

March 16, 2026



[Coachella Valley Teachers Association](#)

[California Teachers Association](#)

[National Education Association](#)

Join our email list!

Join our texting list!

Good morning!

This email now goes out via text to those who have signed up! Use the link above to add your phone number so you can receive CVTA communications via text.

We have our **Virtual Office Hours** tomorrow from 4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please join us if you have something to discuss! [Join Office Hours here](#).

Several of our members who received a RIF notice last week were not provided the opportunity to have a rep present, and some were even served their notice while they were in their classrooms working. This is unacceptable and highly unprofessional, and while only your admin is to blame for that, we'd still like to apologize. We understand that this is a stressful, unsettling time for teachers being laid off, and we expect district leadership to know better and to do better.

To those of you who received a RIF notice, please make sure you have watched the video we sent and that you have turned in the two papers needed so far. HR should be stamping the papers and giving you two copies. If for some reason you were not provided two copies, please email sumer.martinez@cvusd.us to let her know you need those copies sent to you. One copy of each form is for you to keep, and the other is needed by CTA. Please get those to us as soon as possible or plan on submitting them to us at the meeting on the 24th. We will also need the rest of the paperwork brought to us by the 24th (watch the video to see which ones). Paperwork can be dropped off at the DO (Attn: Carissa Carrera), dropped off at Oasis Elementary (Attn: Rebecca Kay), or dropped off at the CTA office (75084 Gerald Ford Dr. Palm Desert 92211).

Last week's School Board Meeting was interesting, to say the least. Trustees Gonzalez and Acuña took time during their board reports, as is their norm, to attack employees and show their disrespect to the public. Nothing new there. What was surprising was Trustee Callimanis taking time during her report to do the same. After 6 months of being on the board she knows the district well enough to go so far as to call employees liars who take sick days, to tell employees they just need to do their jobs, and more.

We've never seen a more toxic board or work environment, and there aren't really words to explain it. If you didn't attend the meeting or watch online, you will definitely need to watch the recording to see for yourself what our leadership does during board reports, rather than reporting out what they have done on behalf of this district since the last meeting. We can

only assume they have done nothing, considering their reports were all about what they think about CVUSD employees and the public.

It's a good thing two of the board seats, those held by Acuña and Callimanis, are up for election this November! Are you ready to help elect kind, solution-focused and student-centered candidates to those positions? Please let us know if you are!

The board seat held by Trustee Garcia is also open in November, and we will need your help to make sure that she remains in that seat. It is important for the future of our district to have cooler heads prevail and to have trustees without personal agendas leading this district. Soon we will share our endorsed candidates and our plan to make the changes needed on the board.

We do want to thank those members who showed up last week to support each other. **The next School Board Meeting is scheduled for March 26th**, and we hope to see more of you there! I was raised to believe that **silence is acceptance**. Do you accept what this board is doing? Are you okay sitting back keeping silent about it?

Negotiations

Our team meets with the district again this Friday. We don't expect to make much progress since the district's team rarely shows up as a complete team, nor do they have the authority from the school board to do much of anything. Be sure to let our team know you support them by wearing a CVTA shirt and sending in member photos for them to see! Despite the nonsense that goes on with negotiations, your team shows up ready to work on your behalf every single time!

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

If you are thinking about retiring in the next few years, consider signing up for one of the 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 17th: CVTA Virtual Office Hours, 4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. via Zoom
- March 20th: Negotiations - Show your support by wearing a CVTA shirt!
- ~~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. location TBD**
- 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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