



CTA Award-Winning Newsletter of the Garden Grove Education Association

# ADVOCATE

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## FUNDING FOR OUR SCHOOLS

### *The Executive Director's Report*

#### The Facts

California spends around \$2k less per student than the national average. We rank 41<sup>st</sup> in the country when it comes to educational spending. In 2016 our class size averages were 25 students per teacher in elementary and 35 to one in high school. As a comparison, New York had a 21:1 elementary ratio and 25:1 ratio for high schools. New York also spent over \$23k per student compared to California's \$10k.



Educational investment in our children has not been the priority it should be. A major reason is due to Proposition 13, passed in 1978, ceded control from local school districts to the State when it comes to funding education. The Proposition also decreased the amount of property taxes that could be collected. Property tax on residential, commercial and industrial real estate would be based on an initial value assessment. Property taxes would be limited to 1% of that assessment. Annual increases to the tax of that property would also be limited to 2%. The Proposition prohibited reassessment of a new base year value of a property until there was change in ownership.

As an example, the property tax of a house valued at a \$100,000 would be 1% of that value or \$1,000. Increases would be limited to 2%, so the following year the property would be valued \$102,000 and 1% of that would be \$1,020. Property value in California increased at a faster rate than the 2% limit allowed.

#### The Problem

Corporations often out live a single owner. Some commercial and industrial property is not expected to have much turnover, so reassessment won't occur at the same rate as a residential property. In some cases where commercial and industrial property has 'changed' ownership a tax loophole has been used to keep the property based on the Pre-Proposition rate or 1976 assessment. Properties often have multiple corporate owners and corporations have multiple board members, by simply transferring names on seats companies have been able to sell property and circumvent the 'change in ownership' and a present-day reassessment of the property, thus keeping the assessed value at the 1976 level.

This has depleted the resources available for funding education in the state but has also created a burden for residential property owners. Before Prop 13 commercial property owners paid 45% of the State's property taxes with residential homeowners paying 55%. Today, commercial property owners are paying 28% and the burden of residential homeowners has increased to 72%.

### Schools and Communities First

The fact that our State has the largest economy in the US but is 41<sup>st</sup> in educational spending is a travesty. We need to find a solution where more resources can be allocated and invested in our students. Part of the solution is the Schools and Communities First initiative. The initiative would close the corporate loophole and require



commercial and industrial property be taxed based on current market value. Residential and agricultural property would be exempted to protect homeowners and farmers. Commercial and Industrial property with a combined value of \$3 million or less would also be exempted, protecting small businesses. This initiative could add an additional \$11 billion to support state services with an estimated \$4.5 billion going to schools. This initiative needs 150,000 signatures to get on the ballot in November. We have until March to get the required amount. If you have not signed a petition, ask your site rep or come to the GGEA office.

## President's Message



At a recent site visit I heard, "My voice doesn't matter." This statement resonated with me. As the GGEA President, I believe your voice does matter. What does having a voice mean? To me, it means being listened to and having my concerns and ideas legitimately given weight. I would have to ask further clarifying questions such as, in what arena do you feel your voice doesn't matter? The union, your classroom, bargaining, about programs being implemented, curriculum, within your district?

In your teachers' union, GGEA, you are a presence with a voice with something to say. When we have a collective voice, we are able to speak and be heard. Together we are a unit and have a seat at the education table. Without that voice we would be easy to ignore, without our united voice we are separated.

Teacher unionization allows for teachers to have a stronger voice in professional as well as political matters, whether your views are on the left or right side of the political spectrum. In an *educationpost.org* article, Peter Cunningham states, "Education is arguably the most important investment society makes. It's the surest path to the American Dream for people of every race and background. Every problem we face, from joblessness and crime to racism and even obesity, can be better addressed through education." We, as the professional in the classroom, in the educational setting, can't give up our voice. There are those who are waiting in the wings for us to do so. -Kelly

## Calendar of Events

1/28	Rep Council	2/20	Job Share Meeting
1/30	RA Declaration of Candidacy Due	2/24	Maternity Workshop
2/4	Board of Directors	2/25	Rep Council
2/11	Segments	3/2	Read Across America
2/14	Lincoln Holiday	3/2	GGEA Scholarship App Due
2/17	President's Day	3/3	Board of Directors

*\*Attorney available.*

*For appointments please contact the GGEA office at 714-638-7480.*

### CALL FOR ARTICLES!

Are you or your colleagues doing something fabulous at your school site?

**We would love to hear about it!** The Advocate Team is looking for articles about YOU, our GGEA teachers and your students. We want to spread the word about the fantastic teaching, events, and successes happening at all the schools across our district. Please email your stories, articles, ideas, and photographs to [ADVOCATE@ggea.org](mailto:ADVOCATE@ggea.org) by **Mar 12, 2020**.

We can't wait to hear from you!

### JOIN our FACEBOOK group TODAY!

**Join Us:** Facebook members search for "Garden Grove Education Association" and ask to join the group. Allow our administrators 24-48 hours to accept your request.

This is a closed group for members of GGEA only and not open to the public. If you have any questions, send a message to the group administrators or ask your rep.



#### Advocate Editorial Staff:

*Willie Burghard, Sara McCarthy, Kelly Nolan, Susan Kaylor*

#### Contributors this Month:

*Pilar Rodriguez, Monica Luna, Susanna Pham, Terry Shepard*

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## IMAD AWARD RECIPIENT JOHN MILLER

The GGEA Human Rights Committee is proud to award members who go above and beyond to help their students, school, and/or community, with the I Make A Difference (IMAD) Award. This year, we are awarding the October IMAD to Mr. John Miller, also known as “The Band Man” of Bolsa Grande High School. But do not be fooled by this nickname; Mr. Miller is much, much more. He is currently in charge of Bolsa’s Color and Winter Guards along with its Concert Band, Jazz Band, Intermediate/Advanced Orchestras, Indoor Percussions in addition to our Marching Band. He is always on campus. Think you have a long day? John usually has a longer one; he officially starts at 6:55a.m. conducting the band in the parking lot teaching them their formations. It



isn’t uncommon to see John concluding his day around 9p.m. after a performance at the varsity basketball game or at a district event such as the annual GGEA Retirement Tribute, where the Matador Jazz Band has performed for the past four years. In the summer, he dedicates a month to prepare students for the upcoming school year.

Not only does John dedicate so much time to practice and performances, but he helps students with challenging socio-economic situations; he fundraises or seeks donations so all students can participate. John does whatever it takes to succeed with a limited budget that most public school programs have. For example, to save \$2,000 for a drill writer, John will write it himself. When the band needs a new \$1600 platform, John builds it. He welds, he paints, he creates anything to help maintain Bolsa’s instrumental music program. It’s no surprise that some Bolsa students join multiple instrumental groups.

Last, but definitely not least, John Miller spends time with his family, especially his daughters. He volunteers for their teams, attends their games, helps



them study for their tests, and takes them on college tours. It was no surprise to see his nomination in our inbox, no surprise to read how much his colleagues respect him, and no surprise that he chose to be with his jazz band as they performed at a district event, instead of receiving applause for receiving the IMAD award. Congratulations and thank you Mr. John Miller, the BGHS Band Man.

# WHAT IS THE IMAD AWARD??

The Human Rights Committee recognizes GGEA members who make a positive contribution outside of the classroom with the "I Make a Difference Award." This award is given to members who volunteer their time and energy to benefit the school community or the community at large. Past IMAD winners have been involved in working in local charities, afterschool tutoring projects, library reading programs, soup kitchens, charity runs and human rights endeavors.

**Nominations** can be submitted to the GGEA Human Rights Committee via our website online form (located on Human Rights Committee page at [GGEA.org](http://GGEA.org)) or emailed to [humanrights@ggea.org](mailto:humanrights@ggea.org). Nominations can be submitted by a single member, by a group of members, or by the entire school staff. Please include the following in your nomination:

- - The nominee's name, school and contact information
- - His/her specific contribution (please provide details)
- - Your name and contact information

Each month, the committee will honor an IMAD recipient at a Rep Council meeting and feature him/her in the *GGEA Advocate*.

**NOMINATE A COLLEAGUE TODAY!!**



## WIN A JEEP® COMPASS!

# KEEP ON COURSE *Giveaway!*



We understand that multi-tasking is a way of life. However, behind the wheel is the worst time to try to balance it all.

**Join our effort to stop distracted driving and get home safely in a new 2020 Jeep® Compass compliments of California Casualty.**



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Promise To Drive Undistracted  
and **ENTER TODAY:**

[WinAJeepCompass.com/CTA](http://WinAJeepCompass.com/CTA)

# WE ARE THE UNION!



*Teachers from Peters K3, Brookhurst, and Allen Elementary showing support by sporting their new GGEA gear! Come by the union office to get yours!*

# SPECIAL EDUCATION

## RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, & INFORMATION

### TEACHER & PERSONNEL RIGHTS



#### RIGHT TO REQUEST TRAINING

CA EC 56345 (a)(4) Ask for training (supports & services) if you feel you need it to help you fully implement a child's IEP. Training must be specific to that child.



REQUEST TO DEVELOP, REVIEW, OR REVISE IEP CA EC 56343: An IEP team shall meet whenever a teacher or parent requests to develop, review, or revise an IEP.



#### PLACEMENT NOTIFICATION

CA EC 56347: General and Special Ed teacher **MUST** be notified in advance of the placement of a student with an IEP in their class! You must also be informed of your responsibilities in the IEP plan.

**DID**  
you  
*Know?*

The regular education teacher of an individual with exceptional needs, to the extent appropriate, shall participate in the development, review, and revision of the pupil's individualized education program, including assisting in the determination of appropriate positive behavioral interventions and supports, and other strategies for the pupil, and the determination of supplementary aids and services, program modifications, and supports for school personnel that will be provided for the pupil, consistent with Section 1414(d)(1)(A)(i)(IV) of Title 20 of the United States Code.

### LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT

#### IEP MEETING



The placement of services is determined at the IEP meeting by the IEP team. All members must give feedback but do not necessarily have to all agree to the decisions made.



In the U.S. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), least restrictive environment (LRE) means that a student who has a disability should have the opportunity to be educated with non-disabled peers, to the greatest extent appropriate.



Students with disabilities in California, 2017-18

Source: CDE, <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/st/cefspeced.asp>

Instruction & Professional Development,  
California Teachers Association

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Cynthia Arvesen  
Elaine deLeon  
Darius Durham  
Joyce Hernandez

Anne Marie Lansburgh  
Harrison Pham  
Natalie Ricento  
Anthony Tejada

*Welcome to GGEA! We are so happy you are here!*

## SKYLARK PRESCHOOL

At Skylark Preschool, we strive to provide learning pathways for all preschool age children in a nurturing and developmentally appropriate environment. In response to feedback from our community, we are proud to announce the roll-out of our new part-time options in the Fee-Based Program. We are offering a morning program from 8-11 for \$450 a month, an afternoon program from 12:45-3 PM for \$400 both provide options to our full day 8-3 program which is a monthly cost of \$630. Our students benefit from inclusive learning opportunities throughout the week, highlighted by our Young Athletes Program which focuses on both gross motor and social skills.



**Garden Grove Unified School District**



**Skylark Preschool**  
Still Enrolling!

Garden Grove Unified School District offers a high-quality preschool to give more families of young children the option of preschool in their community! The full-day program provides the same exceptional educational curriculum offered in our half-day state preschool program with opportunities for before and after school care.

**Benefits**

- Highly-trained, credentialed teachers
- Enrichment activities in Spanish class, technology, science, engineering, arts, math, music, and more
- Learning through play, highly engaging, hands-on learning
- Safe classrooms
- Nutritious Meals
- Inclusive PE program developing both gross motor skills and social emotional learning skills

**CALL TODAY**  
**(714) 663-6336**

For additional information please contact:  
**Skylark Preschool**  
11250 MacMurray St.  
Garden Grove, CA 92841  
Visit us online at: [skylark.ggusd.us](http://skylark.ggusd.us)  
Office Hours: 7:30 am-4:00 pm



### Helpful Tax Information

Remember, ask your tax advisor if your professional association dues are tax deductible. The amount paid monthly for GGEA/CTA/NEA dues for the 2019 tax year is as follows:

#### Category 1 GGEA Members

(Full-time Employment)

January thru June at \$107.20

September thru December at \$109.60

Year Total = \$1,081.60

#### Leave of Absence Members-per month

January thru June at \$30.55

September thru December at \$31.15

#### Category 2 GGEA Members

(Preschool, Job Share, or Part Time)

January thru June at \$56.25

September thru December at \$57.45

Year Total = \$567.30

*Please refer to your pay stubs for the actual amounts you paid during the 2019 tax year as these are general estimates. Contact your tax advisor with any questions regarding these tax deductions.*

W-2 tax forms can be accessed through the Orange County Department of Education Information System website. To access the website, there is a link posted on <http://ggea.org>.

#### **For first time users:**

Log-in: ten digit District Employee Identification Number

Password: Last four digits of District Employee ID Number immediately followed by the last four digits of your social security number

What type of insurance can help you pay your bills if you can't work?

**DISABILITY INSURANCE**  
**GROCERIES UTILITIES MORTGAGE**  
**CHILD CARE RENT STUDENT LOANS**



Enroll in CTA-endorsed Disability Insurance Today

**The Standard** is the only carrier endorsed by CTA for Disability Insurance because we've designed our plan with an educator's needs in mind.

With coverage from The Standard, if you encounter a health situation that keeps you from doing your job for an extended period of time, you'll receive funds – **paid directly to you** – to use for things health insurance doesn't cover.

Enrolling is easy!

Visit us at [CTAMemberBenefits.org/Disability](http://CTAMemberBenefits.org/Disability) today.

For costs and further details of the coverage, including exclusions, any reductions or limitations and the terms under which the policy may be continued in force, please contact The Standard's dedicated CTA Customer Service Department at 800.522.0406 (TTY), 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday. Standard Insurance Company, 1100 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204 GP190-LTD/S399/CTA.1 SI 19297-CTAvol (9/17)





## **5K Run/Walk, Kids Fun Run, 10K & Half Marathon**

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Irvine Valley College

Please join team RUNNING WITH TODD, and help us raise money to fund research to eradicate childhood cancer. This is a special event for me this year. My son Todd would have been celebrating his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday if cancer didn't take his life. My team will be wearing t-shirts with a big "40 Reasons to Run" written on the back.

Todd, was diagnosed with Ewings Sarcoma, his sophomore year at Marina High School, in Huntington Beach. As a sophomore he was on the tennis, basketball, and soccer teams. Todd bravely endured 3 years of chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery. Todd's caring teachers, at Marina, came to our house to help him continue his classes and Todd graduated, with honors, with his class in 1998. He was accepted into UC Berkley and was looking forward to his Freshman year. Unfortunately, Todd never made it to college. He lost his three-year battle with cancer on March 19, 1999 at the age of 18.

My team is not only in memory of Todd but also for all children who lost their battle with cancer and those children and parents whose fight continues. What I love about my team, over the last 12 years, is how it has grown and how much fun everyone has while bringing an awareness to the number one disease killer of children.

The top 3 finishers, by age, in all timed events will receive a prize and certificate. The children all have fun with face painting, rides, bouncy house, petting zoo and more. All participants receive a t-shirt, medal, and goodie bag.

Please join team Running with Todd and/or help with a donation to reach our fundraising goal. Together we can help children reach their full potential and live long and healthy live

To register go to:

<https://cure.pcrf-kids.org/runningwithtodd>

This links you directly to my team

Click [Join Team](#) and/or [Donate](#) to complete registration.

With heartfelt gratitude, appreciation, and love I thank each and everyone of you.

Terry Shepard cell: 714-315-7900 or PCRF: 949-859-6312.