

**PROTECT THE INVESTMENTS.
PROTECT PUBLIC EDUCATION.**

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS TODAY



Lawmakers are discussing the state budget and need to hear from educators. Urge them to protect investments in public education.

THE FACTS: Gov. Gavin Newsom issued his revised budget proposal on May 12. We appreciate his and the Legislature's ongoing commitment to California's public schools and community colleges considering the growing budget deficit. The revised budget reflects our values ensuring that our students – preschool through community college – have the necessary resources to succeed.

KEY MESSAGE: State lawmakers are a valued partner in the budget process and we are counting on them to thoughtfully negotiate a balanced approach for this year's budget with consideration for future budgets also. California has been fortunate to enjoy good economic times for the last decade, thanks in large part to funding resulting from two CTA-backed, voter-approved ballot measures (Props 30 and 55) that helped stop the deep budget cuts. We have been able to build back programs and services to meet the needs of the "whole child." We also appreciate the Legislature's support in providing necessary COVID-19 funding and flexibilities for schools to persevere through the pandemic. However, students, educators, and families suffered extraordinarily during the last economic downturn. We cannot repeat this. Schools need certainty and predictability when planning programs for students and the communities they serve.

Cost of Living Adjustment for the LCFF, SCFF and Categoricals

- The May Revision proposes to fully fund the 8.22 percent cost-of-living adjust (COLA) for our PreK-12 schools and community colleges. **Please protect the investments** we have made in recent years and **fully fund the COLA** for preschool, TK-12 programs, and community college programs. We think it is especially important to provide the COLA for the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), the community college Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) and categorical programs, such as Special Education and Adult Education.
- California is experiencing a critical educator shortage. Fully funding the COLA will allow schools and community colleges to better recruit and retain qualified educators to ensure our students succeed. It also means giving educators the respect they are due which includes a salary that allows them to live in the communities they teach and sustain long-lasting careers in the profession.

Community Schools and TK

- The May revision proposal continues the commitment to fund community schools and pays for the additional students, known as "rebenching Prop. 98," that will be age eligible for Transitional Kindergarten (TK). **Please maintain the funding and commitment to community schools** and "rebench" Prop. 98 this budget year and as the state fully implements **Universal TK**.

Community Schools: A community school is both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources with an integrated focus on academics, health, social services,

leadership, and community engagement. Its integrated focus leads to improved student learning, stronger families, and healthier communities.

- We are proud of the transformational work educators are doing across the state. Several school districts are well along the path to successful implementation of this thriving shared-leadership model, a school governance model that includes parents, educators, students, and community members working together to better meet the needs of students and families.
- California's funding commitment is helping parents, educators, students, and communities reimagine their local public education and helping students succeed.

Transitional Kindergarten: California is in the second year of implementing Universal TK for all 4-year-olds, which will be fully implemented by the 2025-26 school year. With this important investment in our youngest learners, students will be eligible for 14 years of quality public education and on the path to a successful future.

Early Literacy Screening in Grades K-2

- The May Revision proposes to require LEAs to begin screening students in kindergarten through second grade for reading difficulties, including dyslexia, by the 2025-26 school year. **Please support early learning screening as proposed in the May Revision.**

Early Literacy Screening: We appreciate the Governor hearing the concerns raised by educators and for including in the May Revision a thoughtful solution to address early literacy screening. The Governor's proposal includes **funding to address** early literacy screening, a **realistic implementation timeline**, **professional development for educators**, and **thoughtful policy that benefits students**. We are particularly thankful that the screening process will take into consideration the multitude of languages spoken in California schools and that the screening process will not overidentify English learners as "at-risk" for dyslexia.

Equity Multiplier

- The Governor's January budget and the May Revision includes \$300 million in ongoing Prop. 98 to establish an equity multiplier as an add-on to the LCFF. **Please support the Governor's proposed Equity Multiplier.**

Equity Multiplier: The LCFF was designed to provide more resources to our neediest students and schools. The Equity Multiplier is additional funding allocated to local educational agencies based on school-site eligibility and will target the highest-need schools in the state.

Please scan the QR Code or go to cta.org/takeaction to send a direct message to your legislators. Just follow the easy steps.

Your letter will make a difference!

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