



David A. Sanchez

Report of the President

to the Board of Directors, California Teachers Association



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We Are One!

“**W**e Are One” has become the slogan uniting teachers, nurses, firefighters and other workers across the state and country. The battle over teachers and other public employees having a say in their workplace took center stage as Republican lawmakers in [Wisconsin](#) passed legislation eliminating collective bargaining rights for some public employees. Thousands of California workers joined in rallies of support sponsored by CTA and the [California Labor Federation](#) on February 22. A [candlelight vigil](#) at the [State Capitol](#) highlighted actions. Some lawmakers are using the state budget deficits as an excuse to wage war against union workers and the middle class. Similar battles are being fought in Ohio, Michigan and Idaho. We must all stand together and stand strong against these attacks. Do not lose faith and do not lose hope. Together we can make a difference. Sign the [NEA national petition](#) to protect worker rights. Donate to the [NEA’s 51 Fund](#) to help defeat these attacks. Join CTA, NEA and labor unions across the country and take a [Stand for Solidarity on April 4](#). April 4 is the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination in Memphis as he marched in support of sanitation workers demanding their right unionize. We’re asking everyone to wear a “We Are One” sticker to school that day, participate in local labor rallies, or use that day to [teach about labor history](#) in your classroom.

Contact Your Lawmakers on the State Budget

Both the Assembly and Senate are voting on the Governor’s proposed [state budget](#) and revenue extensions. [Contact your lawmakers](#) today and urge them to support the budget package in order to prevent even deeper cuts to our schools and colleges. More than 19,000 layoff notices were issued to educators by the [March 15](#) deadline. [CTA led actions](#) with Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and the statewide Education Coalition. If the current taxes are not temporarily extended, our schools and colleges are facing another \$4 billion in cuts. The governor has called for a June special election to let voters decide, but so far Republican lawmakers are holding the budget plan hostage, despite [public opinion](#) in support of an election. Use any of these [resources](#) to reach out to your colleagues and parents.

State Board of Education to Consider New Statewide Tests

Following the adoption of the [Common Core State Standards](#), the State Board of Education will soon be considering a new statewide testing system for California. Two groups developing assessments pitched their proposals to the State Board this month. The [Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers](#) and [SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium](#) were

awarded federal grants last year to develop tests that adhere to the common core standards. California is currently a member of PARCC, but the State Board has until May to reconsider an agreement signed by the former administration. California faces large financial struggles implementing either of the proposed testing systems as they rely on computer-based testing and must be ready by 2014. CTA's Testing and Assessment Committee will review the proposals at the next State Council meeting.

Help Improve Teacher Evaluation

CTA is collecting information from members about methods of evaluating [teacher effectiveness](#) in order to improve the teacher evaluation process. The CTA [Teacher Evaluation Workgroup](#) has been working to develop a new state framework for evaluating teachers and wants to hear from you. Please take few minutes to fill out this [survey](#) on the CTA website. Also be sure and read CTA's article on teacher effectiveness in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#).

Honoring Our Labor History

With the rights of workers under attack, CTA is proud to join the entire labor community in commemorating the [100th Anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire](#) that led to a national social justice movement to protect workers. March 25 marks the centennial of the fire in a New York factory. Please join any of the commemoration ceremonies taking place this month. For list of events in Northern California visit www.laborfest.net. For events in Southern California visit www.lalaborfest.org. March is also [Women's History Month](#). Please also take a moment to honor the work of women and their struggle for equal rights.

Join the California State PTA

For more than a century, the [PTA](#) has focused on connecting homes and schools to help all children succeed. It also helps connect parents to teachers. I'm encouraging you to recommit to joining your [local PTA](#) or to joining the [Golden State PTA](#) directly. As all of us in the education community gear up for a critical fight to protect education funding from deeper cuts, the voice of the PTA will be crucial — and that voice is stronger with teachers involved.