The California Retired Teachers Association (CalRTA) believes that all educators have a right to retire in dignity. They have the right to a secure and safe retirement, one that retains its purchasing power value, ensures access to affordable quality health care, and provides protection for their 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 CalSTRS retirement with defined benefits, an equitable secure Social Security retirement, access to affordable quality health care, and appropriate funding for public education.

**CalSTRS RETIREMENT**

Since members of CalRTA are stakeholders in CalSTRS, CalRTA will:

- Advocate for safeguarding and enhancing retirement purchasing power with the goal of maintaining and improving protection against inflation as measured against the original retirement allowance and, if possible, the CA advisory elder CPI (CPI-E) and/or CA Elder Index.
- Advocate for member, employer, and State Teachers’ Retirement Fund contribution rates that will ensure actuarial long-term funding for CalSTRS defined benefits.
- Advocate for pension equity and sustainability for all present and future CalSTRS members.
- Advocate for a vested 100% purchasing power protection for all retirees.
- Monitor the activities, investments and proposed legislation of CalSTRS and keep membership informed.
- Support elected representation of one or more retired educators to the CalSTRS Board.
- Support CalSTRS and legislative efforts to secure member data and provide cybersecurity.
- Support efforts to provide retired CalSTRS members with the opportunity to change retirement options.

**SOCIAL SECURITY and FEDERAL ISSUES**

- Advocate for CalSTRS retired members who, either by contribution or by survivorship, have earned benefits from the Social Security System, with equal rights to such benefits by repealing the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO).
- Support long-term Social Security solvency and oppose cuts, chained CPI, raising the retirement age, or privatizing Social Security benefits.
- Advocate to protect members affected by unfair Medicare premium increases.
SOCIAL SECURITY and FEDERAL ISSUES (continued)

- Support federal legislation, funding, and services that help seniors navigate programs and live in dignity; for example, HICAP, Older Americans Act, and nursing home monitoring.
- Support expansion of Social Security benefits.
- Support efforts to raise the CAP on earnings subject to payroll taxes.
- Advocate and support the development of a CPI-E and/or Elder Index at the federal and state levels. Reference these when possible to provide a meaningful picture of the true inflation affecting seniors.
- Oppose public employee mandatory inclusion in Social Security.

HEALTH CARE

CalRTA will advocate to ensure access to affordable, quality health care and will:

- Oppose privatization and voucher plans for Medicare and Medicaid
- Advocate for protecting and enhancing Medicare benefits.
- Support affordable, accessible prescription drug benefits.
- Support a Medicare and Medicaid public option and a single-payer nation health insurance option.
- Advocate for affordable, quality long-term care insurance and long-term-disability insurance that cannot be terminated for use or late payments.
- Support state regulation of health insurance premium rates.
- Support health care systems that provide person-centered care, allow seniors to age in place, support family caregivers, provide community based services, and coordinate health and supportive services.
- Support programs that help seniors navigate complicated health care systems, end of life decisions, and legal requirements related to their retirement.
- Assist retired educators regarding post-retirement health care issues.
- Support strong advocates and easily available information for seniors to ensure their physical, emotional, and financial health.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

CalRTA will support public education and educators by advocating for:

- Opposition to using public money to support private, parochial, sectarian, and corporate for-profit schools.
- Opposition to evaluating educators, schools, and districts largely on their students’ test results.
- Achieving the California Constitutional goal (Article XVI Section 8.5) of per pupil expenditures equal to the average per pupil expenditure of the 10 states with the highest per pupil expenditures and a class size average that equals, or is less than, the class size average of the 10 states with the lowest class sizes.
- Opposition to limitations on educators’ due process and collective bargaining rights.
PUBLIC EDUCATION (continued)

- Funding that establishes equal education opportunity for all students, including English Language Learners, those qualifying for Special Education and Gifted and Talented Education, and those in school districts with insufficient funding under California’s Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).
- Fair teacher evaluation that has adequately trained evaluators who use multiple criteria, provide prompt feedback, involve teachers in setting goals, and promote professional growth.
- Inclusive programs and mental health services that help all students navigate problem solving social skills, understanding and accepting diversity, and other means of reducing potential violence.
- Programs and legislation to address recurrent teacher shortages.
- Protection of educators from censorship in the selection and use of textbooks, library materials, media, and technology as appropriate to curriculum standards and maturity levels of students.
- Recognition and respect for educators’ professionalism and informed input.
- Federal and state grants to make school site modifications that enhance school safety.