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Governor's Proposed Cuts Wreak Havoc

California schools and students are suffering, and local school districts are already at the tipping point. The \$3.5 billion in cuts made last year have led to larger class sizes, more than 10,000 layoffs of teachers and other education support staff, and the further elimination of art, music, and career technical education programs.

The Montebello Unified Board of Education is contemplating a Reduction in Force (RIF) as are the majority of school districts throughout California.

In preparation for a possible RIF, the District distributed a *Personnel Record Check - Verification Letter* to every certificated employee. The letter asks for verification of employment history, credentials and certification.

This information will be used to determine who may get a RIF notice **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MARCH 13.**

At this time the Board of Education has not authorized a RIF for members of the Montebello Teachers Association Bargaining Unit. We will keep you informed as Board actions take place.

The California Teachers Association along with the Education Coalition is planning a state-wide action **Friday, March 13.** We will organize activities for this action whether or not we experience a RIF in this Association.

The Governor's proposal to cut an additional \$10.8 billion over the next 18 months is an irresponsible assault on California's students and schools. And adding further insult, the governor is redefining Proposition 98, the state's minimum school funding law, to take \$7 billion from our schools that would never be repaid, in direct violation of the constitutional guarantee. Lawmakers need to raise revenues and solve California's budget problem without further detrimental cuts to an already underfunded public school system.

Education Week recently released a report that shows California has dropped from 46th to 47th in per-pupil funding, and lags behind the national average by \$2,400. Those figures don't even include the latest cuts or indicate where the state would be ranked under the governor's new proposal. Lawmakers should be working to improve support for students, not making things worse.

The governor's proposal to cut the school year by five days (and reduce salaries by 2.5 percent) does nothing to improve student learning. California students cannot continue their recent progress if the state takes away important instruction time. The governor's proposal hurts students in poorer communities most by eliminating all funding designed to help lower-performing schools.

Retro Checks due to you no later than February 1! (end of this week!)

Current Year (2008-09)	Budget Year (2009-10)	Cumulative Cuts
\$3.2 billion (COLA)*	\$2.8 billion (COLA)	\$6 billion (COLA)
\$6.6 billion in other cuts**	\$1.4 billion in other cuts**	\$8 billion in other cuts**
Total: \$9.8 billion in cuts	Total: \$4.2 billion in cuts	Total: \$14 billion in cuts
Total of new cuts proposed by the Governor for the next 18 months: <h2 style="margin: 0;">\$10.8 billion</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">(\$10.8 billion = Cumulative cuts of \$14 billion - \$3.2 billion cut in COLA approved in the 2008-09 state budget)</p>		
* This COLA cut was approved in the 2008-09 budget passed in September 2008 ** These proposed combined cuts are as summarized by the Legislative Analyst's Office		

CTA opposes any changes to the state's successful Class Size Reduction program. Smaller class sizes are key to improving student learning, especially for ethnic minority children and English learners. The governor's proposal for complete and permanent "flexible" use of all categorical funds is simply encouraging school districts to rob Peter to pay Paul. The fact is, flexibility without adequate funding provides false hope that schools can do more with even fewer resources.

Over, please...