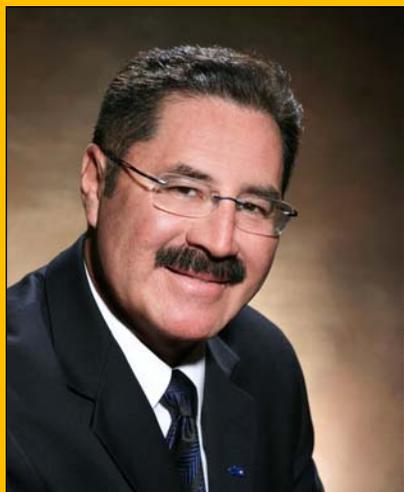


Governor's Proposed Budget Cuts Billions from Public Schools & Decimates School Funding Law



*CTA President Says
Students Didn't Create Budget Crisis
and Their Education Shouldn't
Be Ransomed to Solve It*

David A. Sanchez, president of the California Teachers Association, issued this statement on the governor's proposed state budget.

"The governor's proposed budget is a giant step backwards for our students. It's disappointing and ironic that in the proclaimed 'year of education' the governor is talking about cutting billions from our

public schools and decimating our minimum school funding law. Our students didn't create this budget crisis and their education shouldn't be ransomed to solve it.

"While it is clear there are extraordinary budget challenges, it's also clear that California voters believe our students and public schools should be a top priority and strongly support our minimum school funding guarantee, Proposition 98. Any structural budget reforms must protect Prop. 98, as well as provide the stable funding our students and schools deserve. Voters passed Prop. 98 almost 20 years ago to create stable minimum funding for our public schools. And they strongly reaffirmed their support for the minimum funding law in 2005.

"We can't keep asking our students and schools to do more with less. True leadership means setting priorities and it means implementing a balanced approach of spending cuts and revenue increases to close the \$14 billion budget hole.

"The governor's proposed midyear and across-the-board education cuts would be devastating. A 10 percent across-the-board cut means nearly \$5 billion less for our public schools. That's the same as laying off up to 110,000 teachers, shutting down every school in the state more than a month early, or increasing the number of students in every classroom by 37 percent. We can't keep asking our students, teachers and schools to do more with less."

California Currently Underfunds Education

Education Week's *Quality Counts* report released this week gave California a grade of D+ for school funding and reported that **California spends close to \$2,000 less per student than the national average.** Other recent studies have shown that California seriously underfunds its public schools, with New York spending 75 percent more than California. The typical American school has 30 percent more teachers than the average school in California. **Acting boldly on behalf of California means boldly investing in our public schools, not shortchanging our children and the future of our state.**

NEA RA Will Be in Washington DC this Summer

The National Education Association (NEA) Representative Assembly (RA) will be in Washington DC Friday, July 1 through Thursday, July 6.

The State Declaration of Candidacy is in the December issue of the California Educator (Due to CTA Friday, February 1.)

The local Declarations of Candidacy is on the reverse side of this *Contact* and available at the MTA office. (Due to the MTA office Friday, February 22.)

All members of the Association are eligible to submit Declarations.

Note: Both the Local and State Declaration forms are available at montbelloteachers.org.