



California Retired Teachers Association

CalRTA State Advocacy Platform 2025/26

Proposed November 21, 2024– Government Relations Committee

CalRTA Board Approved – January 17, 2025

The California Retired Teachers Association believes all educators have a right to retire in dignity. All educators have a right to a secure and safe retirement, which retains its value, ensures access to affordable quality health care, and provides protection for a retiree's safety and well-being. To assure these benefits for future retired educators, public education and educators need to be supported and the Teachers' Retirement Fund needs to be actuarially sound. To accomplish these goals, CalRTA will advocate for an adequate and secure CalSTRS retirement with defined benefits, and equitable security Social Security retirement, access to affordable quality health care, and appropriate funding for public education.

CalSTRS Retirement

Since CalRTA members are stakeholders in the California State Teachers' Retirement System, CalRTA will:

- Advocate for adequate and equitable pensions with sustainability for all present and future CalSTRS members, including the protection of the Defined Benefit Plan.
- Advocate for safeguarding and enhancing 100% retirement purchasing power protection (Supplemental Benefit Maintenance Plan), including creating a method to enhance how it is calculated.
- Monitor the investment activities and proposed legislation impacting CalSTRS investments.

Social Security and Federal Issues

Financial security is a priority for CalRTA members. CalRTA will:

- Advocate for the repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). *Achieved! Monitoring implementation.*
- Advocate to protect members affected by unfair Medicare cuts and premium increases.
- Support long-term Social Security solvency by opposing cuts, raising the retirement age, and privatizing Social Security benefits.

Health Care/Healthy Aging

CalRTA advocates to ensure access to affordable, quality health care. CalRTA will:

- Advocate for protecting and enhancing Medicare and Medicaid, oppose privatization of Medicare and Medicaid.
- Advocate for and support full and comprehensive guaranteed affordable health care, including the inclusion of caregivers, community-based services, and affordable, accessible prescription drug benefits.
- Advocate for affordable, long-term care that cannot be terminated and includes cost protections.

Public Education Funding

CalRTA will support public education funding and educators by advocating for:

- Advocate for fully funding public education under Proposition 98 and enhancing overall support for public education funding, including class size reduction.
- Oppose using public money to support private, parochial, sectarian, or for-profit schools.
- Advocate for accountability and transparency of California tax credits and exemptions that eliminate funding that would have gone to public schools.