CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

CTA 2026 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

FULLY FUNDED SCHOOLS

1. PROTECT SCHOOL FUNDING PROMISED BY PROPOSITION 98

Governor Newsom's proposed budget includes a shell game that will underfund California's public schools by $5.6 billion guaranteed by Proposition 98. This massive cut is equal to nearly $1,000 per student. In just a few short weeks after the Governor's announcement, school districts have issued nearly 2,500 layoff notices to educators across the state.

Unless corrected by the Legislature, there will be larger class sizes, less mental health support for students, and massive cuts to our public schools.

2. INCREASE REVENUE FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

We live in the fourth largest economy in the world and yet our schools lack the resources to support students. Unstable funding and federal cuts have created chaos for essential services like education and healthcare. It's time to make our economy work for working people — not just corporations and the wealthy few.

By holding corporations accountable through SB 1349 and AB 1790, we can raise new revenue and create stable, well-staffed, and thriving schools where every student can succeed.

It's time for lawmakers to step up and increase revenue for our state.

3. COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: A MODEL FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Community Schools bring rich learning opportunities for all students, meaningful family and community engagement and collaboration rooted in shared governance, a welcoming school climate, and necessary supports that address barriers to learning.

Join CTA in the fight for robust and sustainable funding to grow the number of community schools rooted in shared governance in California communities.

4. ESTABLISHING PAID PREGNANCY LEAVE FOR EDUCATORS

Paid parental leave would ensure that California educators don't have to choose between their newborns and their careers. 15% of those who leave teaching cite personal life reasons including pregnancy, childbirth, and caring for their family.

AB 65 would bring up to 14 weeks of paid leave to educators recovering from pregnancy. This is a standard worldwide.

5. RELIEF FOR SCHOOL COMMUNITIES WITH EMERGENCY STATE LOANS

School districts struggling with financial health should be supported, not burdened with debt for decades. Emergency loan repayment traps school communities in a vicious cycle of paying off debt while struggling to invest in students today.

Districts that have declared insolvency overwhelmingly serve students of color. **It's time to provide relief for these communities and invest in students today.**

6. ELIMINATE 3 YEAR BUDGET MANIPULATION

California schools are unfairly required to budget for today's students based on speculative three-year revenue projections, a mandate only five other states impose. This practice allows school districts to claim financial hardship, hoard education funds in growing reserves, and avoid spending on students and educators.

Removing this requirement will ensure resources are used to give today's students the quality education they deserve now.

7. FUNDING TO BRING MORE EDUCATORS INTO THE WORKFORCE

Funding for programs to address teacher recruitment and retention is vital during a national teacher shortage. This includes the $250 million in the Governor's budget proposal for educator residency programs. These investments, alongside initiatives like the Golden State Teacher Grant Program, have been critical in preparing, recruiting, and retaining diverse, highly qualified teachers.

Funding teacher pipeline programs will address staffing shortages in California public schools.

FULLY FUNDED SCHOOLS ARE WITHIN OUR REACH. THE TIME IS NOW.