

2010–11 State Budget Talking Points

- During his State of the State address, the governor gave families across California hope that their local schools would be protected from further cuts. His proposed budget tells a different story. Now, it is up to all of us to work with the Legislature to right this wrong and make education a priority.
- Despite vowing to protect education, Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed 2010–11 budget once again manipulates the numbers to reduce education funding by \$900 million in the current year and an additional \$2.4 billion in 2010–11.
- These unprecedented cuts are changing the face of education for an entire generation of schoolchildren. Educational programs have been cut to the bone and in some cases down to the marrow. In far too many cases, schools have been forced to eliminate summer school, libraries, transportation, athletics, technology, agriculture, Regional Occupational Programs (ROP) and General Education Development (GED). These are the very programs that help our students succeed.
- California's education system plays a vital role in our state's economic future. Schools are in a bigger crisis than anything we have ever seen—one that the governor and legislators must take more seriously.

Transportation

- The governor's proposal to eliminate gasoline sales tax and increase the fuel excise tax would decrease the state general revenue fund, resulting in an \$800 million reduction to Proposition 98 funding.

Reductions to district and county office administration

- CSBA opposes the governor's policy proposals, which include cutting district administration funding; eliminating teacher seniority privileges; revising substitute pay requirements; changing the date for teacher layoff notices; and modifying contracting out. These proposals will do very little or nothing to help districts deal with the proposed cuts to education and they divert attention from the real problem.
- Administrative support is essential for a school to provide the services students and teachers need to create a successful education environment. Administrative costs have taken the biggest hit in most districts and now the governor's budget proposal recommends that 10 percent be cut from school district and county office of education administrative costs.
- California's schools rank among the lowest in the nation in the number of district administrators per student. While the national average is 1 administrator for every 761 students, California only averages 1 administrator for every 2,366 students.



- Administrators are needed to observe, evaluate and mentor teachers to improve the quality of instruction. They evaluate student performance and program effectiveness in order to identify strengths and weaknesses and plan appropriate improvements.
- President Obama and Governor Schwarzenegger have stressed the importance of increasing and improving the use of data in schools to effectively assess student, teacher and school performance. It is administrators who design and implement data collection systems and use the information provided for program improvement.
- The fact is, administrators perform important functions that have a direct impact on what happens in the classroom.

Race to the Top

- Race to the Top may provide selected schools across the state some federal funds, but the reality is that RTTT dollars are one-time money and unfortunately are just a drop in the bucket. California may receive up to \$700 million in RTTT money, but in the past two years we have received \$12.5 billion in cuts and \$4.5 billion in deferrals and additional reductions.
- The money from Race to the Top won't even begin to make a dent in the draconian cuts education has faced in the past two years.

Federal Stimulus—American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

- In 2009, schools received one-time money from the federal government. As we said last year, this does not change California's serious education funding problem.
- State lawmakers used the federal stimulus dollars to backfill some of the education cuts last year, but this year we find ourselves with yet another deficit, and once again schools are on the chopping block.

