

March 23, 2026



Coachella Valley Teachers Association

California Teachers Association

National Education Association

Join our email list!

Join our texting list!

Good morning!

As you know, next week is the beginning of CVUSD's Spring Break and school will resume on Monday, April 13th. You will not receive another weekly email until we return. Please take time over the break to care for yourself and get ready for the final push to the end of the school year. I will also be off work (mostly), so please remember that if you contact me you will likely not receive a response right away.

Best of luck to our Elementary members who have Parent Conferences this week! It's a tiring process but so important to student progress.

Friday is the day before a holiday break, which means contractually you may leave when the students leave unless you have after school duty. Those with duty may leave after their 15 minutes is completed.

To those of you who received a RIF notice

Please plan to attend the meeting this Tuesday, March 24th, at 4:30 p.m. We will meet at Coachella Valley High School's theater. Several things will happen at this meeting:

- We will collect all paperwork needed for you to participate in the RIF hearing and be represented by CTA. Make sure to check the email sent to you for details about paperwork (sent on Friday night and again Sunday morning if you hadn't yet opened Friday's email).
- You will have an opportunity to get help with paperwork, if needed.
- You will hear from the Group Legal Services Attorney, Jon Vanderpool, about what to expect at the hearing.
- You will have an opportunity to ask questions.

If you are unable to attend the meeting for some reason, please make sure to still submit your paperwork ASAP! You can send your paperwork with another teacher, it can be dropped off at my office at the DO (slide under the door), dropped off at Oasis Elementary (Attn: Rebecca Kay), or dropped off at the CTA office (75084 Gerald Ford Dr. Palm Desert 92211).

Our Classrooms. Our Voice.

This isn't about politics—it's about your classroom. I've heard from many of you that you don't want to get involved in union activities because things feel "too political." I understand that—and I respect it.

But what we're facing right now isn't about politics. It's about decisions that directly affect your classroom every day:

- Class sizes / Combos
- Staffing and layoffs
- How much control you have in your own classroom (and so much more!)

We've regularly seen increasing micromanagement from the school board—decisions that belong at school sites being made at the board level. That shift takes decision-making away from educators and puts it in the hands of people who are not in our classrooms.

You do not have to give a speech or be in the spotlight to be involved! **This week, we're asking for one small step:**

👉 **Reply "YES" to this email if you believe educators should have a voice in decisions that affect their classrooms.**

That's it. No meetings. No speeches. Just a starting point. Because whether we participate or not, decisions are still being made. Our students—and our colleagues—feel the impact every day. Let's make sure our voices are part of it.

School Board Meeting Thursday, March 26th, 5:30 pm.

At the last board meeting, the boardroom was packed with CVTA and CSEA staff. Some people spoke, some didn't. Both are okay! Our quiet presence is important as well. Can you commit to showing up this Thursday and bringing 2-3 people with you? Wear a CVTA shirt and join us in showing the board and administration that we care about what happens in this district, and that staff should not be an afterthought. What affects us as staff also affects our students! If you can't attend the meeting in person, you can watch online, and/or you can show your support by wearing a CVTA shirt on Thursday. All types of action are important.

Work Injuries

There is no injury too small to report to the district. Please be sure to report an injury, even if you do not think it is serious. HR claims that they're not addressing facility issues because they don't have the "data" from Risk Management to treat it as an emergency situation.

Industrial Accident (IA) Process and Investigation

1. Immediately notify your Supervisor/Principal
2. Call the Company Nurse Injury Hotline **1-877-518-6702** to report the injury, this will facilitate immediate access to appropriate medical treatment.
3. Complete the Accident/Injury Packet with Risk Management
4. Forward all medical notes to Risk Management to avoid sick/pay deductions

Retirement - The last of the sessions in the flyer below opens for registration on April 1!

If you are thinking about retiring in the next few years, consider signing up for the last local CalSTRS sessions listed on the flyer below. Those are group sessions and are not intended for those of you wanting to retire this year. For a personalized appointment, you can call the same number listed on the flyer, and options will be provided for the various meeting types.

Grievances

If you need to file a grievance, [begin here by completing the form](#) so our Grievance Chair, Ethan Lubin, can guide you. You can also reach him at grievancescvta@gmail.com.

Have a great week!

Visit Our Website



Seasonal Group Sessions Palm Desert CTA

75084 Gerald Ford Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92211

Explore your CalSTRS benefits and services with the help of a CalSTRS benefits specialist in a group setting with fellow educators.

CalSTRS and Your Retirement
(Estimates provided)
Wednesday, November 12, 2025
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Registration opens: October 1, 2025

CalSTRS and Your Retirement
(Estimates provided)
Wednesday, January 14, 2026
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Registration opens: December 3, 2025

CalSTRS and Your Retirement
(Estimates provided)
Wednesday, March 11, 2026
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Registration opens: January 28, 2026

CalSTRS and Your Retirement
(Estimates provided)
Wednesday, May 13, 2026
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Registration opens: April 1, 2026

INTERACT
with fellow educators
in a small to large
group setting

LEARN
more about your
benefits
and prepare for your

REGISTER
800-228-5453, option 3

RR 1880 (rev 5/19)

Important Dates

- ~~March 24th: CVTA Eboard Meeting, 4:30 p.m. via Zoom~~ **to be rescheduled**
- **March 24th: RIF meeting with CTA Attorney - 4:30 p.m. CVHS Theater**
- March 25th and 26th: Elementary Parent Conferences (see District Calendar for times)
- March 26th: CVUSD School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m. @ the DO and on [Zoom](#)
- March 28th to April 12th: CVUSD Spring Break
- April 14th: Middle School Conferences (see District Calendar for times)
- April 15th: CVTA Rep Council Meeting, 4:30 p.m. via Zoom
- April 16th: High School Conferences (see District Calendar for times)
- April 16th: CVUSD School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m. @ the DO and on [Zoom](#)
- April 17th: MS and HS Minimum Day
- April 17th: Negotiations - Show your support by wearing a CVTA shirt!
- **April 21st: RIF Hearing - location and time TBD**
- April 21st: CVTA Virtual Office Hours, 4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. via Zoom
- April 24th: Negotiations - Show your support by wearing a CVTA shirt!
- April 28th: CVTA Eboard Meeting, 4:30 p.m. via Zoom
- April 29th: End of Day Deadline for Final Evaluation Conferences
- April 30th: CVUSD School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m. @ the DO and on [Zoom](#)
- May 1st: CVTA Teacher Appreciation Social (TBD)
- May 8th: Negotiations - Show your support by wearing a CVTA shirt!
- May 18th: Negotiations - Show your support by wearing a CVTA shirt!



Carissa Carrera

CVTA President

"An injury to one is an injury to all."

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