



State Budget Fails Students and Public Schools

Talking Points

September 16, 2008

- The state budget package passed by the Legislature fails our students, public schools and colleges. It does nothing to solve the state's structural deficit and sets California up for the same budget problems next year. The damaging proposal was passed nearly 11 weeks after it was due, and still didn't address our state's most pressing needs or create real, long-term solutions.
- Our students and public schools deserve better than this gimmick-filled budget package that cuts \$3 billion from public education this year and never restores those funds. It relies on borrowing money from California taxpayers, the lottery and future state revenues in order to close the \$15 billion budget deficit, which sets our schools up for more funding shortfalls next year and undermines Prop. 98, the minimum school funding guarantee.
- The "year of education" became a state budget package that guarantees the amount California spends on our students remains at the bottom nationwide, and gives the governor new powers to cut funding for some education programs in the middle of the school year.
- Instead of closing tax loopholes, the Legislature created new loopholes for corporations that will cost Californians billions and jeopardize future funding for education, health care and public safety.
- Legislators needed to make the tough choices necessary with a package of revenues and cuts. Instead, they delivered a disappointing "get out of town" budget that hurts all Californians. Lawmakers failed to listen to California voters, educators and parents who called on them to pass a responsible budget that included revenue increases and prevented deeper cuts to our students, schools, health care and other vital services.
- CTA will be looking into all options available to ensure that our state budget process and our elected leaders better serve California students and schools. It's time for new solutions that truly invest in California's future.