

**State Council News (10.26.03)**

\$36.00 a year goes from members' dues into the initiative fund. This account builds and when possible, we spend it on initiatives regarding to education. State Council voted on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> to spend \$12million on this 2004 K-12 initiative.

Highly Qualified Teacher? Are you one?

To find out if you are considered a "Highly Qualified Teacher" – now known as being "NCLB Compliant", check out [What Should Teachers Know About the Highly Qualified Teacher \[HQT\] Guide?](#)

The Complete guide is available at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/pr/nclb/teachqual/resourceguidedraft.pdf>

Carolyn Doggett (Executive Director of CTA spoke to us on Sunday and highlighted four important issues that are facing teachers and locals and how CTA is providing assistance. **Health Benefits Costs** – while there are many causes for the rising costs of health benefits, it is not all caused by the district office, nor is it caused by the teachers receiving their appropriately high COLA a couple of years ago. Malpractice lawsuits, over-usage of services, uninsured people in CA and the nation are three of the largest issues. While this is not our fault, it will be something that our negotiating teams will have to deal with at the bargaining table. CTA has been performing staff trainings to prepare CTA staff to assist locals in maximizing their health care benefits and minimizing health care costs increases.

CTA has been working for quite some time now preparing and supporting the **bond measure**. This is on the same ballot as the Budget Accountability Act, so it will be a tough fight to simultaneously promote fiscal accountability and spending money for our schools at the same time. This Bond Measure is the second part to the bond measure that led to our large COLA in 2000.

The **Budget Accountability Act** is an important Act that will be on the March 2004 ballot. Pressing for a complete, timely budget, it will lower the passing vote to 55% - down from 2/3rds vote (only two other states still have a 2/3rds vote). This Act will also prevent the legislature from taking a recess or acting on any other bill if the budget is not completed on time. Finally, it will prevent the lawmakers from receiving their salaries during the overdue time until a budget is passed.

The Initiative for K-12 Funding. See more about it later...

What else has CTA done for us lately?

CTA spent 1.3 million on the layoff hearings in the spring helping to save many teachers their jobs.

CTA is preparing a Ballot Initiative for the Nov 2004 Ballot, which would provide money for K-12 classrooms: teacher salaries, textbooks, and classroom materials.

Important News:

AB1124 passed and requires there to be clean, open and working bathrooms on campuses. SB892 passed and requires that every public or private K-12 facility keep

sufficient numbers of bathrooms open. Sanctions could include the loss of deferred maintenance matching funds if not met.

The “no soda bill” SB677 was approved, but not implemented for High Schools because they realized that many high schools get funding for athletic and after school activities from the sales and promotion of soda products.

Ask me for an attachment if you would like to read the “What Educators Should Know about the USA Patriot Act” guide prepared by the CTA Legal Dept on Oct. 6, 2003

It looks as though all teaching permits and waivers will need to be completed by June, 2006 – so get your emergency credentials, CLADs, and other credential things finished before you get caught in the middle.

If you have not received your CALSTRS ballot or threw it away – please call the CalSTRS number at 1-800-218-4026 to receive your pin number and vote.

AB356 looks like it’s in a holding pattern (elimination of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade testing and a delay of the CHSEE,) AB1485 will eliminate all norm-referenced test in all grades except 3 and 8

The California Report for Teachers is a sealed and confidential report about student test scores and learning grouped by teacher. This is a sealed packet and for teacher’s eyes only. This in no way should be opened before it is given to the teacher and the teacher is not required to share this information with ANYONE. Please contact your local union rep if you receive an envelope that has been tampered with in any way or if you are being evaluated or disciplined in any way based on these scores.

When schools were “cutting away from the classrooms”, a lot of librarians, techs, and counselors lost their positions as support service members of our union.

Please encourage support of SB1248 (Reauthorization of IDEA). It needs to be moved on.

There is a State-Wide IEP form in it’s “almost final” state on the CDE website. Go to [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov) – click on IEP taskforce link and download the 4 page (yep, only 4 page) form. Districts will need to adopt this form if they want to use it – it is not mandated by the CDE.

With the passage of AB1485, Reading First monies are available for Bilingual (legally Prop 227-waivered) classrooms.

With the passage of AB954 (Goldberg) districts and unions can negotiate that teachers who have served at least 10 years in a school district and deemed a “highly qualified teacher” may be evaluated every 5 years instead of every 2 years...