



CONTACT

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Day of the Teacher is Wednesday, May 14 rally planned at Montebello City Park 4-5 P.M.

A Day To Celebrate Our Profession

Celebrate Day of the Teacher at Montebello City Park. Festivities include speakers, music, proclamations, performances. Let's celebrate the heart and soul of education!

A Day to Consider Our Future

Time and again, California voters have reaffirmed their support for Proposition 98, the state's MINIMUM school funding guarantee. Our state already ranks 46th out of 50 in per pupil spending, according to the respected national publication *Education Week*. Undermining our minimum school funding law would only move us closer to ranking dead last in the country in the funds we spend on each student. And unfortunately, our state already ranks at the very bottom in terms of the number of librarians, counselors and other support staff in our schools. We can, and must, do better for California's students. The Governor's budget proposes to balance the state's deficit through cuts alone. Such an approach is incredibly shortsighted, and would be devastating to our students and to California's future. Our state's budget agreement must include increased revenues as part of any approach to balancing the budget. ***We must reject the Governor's budget!***

A Day To Give • Contribute To The Book Drive

The Association's Annual Book Drive is scheduled for Day of the Teacher. During the greatest budget battle in the millennium, let's pause for a moment and demonstrate our continued support of literacy. Books will be donated to the local summer reading incentive programs.

A Brief QEIA History • Five Sites Begin Utilizing Grant Funds

Signed into law in 2006 as Senate Bill 1133, QEIA has far-reaching implications and clearly demonstrates CTA's commitment to helping students who need help the most. About 500,000 students in 488 schools across the state get extra resources. One of CTA's priorities, says Sanchez, is to expand the investment to even more schools. The State selected sites by lottery. The District sites are: Winter Gardens Elementary, Bell Gardens Elementary, La Merced Intermediate, Suva Intermediate, and Bell Gardens High School.

QEIA schools statewide are struggling with poverty or a severe lack of resources. Only schools ranked at the bottom of the state's Academic Performance Index (deciles 1 and 2) are eligible. The schools share about \$260 million this school year, and then \$450 million a year for six years. Funding is for proven reforms such as smaller classes, more counselors and better training for educators.

Certain targets must be met at the schools. For example, grades 4-8 at QEIA schools must average 25 students or five

fewer than in 2006-07, whichever is lower. Also, QEIA high schools must have a ratio of no more than 300 students per counselor.

The law stems from a court settlement of a lawsuit CTA and the state superintendent of public instruction filed to compel Gov. Schwarzenegger to pay back to public schools all funding mandated by Prop. 98, the state's minimum funding guarantee for public education. QEIA funding cannot be postponed or modified without court approval, and efforts to do so could subject the governor to contempt of court charges.

CTA research also shows that schools in deciles 1 and 2 often face more challenges than other public schools. They have 98 percent more poor students qualifying for the free and reduced-price lunch program than all other public schools; 134 percent more English learners; 91 percent more Latino students; 59 percent more African American students; and 167 percent more students whose parents did not graduate from high school.



President Dianne GarciaStevens leads the Day of the Teacher Celebration Wednesday, May 14.