



# CONTACT

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

## Cuts Hurt Kids

The governor's state budget proposal to cut \$4.8 billion from public education is already having a devastating impact on our students, schools and colleges, will only get worse with larger class sizes, educator layoffs and the elimination of vital programs that help improve student learning.

With 18,000 layoff notices already sent to teachers, custodians, school bus drivers and other school employees around the state, it is California's students who will suffer the tragic consequences of budget cuts to our public schools.

The proposed \$4.8 billion in cuts is the equivalent of increasing class sizes by 35 percent, laying off 107,000 teachers or laying off 137,000 education support professionals.

The proposed cuts mean \$800 less per student in our state. *Education Week* ranks California 46th out of 50 states in per-pupil funding. These cuts will move us closer to last place.

The proposed cuts would be the same as eliminating all music, art and career technical education programs statewide with room left to cut even more. These are the very programs that provide our students with a well-rounded education and often help keep them in school.

At our state colleges and universities, these cuts mean student fee increases, faculty layoffs, fewer course offerings, larger class sizes and longer graduation times.

**If we want to continue to improve student achievement and invest in California's future, we must put more money into our schools, not less.**

California students didn't create this budget crisis; their education and their futures shouldn't be sacrificed to solve it.

California students and schools have been making progress. Reading scores are up 25 percent and math scores have increased 17 percent in the last four years. This progress cannot continue with these proposed cuts to our public schools.

California spends \$1,900 less per student than the national average. The recent "Getting Down to Facts" studies show that California seriously underfunds its public schools and would need to spend 40 percent more—\$17 billion—to ensure all students meet our state's academic standards.

The governor's proposal to balance the state budget through cuts alone would be devastating to our students and the future of California. Any approach to solve the budget crisis must include increased revenues.

**RATIFICATION ELECTIONS REPORT**  
 The 2008 MTA Ratification Election was held March 26-28, 2008. A special meeting was held at La Merced Intermediate School on Tuesday, March 25, 2008 to distribute the Ratification Packet and election materials and to discuss the contents of the ratification packet.  
 The deadline for ballots was 4:00 PM on Friday, March 28, 2008. Ballots were to be turned in to the MTA office. Ballots were counted after 4:00 PM at the MTA Office.

**Nominate An Outstanding Teacher Advocate for the Blanche Chester Award**  
**Return to the MTA office EXTENDED TO TUESDAY, APRIL 22**

**I nominate \_\_\_\_\_ Site \_\_\_\_\_ for the Blanche Chester Award.**  
*(Members of the 2007-2008 Executive Committee and previous winners are not eligible.)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Site \_\_\_\_\_ Extension \_\_\_\_\_  
 fax (323) 722-0543 • email: montebello\_teachers@earthlink.net • phone (323) 722-5005