The following Legislative Update summarizes key bills the California Federation of Teachers (CFT) worked on throughout the last legislative session that had been sent to the governor for his signature. The governor had until Tuesday, September 30, 2014 at midnight to either sign or veto these bills.

**Governor Approves Paid Sick Days for Millions of Workers**

As reported earlier this month, the governor signed into law a bill granting sick days to many California workers who did not have them previously – a major win for most of labor. Though most CFT members will not be affected, the new law may benefit long-term substitute teachers who are not represented under a collective bargaining agreement with sick leave provisions.

Under **AB 1522 (Gonzalez)**, people employed for 90 days will be eligible to use the sick leave they earn. Workers will be able to earn a minimum of one hour of sick leave for every 30 hours worked and are guaranteed to be able to use at least three days’ worth of paid leave to care for themselves or a family member when they fall ill. A legislative compromise removed In-Home Supportive Services workers from eligibility under the new law, which will take effect July 1, 2015.

**The California Federation of Teachers Helps Secure $2 Million for Labor Centers**

In a victory for CFT and labor partners, the 2014-15 state budget appropriated $2 million in one-time funding to support the UCLA and UC Berkeley Labor Centers. The Assembly Democrats added $1 million in one-time support from their operating budget. This increased funding level will allow the centers to expand their work, which includes policy research for the legislature and training of labor leaders.

**Child Abuse Reporting Bills Signed by the Governor**

Governor Brown recently signed two pieces of legislation addressing child abuse training and reporting for educators. **Assembly Bill 1432 (Gatto)** requires the Department of Education to develop and disseminate information to school districts regarding the detection and reporting of child abuse. In addition, the bill requires school districts to annually train school personnel on mandated reporting and the responsibilities of mandated reporters within the first six weeks of the school year or of an employee’s hiring. Finally, the bill requires school districts to develop a process for providing proof that the employees received the training within the given timeline.
The second piece of child abuse reporting legislation signed by the governor is **Assembly Bill 2560 (Bonilla)**. This legislation requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, as part of its standards and procedures for awarding an initial teaching credential or renewing a teaching credential, to require the applicant to read and attest by signature a statement that the applicant understands the duties imposed upon them by the Child Abuse and Reporting Act.

**Governor Signs Employer Written Notice Law**

**AB 1611 (Bonta)** would require a public school employer to give reasonable written notice to the exclusive representative of the employer’s intent to make any change to matters within the scope of representation of those employees represented by the exclusive representative for purposes of providing the exclusive representative a reasonable amount of time to negotiate proposed changes with the public school employer. By making the written notice requirement clear in statute, AB 1611 could result in less costly and time consuming cases before the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) on notice issues.

**Transitional Kindergarten (T-K) Professional Development Requirements Approved**

Although **Senate Bill 837 (Steinberg)** was amended significantly throughout the legislative process and held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee, language from the bill was included in a budget trailer bill (SB 876). The bill, as signed by the governor, requires that the Transitional Kindergarten curriculum be aligned with the California Preschool Learning Foundations. In addition, the legislation requires that teachers first assigned to a T-K classroom after July 1, 2015 have by August 1, 2020 one of the following:

- At least 24 units in early childhood education, childhood development, or both
- Professional experience with preschool age children comparable to the 24 units;
- A child development teacher permit.

The bill allocates $25 million to be used for teacher stipends and other costs associated with obtaining the required professional development.

**Notice and Training on Use of Pesticides on Schoolsites Approved**

**SB 1405 (DeSaulnier)** requires, under the Healthy Schools Act of 2000 (HSA), a school designee to post on the Internet Web site of a schoolsite an integrated pest management plan if certain pesticides are used at a schoolsite. SB 1405 also requires reporting of specified pesticide use at a schoolsite. Finally, the bill requires individuals applying pesticides at schoolsites to complete an annual training. Once enacted, this measure will potentially limit exposure to students and staff alike to potentially dangerous pesticides on schoolsites.

**Governor Approves Two Truancy Bills**

There was a package of five truancy and chronic absenteeism bills sponsored by the Attorney General this legislative session. Of the five bills, the governor recently signed two of them into
law. **Assembly Bill 1643 (Buchanan)** authorizes a county attendance review board to accept referrals or requests for services from one or more school districts within its jurisdiction. **Assembly Bill 2141 (Hall)** requires a state or local authority conducting a truancy-related mediation or prosecution to provide the school district, county attendance review board, county superintendent of schools and probation department with the outcome of each referral.

One of the truancy bills this session, **Senate Bill 1107 (Monning)**, was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Two of the other truancy bills in the Attorney General’s package were vetoed by the governor. **Assembly Bill 1672 (Holden)** and **Assembly Bill 1866 (Bocanegra)** would have expanded both local and state truancy reporting requirements. In his veto message, the governor stated that “while well intentioned, the collection of data for the interest of faraway authorities would not get to the root of the issue – keeping kids in school and on track.”

**Bullying and Cyberbullying Bills Signed into Law**

There were four bills introduced this legislative session that addressed bullying. Two of those bills made it to the governor’s desk and were recently signed into law. **Assembly Bill 1455 (Campos)** authorizes the superintendent of a school district or a principal of a school to refer a victim of an act of bullying to the school counselor, school psychologist, school nurse or other child welfare personnel. In addition, AB 1455 would provide that a student who has committed an act of bullying also be referred to school support personnel for case management and counseling or for participation in a restorative justice program.

**Assembly Bill 1993** requires the State Department of Education to develop an online training module to assist school staff, parents, students and community members in increasing their knowledge of bullying and cyberbullying. The training module shall include, identifying an act of bullying and cyberbullying and implementing strategies to address these issues.

**Proposition 227 Amendments Will Go to the Ballot in 2016**

The governor recently signed **Senate Bill 227 (Lara)**, which would amend and repeal sections of Proposition 227, approved by voters on June 2, 1998, which requires that all children in California be taught English by being taught in English. Proposition 227 also specifies that English learners must be educated through sheltered English immersion during a temporary transition period not intended to exceed one year. Senate Bill 1174 deletes the sheltered immersion requirement and instead provides that school districts and county offices of education, at a minimum, provide English learners with a structured English immersion program. In addition, the bill authorizes parents to choose a language acquisition program that best suits their child. Finally, the bill places the amendments to Proposition 227 on the ballot in November 2016 and must be approved by voters.