

January 5, 2026



**Coachella Valley Teachers
Association**

**California Teachers
Association**

**National Education
Association**

Join our email list!

Join our texting list!

Happy New Year, and welcome back from break! We wish each of you an easy transition back to work today.

I continue to be out on FMLA leave until 1/12/26 but still remain available to respond to texts, calls, and emails. You can also reach out to the other CVTA Board Members, if needed.

Your Right to a Safe and Healthy Work Environment

Employees and students are entitled to safe and healthy work/learning environments, but do you know what to do if an issue arises? We expect every health and safety concern to be taken seriously, but unfortunately that isn't always the case with the district. Board Trustee Jesus Gonzalez, also Chair of the Facilities Committee, dismissed several employee safety concerns at the last meeting as "political agendas" rather than actual concerns and wouldn't even discuss or hear the concerns. (You can attend the Facilities Meetings online! [Here are the 2025 dates and Zoom Link](#)...they haven't posted anything for 2026 yet.)

Concerns about asbestos, mold, uneven pavement, broken or non-working items (such as restroom facilities, playground equipment, ACs, etc.), and more should all be taken seriously and handled in a timely manner. Here are some suggestions to make sure your concerns are taken seriously:

- Report the concern, in writing, to your immediate supervisor and site secretary. CC your CVTA Site Rep(s) so they can assist if needed. Follow-up to ensure a work order has been submitted. Also follow-up to ensure that the work order is addressed.
- The [Collective Bargaining Agreement](#), in Article 13, includes safety language. If necessary, you can file a grievance if the concern is ignored. Contact our Grievance Chair for assistance using the link toward the end of this email.
- You can contact OSHA to report concerns. Call them at 800-321-6742 (OSHA) or [submit a complaint online here](#).
- Some safety concerns may fall under the [Williams Act](#), and a complaint can be [filed with the district here](#). [Read more about this type of complaint](#) on the CDE Website (and file with them, if needed).
- You may file a [Uniform Complaint with HR](#) if your concerns are not being addressed in a timely manner or in a respectful way.

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
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Important Dates

- January 5th: Return from Winter Break
- January 14th: CVTA Rep Council, 4:30 p.m. via Zoom
- January 15th: Bargaining...Remember to support your team!
- January 15th: CVUSD School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the District Office. [Submit comments here](#) (although they will likely not be read aloud). [Watch the meeting online here](#).
- January 20th: CVTA Virtual Office Hours, 4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. via Zoom
- January 27th: CVTA Eboard Meeting, 4:30 p.m. via Zoom



Carissa Carrera
CVTA President

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

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Contact Our Team



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