

Readying for the Fight Ahead

New year, same unbreakable solidarity. After a 2023 packed with energized workers, inspiring victories and powerful strikes across the country, we have a busy year ahead in our fight for the public schools all California students deserve.

by CSO President
Bruce Saathoff



Earlier this month, the governor released his 2024 state budget proposal showing that tough times could be ahead of us. Despite a \$38.7-billion deficit, Gov. Newsom is fully funding public education utilizing reserves to fill the gap. The proposal includes a COLA of under 1 percent – a far cry from last year’s 8.22 percent adjustment.

This is going to make things much more difficult at our bargaining tables, as school district admin across California are already trying to tighten their belts in anticipation of leaner budget years – just last week, we saw at least one school board already considering educator layoffs. This will be an ongoing fight in all our districts – one that will require us to organize and fight for each other, our students and their families.

2024 is also an election year, with major implications for our schools and communities. While much of the focus will be on the presidential election and the race to be California’s next senator, the crucial battles will be in the 2,000 school board seats that are up this year. We’ve seen what happens when extremists win election to our school boards, like in Chino, Orange and Temecula – we cannot let that repeat again this year. That’s why it’s so important for educators to run for these seats. We’re grateful for the CTA and CSO members who sit on school boards and are ready to put in the work to re-elect them this year and protect our schools.

Finally, I want to congratulate and welcome Jeff Good as the new executive director of CTA. Jeff was a CSO member before leading UTLA as their executive director, and we are so excited to have him at the helm during this crucial time. He will have big shoes to fill, as Joe Boyd retires (again) after leading us through unprecedented times. On behalf of CSO, thank you for everything, Joe.

Have a fantastic State Council, and let’s get to work!

Who We Are

CSO Organizer is produced by the California Staff Organization (CSO), the union for professional, departmental and Regional UniServ staff who work for the 310,000 members of California Teachers Association. CSO affirms that Black Lives Matter and is committed to working to remedy the trauma of racism, white supremacy and police brutality within public education, CTA, CSO and society.

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Shout Out Your CSO!

Do you have a primary contact staff who always goes above and beyond? Have you worked with a department staffer whose support has made a difference for you or your local? Shout them out and show them some love by emailing us at

WeAreCSOCommunications@gmail.com

and let us know what makes them such a special part of the CTA-CSO Family.

We'll feature these shouts in a future issue of the Organizer!



Making Spirits Bright

CSO brought good tidings and cheer to the Region III Holiday Gathering! Pictured are (from left): primary contact staff Jake Anderson, Andrew Oman, Carolyn Govea and Andrew Staiano.



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