



May 2010

## Sample News Release

Use this sample news release to announce your participation in CSBA's 2010 Legislative Action Conference in Sacramento. You are encouraged to include additional information on the issues addressed with your legislator(s). Please send this release out to your local media on your District/COE letterhead.

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:**

Board Member/Spokesperson

Title

Office Telephone Number

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### **[District/COE Name] Board Trustee Meets with Legislators, Shares Devastating Consequences of School Funding Cuts**

[CITY], Calif. – May [DATE], 2010 – Just days after the California School Boards Association filed a historic school finance lawsuit against the State, [NAME], a board member of the [NAME OF DISTRICT/COE] met with state lawmakers to describe the effects California's broken education finance system has on students and asked legislators to protect schools from further cuts.

As part of the California School Boards Association's 2010 Legislative Action Conference in Sacramento, [NAME] met with [LIST LEGISLATORS] on Monday and expressed deep concern about the devastating consequences of education cuts on schools and students.

Seventeen billion dollars in cuts to California's education system over the past two years have forced local schools to eliminate libraries, transportation, summer school, athletics, technology, adult education, agriculture, Regional Occupational Programs (ROP) and General Education Development (GED). As a result, these unprecedented cuts are changing the face of education for an entire generation of schoolchildren.

The [name of District/COE] has been forced to reduce its budget by [amount of cuts] over the past two years. [Give examples of the effects local budget cuts have had on your schools, as well as the stories you shared with your legislator(s)].

The governor's revised budget proposal announced on May 14, only exacerbates an already dire situation, by including the billions of dollars in education cuts proposed in January, along with billions more to health and human services.

"Education has never faced anything like this in my history as a board member. Schools have closed, athletics and arts have been cut and we have been forced to eliminate the very programs that ensure our students succeed in high school and excel into college and careers," CSBA President Frank Pugh said. "As if that isn't enough, the Governor continues to propose a budget with an additional \$2.4 billion in education cuts. When will this stop?"

It is no secret that schools across the State have shouldered draconian financial burdens as lawmakers balance the budget on the backs of schoolchildren.

California is ranked nearly last in the nation in per-pupil funding and 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation in student-to-staff ratio. With ongoing cuts to education, class sizes will grow, schools will close, programs will cease to exist and California's schoolchildren will suffer.

"We need a commitment from the Legislature that our students will come first. It's time that those representing us in the Capitol listen to what the voters want, and that is a sound, stable and sufficient education finance system that guarantees our children academic success," said [NAME, TITLE].

For more information about the 2010 CSBA Legislative Action Conference, please contact [NAME] at [PHONE NUMBER] or [E-MAIL ADDRESS].

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For more information, please contact [Brittany McKannay](#), Public Information Office, at (800) 266-3382, ext. 3244.