

*The
Education
Coalition*

Working together to support and improve California's public schools

Association of California School Administrators (ACSA)

representing nearly 15,500 school administrators

California Association Of School Business Officials (CASBO)

representing more than 4,000 school finance and administrative managers

California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA)

representing all 58 county superintendents throughout California

California Federation of Teachers (CFT-AFL-CIO)

representing nearly 90,000 education employees

California School Boards Association (CSBA)

representing more than 1,000 K-12 school districts and county offices of education throughout California

California School Employees Association (CSEA)

representing more than 230,000 classified school employees

California State PTA

representing more than one million parents, teachers, and students in California

California Teachers Association (CTA)

representing over 340,000 educators

Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

representing more than 50,000 school employees in California

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Dear Colleague:

Now that the Legislature and Governor have enacted mid-year budget cut legislation, we move into that portion of the budget debate that will be most troubling and most important. As you know, the Governor's budget proposal was to cut K-12 education funding by \$360 million this year and \$4.4 billion next year!

We are proud that the members of the Education Coalition worked together to defeat mid-year cut proposals that would have been particularly harmful to students. The idea to actually cut funding to schools in the middle of the year was soundly rejected.

The reductions that were finally approved are from unexpended funds at the state level. These are funds that would have been available to spend on education programs, but were not yet committed. Given that the mid-year reductions came from savings and unspent funds, we urge our local members to work collaboratively to minimize the impact to programs, staffing and services in the current year.

Looking forward, it is important to emphasize that the Legislature also rejected proposals to manipulate the Proposition 98 Constitutional funding protection to make it easier to cut school funding in the future. This doesn't prevent such cuts, but at least it allows an honest debate about the future of our state.

The reality is that the Governor's proposal would cut school funding next year by nearly \$800 per pupil. It would increase class sizes, eliminate critical support staff, and devastate programs that schools have put in place to help students meet grade level standards and pass the high school exit exam.

Although we all know that we are stronger working together to oppose these cuts, the reality of local budgets and timelines is that decisions will have to be made at the local level that tend to divide our members and organizations.

We urge all our members to work collaboratively, to keep communications open and honest, and to focus on the primary issue—to protect our students and to reject the Governor's proposal to suspend the Proposition 98 funding guarantee and cut school funding by more than \$4 billion.

We encourage management, labor, parents and students to join together in local coalitions. It is important now more than ever that the education community come together to fight these devastating proposals to cut education funding

Sincerely,

The Education Coalition