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CTA

Contact

Montebello Teachers Association/California Teachers Association/National Education Association • 918 W Whittier Blvd Montebello 90640 • (323) 722-5005 • montbelloteachers.org



A Message from CTA President Sanchez

Yesterday marked a big day for the State of California --eleven new senators and 28 new Assembly members took their oath of office. A few hours later Governor Schwarzenegger declared a "fiscal emergency" and called a **special session to deal with the growing state budget deficit**. Now, you may be thinking, "Didn't we just have a special session to deal with this crisis?" We did, but legislators failed to agree on a solution, and, of course, the problem didn't go away. The governor has now called a special session under Prop. 58 to fill a **state budget hole that is predicted to reach \$28 over the next 18 months**.

This means the Legislature will be taking another look at the **governor's of midyear cuts** and some revenues. CTA and the Education are projecting that without any additional revenue increases, **our schools and community colleges could be looking at cuts of up to \$8 billion this year, \$7.2 billion of which are cuts to K-12 schools**.

It's important to remember that the \$3 billion California schools already suffered in cuts this year are crippling local school systems and threatening the future success of our students. We need your help letting the public know how. How many teaching and education support professional positions have been cut; how much have class sizes risen; how many elective classes have been eliminated. These are the realities of current funding cuts that we must communicate to the public and Legislators. More cuts will only make matters worse for our schools, which already rank 46th in per-student spending.

Here is a link that gives more information regarding what the Governor's proposal means for K-12 http://www.cta.org/NR/rdonlyres/A6EDEC80-E701-414E-B420-887ACDD9507/0/11_21_08_AddingtheNumbers.pdf

As in the past, CTA encourages members and concerned citizens to communicate directly with the legislature. You can e-mail Your Lawmaker at <http://capwiz.com/nea/ca/home/>.

Pre-Retirement Workshop Is Saturday, January 17

More information is on the reverse side of this *Contact*.

Retirement Benefits Workshop Is March 10

The MTA Trust Fund and all retiree health benefits will be explained at the Retirement Benefits Workshop **Tuesday, March 11, 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room** at the District Office.

Early Retirement Deadline To Resign is May 1

If you are planning on early retirement at the conclusion of the current school year, you must complete and return the option form to the certificated personnel office. You must be between 55 and 60 years of age and have 15 years of experience with the District to qualify for the option. You must resign from the district no later than **May 1** with an effective date no later than June 30. Call Human Resources for more information.

Our Retirement Banquet Is Friday, June 12

The MTA Retirement Banquet is scheduled for **Friday, June 12**. Please contact the MTA office if you are planning to retire or know someone who is. We plan to make this an evening to remember!

2008 Tax Information

The amounts shown below are the annual amount for the calendar year 2008, which covers parts of two different membership years. Please note that your Trust Fund contribution is included since it is collected as "dues" under Category 1. Trust Fund contributions are also included with dues if you are a Category 2 employee and have elected to participate in the MTA Trust Fund.

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2008 MEMBERS

Cat. 1	Full Time	\$1,957.20 (Rep Fee \$957.20)
2	30-60%	\$1,484.60 (w/o TF \$484.60)
3	30% or less	\$ 248.44

Retired 6/08 \$1,178.40(Rep Fee \$578.40)

NEW MEMBERS SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER

Cat. 1	Full Time	\$ 778.80 (Rep Fee \$378.80)
2	30-60%	\$ 595.40 (w/o TF \$195.40)
3	30% or less	\$ 103.84

Political contributions are as follows: MTA-ABC \$25/year. FACT \$10/year, NEA-PAC \$10/year (or what you have designated).