our Students

CTA has always advocated on behalf of their students and for reforms and programs that improved the quality of education.

In fact, 10 years before he founded CTA, John Swett introduced gymnastics and field trips to the curriculum and evening courses for working adults at Rincon Point Grammar School in San Francisco, where he was principal teacher. He was doing what educators do all the time, looking at the needs of students and fulfilling those needs.

Since that time, CTA has been on the forefront in improving classroom instruction at every level, from obtaining free textbooks for students in 1911 to winning the passage of $25 billion to rebuild and refurbish classrooms and schools in 2000 and 2003. We helped to establish community colleges, career-tech programs and migrant education.

In 1895, CTA sponsored California’s first class-size legislation setting the maximum number of students in a class at 80! One hundred years later, in 1995, CTA again led the campaign that established Class Size Reduction in grades K-3 in 1995, one of the most popular reforms to date.

But we didn’t stop. In 2006, CTA sued the state for funding that had been borrowed from the education budget and not repaid. We then sponsored legislation establishing the Quality Education Investment Act, which provided nearly $3 billion to help almost 500 schools of greatest need close the achievement gap.

CTA continues to lead the way when it comes to advancing programs and reforms that will truly make a difference in our schools. That’s what we’ve done for 150 years.

ses·qui·cen·ten·ni·al  [ses-kwi-sen-ten-ee-uhl]

adjective 1. pertaining to or marking the completion of a period of 150 years. noun 2. a 150th anniversary or its celebration.