

LAS TRAMPAS CREEK COUNCIL OF PTAS LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE



***NO AMOUNT OF LOCAL FUND RAISING
CAN EQUAL THE DOLLARS OUR SCHOOLS WILL RECEIVE FROM THE
PASSAGE OF ONE VITAL PIECE OF LEGISLATION***

Mission Statement

The Las Trampas Creek Council of PTAs Legislation Team is dedicated to the continuous improvement of our children's welfare and education through the guidelines established by the California PTA. We strive to keep parents informed about vital state and federal education issues, assist parents in developing the tools and skills of effective education advocacy, encourage individual and collective participation in the democratic process, and vigorously advocate on issues that are of concern to local school communities.

Who We Are

We are the legislative subcommittee of the Las Trampas Creek Council of PTAs (LTCC). The committee consists of representatives from elementary, middle, and high school PTAs and Non-PTA Parent Clubs in the Acalanes, Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, and Walnut Creek school districts. Superintendents and school board members from these school districts are also included.

What We Do

We will provide parents and the community with accurate and current information and actions they can take to influence legislators on key issues that impact our schools. We will:

- Explain how state school financing and current legislative proposals affect OUR school districts.
- Participate in letter-writing campaigns to legislators.
- Meet with legislators to discuss these legislative issues.

Current Issues We Support

- **Protect Current School Funding:** State funding for public schools already falls far short of needs to meet the State's high education standards. We are fighting hard against undue cuts.
- **Equalization funding:** We seek funding for all school districts to a least 90% of the current statewide average, still significantly below the national average, especially for "low wealth districts" (i.e. lowly funded) such as ours.
- **Local control for districts:** We support a change to the threshold for approving school parcel taxes to 55%.
- **Declining enrollment:** We want to reduce instability and help maintain effective programs by providing a more graduated funding formula to respond to enrollment declines, to avoid abrupt and volatile impacts on curriculum.
- **Special Education:** We support efforts to fully fund federal mandated requirements of IDEA.

First Legislation Team Meeting of the 2008-09 School Year

Thursday, September 11; 7 - 9 pm

Lafayette School District Office - Board Room

3477 School Street, Lafayette

If you would like to consider becoming the Legislative Advocacy Representative for Las Lomas PTSA, please consider attending this meeting. This will be a get-acquainted evening, with returning members and new. We will review our mission and goals, answer your questions --- and hopefully by then, see a new State budget that is kinder and gentler to our public schools!