



Sample talking points

- The governor's proposed budget reductions would be disastrous to public schools and they are fundamentally inconsistent with the state's goal of improving student achievement.
- Voters passed Proposition 98 almost 20 years ago to ensure our students and schools receive minimum funding. They strongly reaffirmed their support for the minimum funding law in 2005. Proposals to suspend Proposition 98 conflict with the will of the voters and jeopardize the minimum education funding levels Proposition 98 provides for students and schools.
- Our students and schools did not create this budget problem, and their progress shouldn't be undermined because of it.
- Our students and schools have been making progress. Reading scores are up 25 percent and math scores have increased 17 percent in the last four years. This progress cannot continue with the proposed budget cuts to our public schools.
- A state budget proposal that looks at cuts alone is not a real solution, because it doesn't address California's underlying problem of inadequate and unstable revenue sources. We can not talk about spending cuts without also talking about increasing revenues.

Proposed budget cuts would devastate public schools

The governor's proposed budget reductions of \$4.4 billion would be disastrous for public schools and are fundamentally inconsistent with the state's goal of improving student achievement. Almost 20 years ago, voters passed Proposition 98 to ensure that students and schools would receive minimum funding. Proposals to suspend Proposition 98 conflict with the will of the voters and jeopardize the minimum education funding levels Proposition 98 provides for students and schools.

What could result from a \$4.4 billion cut to California schools?

The actions outlined below are examples of what it would take in order to realize a \$4.4 billion cut to the state's public schools.

- Shutting down every school across the state for nearly one month.
- Laying off more than 107,000 teachers.
- Increasing class sizes statewide by as much as 35 percent.
- Reducing per-student spending by more than \$800.
- Laying off over 137,000 bus drivers, janitors, food service workers, maintenance workers, nurses, and other education support professionals.
- Cutting more than \$24,000 per classroom.
- Cutting \$7.76 million per school district (assuming district enrollment of 10,000).
- Eliminating all music, art and career technical education programs statewide.

Some Facts About California Public Education

- California students and schools have been making significant progress on student achievement. Reading scores are up 25 percent and math scores have increased 17 percent in the last four years. This progress cannot continue with the proposed budget cuts.
- California currently has the highest academic standards in the nation.
- California continues to lose ground in per-pupil spending, now ranking 46th in the nation, and trailing the national average by nearly \$2,000 per student. Just getting to the national average would require an additional \$12 billion. The governor's proposal would result in schools being \$16 billion from that goal.
- The "Getting Down to Facts" studies commissioned by four major foundations in 2007 showed that billions more need to be invested in education in California to ensure that all students have an opportunity to succeed now and in the future.