



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 13, 2012

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**Education Coalition Discusses Budget Position and Need for New Revenues
Amidst School Layoffs Notices and Threats of Additional Trigger Cuts**

The Education Coalition held a press briefing on Tuesday, March 13 to outline its position on the state budget, highlighting the harm of March 15 layoff notices to educators, and explaining why revenues must be part of California's budget solution. Coalition representatives discussed budget cuts, Proposition 98, policy issues and trigger reductions. The Education Coalition's budget position includes the following recommendations:

Revenues

The Education Coalition believes that some form of revenue enhancement must be passed to re-invest in our public schools and to return our economy and our schools to national prominence. Without significant new revenues, our schools and students will suffer from a cut that would be equivalent to three weeks of instruction. This is simply unacceptable.

No Further Cuts

The Coalition opposes any additional cuts to the K-12 education budget and programs. This is particularly critical if the tax initiatives pass. Consistent with this concern, the reduction in the school transportation program needs to be restored.

Maintaining the Integrity of Proposition 98

The Coalition urges protecting the integrity of the Proposition 98 guarantee.

Policy Changes Proposed in the Budget Should Get a Full Policy Hearing.

The Coalition believes that policy changes, including the weighted pupil formula proposal, require legislative deliberation through the policy making committees of the legislature.

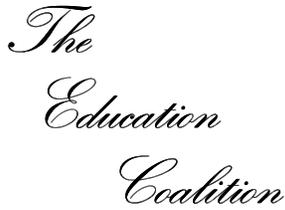
Trigger Reductions:

The Education Coalition opposes the disproportionate \$4.8 billion in trigger reductions to K-14 education should the Governor's proposed tax initiative fail. Moreover, the Coalition believes that trigger cuts should not be continued as a standard budgeting practice.

PRESS BRIEFING PARTICIPANTS

Estelle Lemieux, California Teachers Association
Bob Wells, Association of California School Administrators
Dennis Meyers, California School Boards Association
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Carol Kocivar, California State PTA

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March 12, 2012

**Education Coalition Position Paper:
2012-13 State Budget**

Working together to support and improve California's public schools

Association of California School Administrators (ACSA)

representing more than 16,000 school administrators

California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO)

representing more than 4,000 school business officials

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 nearly 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 325,000 educators

Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

representing more than 50,000 school employees in California

Legislative Consultant:

Dale Shimasaki

916.441.3909

In the last four years, funding for our schools has been cut by more than \$20 billion. We recognize the substantial budget problem facing the Governor and the Legislature to close the 2012-13 budget deficit estimated at \$9.2 billion.

While we have concerns on the budget proposal, we appreciate the Governor and Legislature's willingness to incorporate changes urged by the Education Coalition, including his recent signing of SB 81, which replaced the current year school transportation cut with an across-the-board reduction to the revenue limit. We look forward to continued discussions on the Coalition's concerns during budget deliberations.

Revenues

It is clear that the state has a revenue problem stemming from a major economic recession. The Education Coalition believes that this year marks a key turning point where Californians must decide whether to continue the devastating cuts to our education system and other vital state programs, or to rebuild the infrastructure that helped us become the 9th largest economy in the world. We believe that some form of revenue enhancement must be passed to re-invest in our public schools and to return our economy and our schools to national prominence. Without significant new revenues, our schools and students will suffer from a cut that would be equivalent to three weeks of instruction. This is simply unacceptable.

It is important to understand that the Education Coalition, representing parents, teachers, classified staff, administrators, and other school employees, are willing to fight for more revenues to prevent any further cuts. Substantial new revenues are essential to begin restoring these cuts to our schools. In the last four years, funding for schools has been cut by more than \$20 billion. California continues to be the 9th largest economy in the world, and our academic standards are among the most rigorous in the country, but our investment in education is among the lowest compared to other states. New revenues are needed to replenish K-14 school funding.

No Further Cuts

The budget proposes cuts to K-12 education in 2012-13. It is important that there be no further cuts to the K-12 education budget and programs. This is particularly critical if the tax initiatives pass. Preserving the remaining resources to education will be essential for districts to survive. Consistent with this concern, the reduction in the school transportation program needs to be restored.

Maintaining the Integrity of Proposition 98

We urge protecting the integrity of the Proposition 98 guarantee. For example, inclusion of \$2.4 billion of debt service payments in the Proposition 98 guarantee is both inappropriate and unconstitutional. Debt service payments are made by the state and do not flow through local districts as required by Proposition 98.

Policy Changes Proposed in the Budget Should Get a Full Policy Hearing.

There are a number of proposals in the budget which represent major policy changes to how education and program operations will operate in the 2012-13 year and beyond. Such proposals include:

- A weighted student formula to finance the K-12 system
- Changing the mandates from a reimbursement to an incentive program
- Implementation of transitional kindergarten

These issues require legislative deliberation through the policy making committees of the legislature. There should be an opportunity for all concerned interests to both hear and respond to the rationale for the policy changes being proposed.

Trigger Reductions:

The Education Coalition has two concerns with regard to the trigger:

Trigger Reductions are Disproportionate to K-14 Education. We oppose the disproportionate \$4.8 billion in trigger reductions to K-14 education should the Governor's proposed tax initiative fail. As noted by the Legislative Analyst, "Proposition 98 funding for schools and community colleges would bear the brunt of such reductions: \$4.8 billion (90 percent) of the \$5.4 billion in total trigger cuts." Moreover, the trigger reductions would go back to the pattern of disproportionate cuts to education that have devastated services to school children since the budget crisis began.

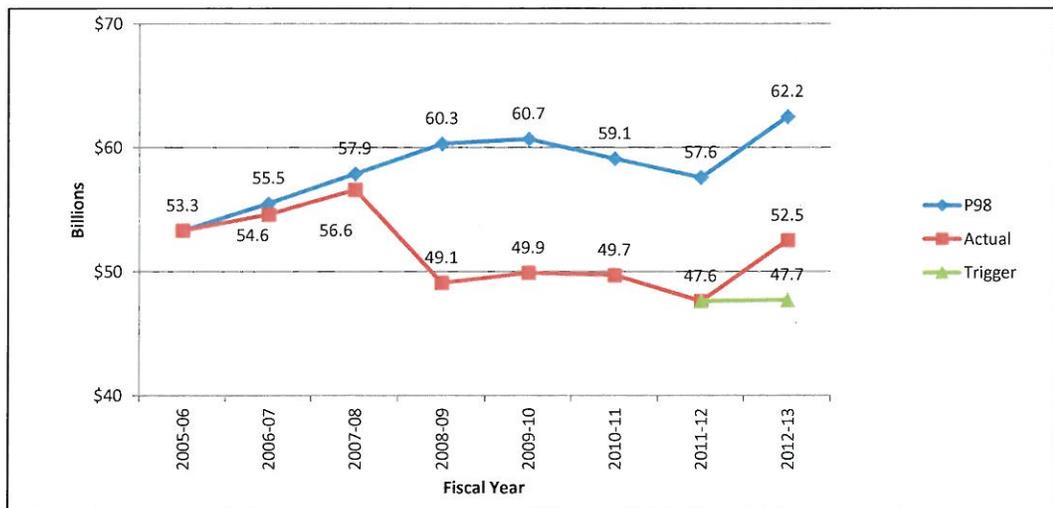
Trigger Reductions Should Not Be Acceptable Practice. In addition, we are concerned that for the second year in a row, the budget contains essentially two budgets for school districts, opening the door for mid-year cuts well into the middle of the fiscal year. This makes it difficult for districts to effectively plan their resource mix for the school year. Specifically, it will force districts to adopt their budgets based on the lower funding levels [i.e. the triggers are pulled] rather than on the assumption the Governor's tax initiative passes. Trigger cuts should not be continued as a standard budgeting practice.

**Education Cuts and Deferrals Through Current Year
(amounts in billions, unless noted)**

Obligation	One-Time	Ongoing	Total
K-14 Deferrals	\$10.4		
K-14 Mandates	3.6		
K-14 QEIA	1.1		
K-12 Emergency Repair Program	0.5		
K-12 Revenue Limits		\$9.0	
Total	\$15.5	\$9.0	\$24.5
Per Pupil	\$2,583	\$1,500	\$4,083

Source: Legislative Analysts Office

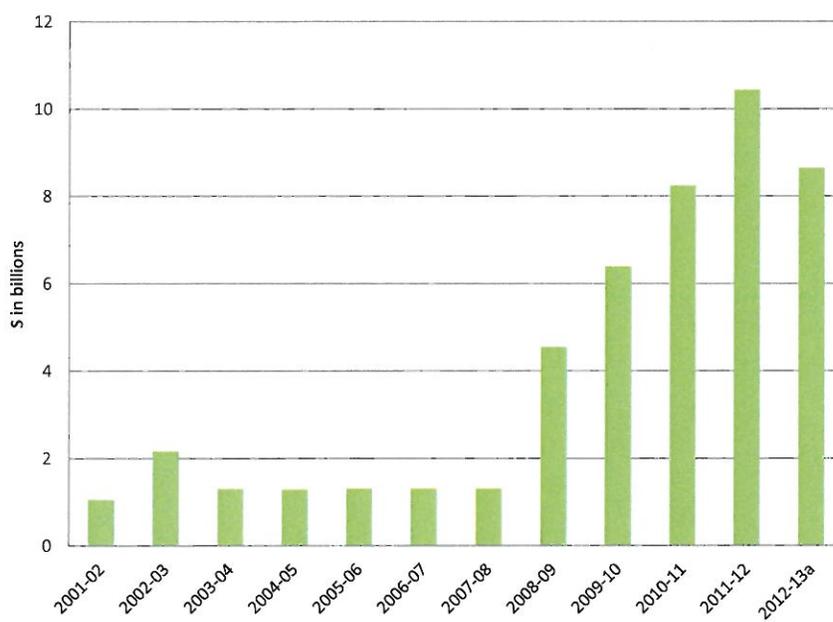
Constitutional Guarantee vs. Actual Funding



Source: Ed Source and Education Coalition

NOTE: Amounts do not reflect the impact of \$2.4 billion sales tax realignment shift for 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Proposition 98 Deferrals



a-Governor's Budget proposal
Source: Legislative Analysts Office

California's Pupil-Staff Ratios are Among the Highest in the Nation

	Students per Teacher	Rank	Students per Counselor	Rank	Students per Librarian	Rank	Students per Principal	Rank
California	19.8	47	809.9	49	5489.4	50	434.4	46
Florida	14.3	22	452.2	35	970.0	36	336.5	36
New York	12.9	8	415.7	27	933.5	34	288.3	23
Texas	14.6	25	436.8	30	943.6	35	227.0	6
All other states	15.1		432.8		810.1		307.0	

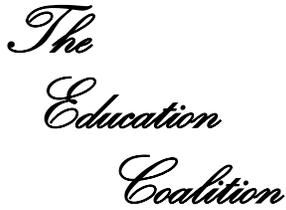
Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core Data, 2009-10

Note: Rankings based on all 50 states. The "all other states" category includes all states except California, Florida, New York, and Texas. The District of Columbia is excluded. Principal data is from NCES Fall 2008 files.

Equivalencies of \$4.8 Billion in Potential Trigger Cuts to Schools

Total Cuts Figure:	\$4,800,000,000
Cuts Per Student:	\$807
Cuts Per Classroom:	\$20,340
Cuts Per District: <i>(Assumes average district enrollment of 10,000)</i>	\$8,070,000
Teacher Layoffs:	54,820
Classified Employee Layoffs:	120,000
School Closure Days:	17
Class Size Increase:	21%

Note: 2010-11 School Year Data



March 6, 2012

The Education Coalition Opposes the Governor's Current Proposal Moving to Weighted Pupil Formula

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Legislative Consultant:

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In his 2012-13 budget for K-12 education, Governor Brown has proposed a weighted pupil formula that would radically change the way that schools are funded in California. While the proposal is designed to achieve a number of laudable goals, it would essentially make permanent the \$20 billion in cuts that schools have endured over the past four years. The Education Coalition opposes the proposal for the following reasons:

- This is the worst possible time to ask school districts to consider changes to the school funding formula. Any proposal to consolidate existing programs, without fully funding them is simply a redirection of resources at the lowest funding point in the last decade.
- Districts are already facing a potential cut \$450 per student if a temporary tax measure is rejected by voters. Again, as noted above, this new reduction would be in addition to the \$20 billion in cuts to our schools over the past 4 years.
- Without additional revenues and a hold harmless provision, the consolidation proposal would result in some districts receiving additional funds at the expense of others, essentially "robbing Peter to pay Paul." Even with new revenues and a one-year hold harmless, these adjustments are insufficient to make a weighted pupil formula work effectively for all districts.
- As noted in the Education Coalition position paper on the budget, policy proposals in the budget should get a full policy hearing. A public hearing gives an opportunity for all concerned interests to hear and respond to the rationale for the policy changes being proposed.
- There should be detailed analysis provided to the public on the impact of these proposals at the district, school, and student level. It should reflect the impact on districts with and without the passing of a statewide tax revenue initiative.



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improve California's public schools

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March 13, 2012

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