

September 14, 2020



[Coachella Valley Teachers Association](#)
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Greetings!

Good morning! I hope your weekend was enjoyable! This is our 6th week of work already, if you can believe it. You all are doing great things for our students, despite this year being harder than we could have imagined.

Attendance

During the School Board meeting last week, several parents spoke about attendance concerns. To summarize their comments, they were basically concerned with inconsistent attendance practices among teachers. These are parents taking the time to speak to the board who only want to ensure that their child's attendance and efforts are recognized, so it is important for us to note.

Please remember that the direction from the CDE during Distance Learning is that a student can be considered "Present" if they engage somehow during the day. That may be attending your Zoom, meeting during your intervention time, contact during your office hours, or even completing work that day asynchronously. During this time of Distance Learning, a student should only be marked "Absent" if there was no engagement whatsoever during that school day. Many students continue to have connectivity issues, may be sharing devices, may not have someone at home to support them for part of the day, or some other issue. But if they are trying, and connect with you during the day, they should be marked "Present" for that day.

Engagement and Attendance are two different things to record. A student could attend your Zoom meeting but isn't completing work (they are "Present" with low engagement), or they could miss your Zoom but complete all the work online (they are "Present" as well, and engagement would be based on the amount of work they complete each day). This is, as I said, direction from the CDE for taking attendance while we are in Distance Learning. Let me know if you have any questions.

PLCs

Article 2.16 in the Collective Bargaining Agreement defines what a PLC should be, and most importantly, specifies that PLCs are teacher planned and teacher directed. Administrators can be part of your PLC team, but they should not be directing the work during a PLC nor should they create the agendas. I heard about a few concerns last week and wanted to remind you to use the contract language to your (and ultimately your students') benefit. Make sure you have a voice in your PLC. (The CBA can be found under "Documents" on our website www.mycvta.org.)

Additionally, you can choose to attend a PLC with other groups for collaboration beside your own department or grade level as needed (even at other sites). As long as the work you are doing in the PLC is intended to achieve better results for the students you serve, it is an acceptable PLC.

Evaluations and Performance Plans

Evaluations have not changed for this year...you can still be evaluated if this is your year for that. You must meet with your evaluator no later than October 15 to decide upon which standards and objectives you will be evaluated. This is a mutual agreement, per the contract, and if you cannot agree there is a process detailed in the contract to address that.

What this means is that you do not have to agree to be evaluated on something you do not feel is appropriate at this time. For example, if your evaluator wants to include the use of Canvas despite inadequate training and preparation, that would be inappropriate and you do not have to agree to that. Speak to your site reps if you have questions, or send an email to one of our CVTA Executive Board Members or to me directly. Contact information is on our website at www.mycvta.org.

Prop. 15: Debunk the Lies and Scare Tactics

The well-funded opposition to [Proposition 15](#), the **Schools and Communities First** initiative, is out with its own spots intended to scare and deceive. Help spread the truth! Know the facts and learn how to debunk the lies [here](#).

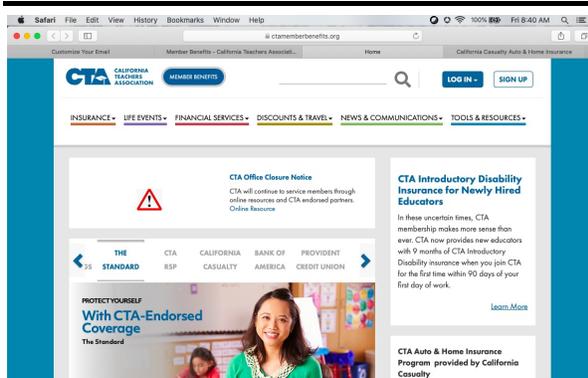
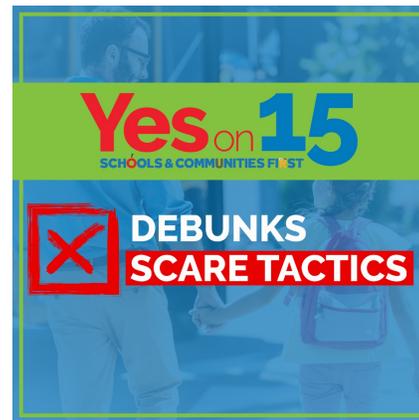
Straight Talk: Prop. 15

- closes corporate property tax loopholes so big corporations pay their fair share like the rest of us;
- cuts taxes for small businesses and protects homeowners, renters and agricultural properties.

Help California reclaim nearly \$12 billion annually for our schools and communities. For additional facts and more info, go to Yes15.org.

Thank you for everything you do...it does not go unnoticed! Have a great week!

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Important Dates

- **September - All month...**Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank Open Enrollment
- **September 23rd** - CVTA Virtual Office Hours 4:30-5:30 pm
- **September 24th** - CVUSD School Board Meeting
- **September 30th** - CVTA Eboard Meeting 4:00 pm
- **September 30th** - Site Budget Notification Deadline (contractual)
- **October 8th** - CVUSD School Board Meeting
- **October 14th** - CVTA Rep Council Meeting, 4:30 pm

Carissa Carrera
CVTA President
"You can't do it unless you organize."

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Coachella Valley Teachers Association

cvtaprez@gmail.com

86-695 Avenue 54 Suite J

Coachella, CA 92236

Phone: (760) 619-9236

Contact Our Team

