Good morning State Council.

Pink Slips

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We did that!

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But this didn’t come out of nowhere.

We have a long history of commitment, and advocacy and perseverance in this organization.

And because of us, the cause of public education has benefitted as have our students.

150th Anniversary

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We are carrying on the work that began 150 years ago, and that’s why we are celebrating that fact this entire year.

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Her population is drawn from all nations.
The next generation will be a composite one, made up of the heterogeneous atoms of all nationalities.

Nothing can Americanize these chaotic elements and breathe into them the spirit of our institutions but the public schools."

And isn’t our message the same today?

That’s one of the reasons why CTA is joining the National Education Association, other labor unions and community groups in support of reforming our shattered immigration system.

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The Dreams Alliance at CSU Northridge reaches out to undocumented students to make sure they are supported.

Faculty like Rosa Rivera Furumoto had one such student whom she helped qualify for a grant so she could stay in school.

Because of that intervention, Ana, her student, is now earning her teaching credential at UCLA.

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Providing them and their parents with a roadmap to become citizens will only make us all stronger.

That’s why we urge Congress to move swiftly in passing a common-sense immigration process, and that’s why we will participate in a national rally in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday.

You can also make your own voice heard by adding your name to the Student and Family Petition at educationvotes.nea.org.

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And the roots of that policy go back 150 years, again, to John Swett.

Funding Proposal

Gov. Brown supports the same educational equality as well, which is why he has proposed a new funding formula for California schools.

As he said in his State of the State address, “Equal treatment for children in unequal situations is not
justice."
The Local Control Funding Formula is designed to provide base level founding to all students and additional funding for English learners, students living in poverty, and foster youth.

Another 35% per student will be added to districts that have high concentrations of high-needs students.

To provide this additional funding, one of the things the plan does is consolidate most categorical programs.

And that’s where we have questions.

For example, under the new proposal, money for professional development would be decided at the local level, rather than state.

Money for implementing the new Common Core State Standards and adult education would also be part of the new formula and decided at the local level.

That, quite honestly is unacceptable.

And CTA has had those conversations with the governor.

There must also be accountability provisions in this funding proposal to ensure districts spend the money the way they are supposed to in order to meet student needs.

It will be important for educators to get involved and have a say in these local issues, which is why we are recommending that local chapters not rush into settlements between now and when the revised state budget comes out in May.

Many of you will be discussing the proposal in your committee meetings this weekend, which will help us in our response.

If changes are in store, we must be prepared to meet them and be part of the conversations—at all levels.

**Dismissal bill**

And we will, just as we recently met State Sen. Alex Padilla head-to-head on his teacher dismissal bill.

To counter Padilla’s punitive bill of last year, we were working with Assembly Education Chair Joan Buchanan to put forth new legislation that actually streamlines the dismissal process, protects students and protects the rights of educators.

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This bill is not perfect and we do have concerns with some provisions, but it shows how when people put rhetoric aside and have honest discussions about good education policy, we come to a much better solution. This too, is something that is part of our legacy.

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