

Governor Proposed Budget Positively Impacts Schools

According to the Education Coalition, Governor Brown's budget proposal is a balanced approach to solving the deficit and it provides for an extension of temporary revenues our students need and deserve. The budget proposal acknowledges that during the last decade other areas of the budget have grown while education funding has suffered.

While the budget proposal limits cuts to schools in 2011-12, it defers more than \$2 billion in funding owed to schools and students until 2012-13. Over the last several years alone, more than \$7 billion in funding owed to K-12 students has been deferred. Schools now receive about 80 cents for every dollar promised under state law.

In the last three years alone, funding for schools has been cut by more than \$18 billion, or about \$1,900 per student. California continues to be the 8th largest economy in the world, but our investment in education is among the lowest compared to other states.

Drastic Cuts have Changed California's Once Revered Public Education System

Students in school today face a reality much different than even three years ago. Larger class sizes, fewer support services and fewer courses. Students also confront a lack of transportation services, shorter school years, outdated instructional materials, and fewer opportunities to obtain a complete education that includes the arts, music and athletics.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson has declared a fiscal emergency for public schools, with 174 of the state's 1,077 school districts on the brink of financial disaster in the next three years. Of the state's 30 largest school districts, 16 are reducing the number of days in the academic year, according to a survey by California Watch. California's schools rank at the very bottom of all 50 states in staff-to-student ratios, and California ranks 43rd in the nation in per-pupil spending. In the last three years, more than 30,000 teachers and 10,000 other educators have been laid off.

Investment in Education Must Be a Priority

Voters understand the importance of investing in education as the foundation of a strong economy and a well-educated workforce. According to a statewide Public Policy Institute of California poll, 82 percent of Californians oppose reductions in K-12 schools to fix California's budget deficit.

An initiative to extend temporary revenues will help prevent further cuts to schools and students. The Legislative Analyst reports that, without this extension, funding for schools would fall by more than \$2 billion, or more than \$335 per student.

Retro Checks Will Arrive this Month

Bargaining Unit members will receive "retro checks" for wages earned prior to implementation in the January warrant. Salaries were reduced by 3.6 percent at the beginning of the school year. (Except for Head Start salary schedules.) Once the State budget was approved last fall salaries were restored by 3 percent retroactively to the beginning of the school year. Checks are expected to be sent to school sites (and other pay locations) the week of February 22. Retro checks will not be direct deposited by the District.

Board Minutes & Agendas Are Online

The Board of Education has "gone green." Now, in addition to Board minutes and agendas being posted at school sites, the documents are available at montebello.k12.ca.us.

Social Networking May Share Too Much Information

Bargaining Unit members are urged to consider anything posted on Facebook, Myspace, Twitter or other social media as "public." Even though you may think what you post on social media sites is "private", it may not be. If investigators (for any type of legal issue including workers compensation or other litigation) can't access the site because of privacy settings, companies may still have to provide confidential information in response to a subpoena. *Something to consider as you post.*