

## Why Don't We Have A State Budget Yet?

### No Budget Is Better than What Is Being Offered!

#### Borrowing is the wrong approach to fixing our state's budget mess:

- The Education Coalition thoroughly rejects proposals to solve the current budget impasse through borrowing, because it hurts our schools and students. Borrowing would only worsen our state's budget deficit and shortchange our students by billions of dollars now and in the future.
- It's time to pass a responsible budget that doesn't rely on gimmicks and quick fixes that only make our state's budget problems worse. It's time for our state's leaders to invest in California's students.

#### The Education Coalition rejects efforts to undermine Prop. 98, the state's minimum school funding guarantee.

- The Republican proposal in the Senate cuts more than \$5 billion from education and replaces ongoing money with one-time dollars that would only create a deeper budget hole next year.
- This same proposal would put the Prop. 98 minimum school funding guarantee at risk, instead relying on one-time temporary funding that doesn't address the long-term needs of our students. In fact, \$3 billion in cuts would never be repaid to California's students.

#### The original Conference Committee Budget proposed by the Legislature is a balanced compromise that prevents deeper cuts to schools and students. It's the real solution that California needs.

- The Education Coalition supports the original Conference Committee package that restores \$2.4 billion of the Governor's \$4.3 billion in proposed cuts to education. It also reinstates funding for important student programs such as Class Size Reduction and provides a partial cost-of-living-increase to help attract and retain quality teachers and offset rising gasoline and transportation costs. We oppose any additional cuts to our schools and students.
- The Conference Committee budget package closes tax loopholes and provides new and steady sources of revenue to help protect our public schools and community colleges from deeper cuts.
- Our public schools have already experienced more than \$500 million in unexpected budget cuts this year—forcing many schools to lay off teachers and education support professionals as well eliminating art, music, and vocational education programs that help students learn and succeed. These cuts come at a time when California already ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in per-pupil spending, and dead last in the number of counselors, librarians and school nurses per student. The simple fact is California's schools need additional revenues to provide our students with the education they deserve.
- Our students and schools need real state budget solutions, not gridlock. Our students didn't create this budget crisis and their futures shouldn't be sacrificed to solve it. It's time to take a balanced approach in order to solve the state's budget crisis, and support the original Conference Committee Budget Package!



### Teachers Supervise Classroom Volunteers

Teachers often request parent volunteers in their classrooms. It is the decision of the teacher whether or not parent volunteers fit the instructional program. Additionally, teachers decide how and when to utilize volunteer requests. Education Code 51101 states that parents may:

*...volunteer their time and resources for the improvement of school facilities and school programs under the supervision of district employees, including, but not limited to, **providing assistance in the classroom with the approval, and under the direct supervision, of the teacher.** Although volunteer parents may assist with instruction, primary instructional responsibility shall remain with the teacher.*