



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **REVENUE EXTENSIONS NEEDED TO SHIELD SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS FROM MORE HARM**

**Sacramento** - Leaders of the Education Coalition joined with State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson on the steps of the State Capitol today to urge lawmakers to approve the governor's budget plan including the extension of much-needed revenues. More than 300 school superintendents, principals and other educators were meeting with lawmakers on the eve of March 15—the official deadline for schools to issue layoff notices to educators—to discuss the financial emergency facing schools.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson announced, "We're here for a simple reason: our schools face a financial emergency—and they can't wait any longer for our help."

"We're sad and scared for this generation of students," said Bob Noyes, President of the Association of California School Administrators. "We expect students to rise to meet high levels of academic achievement, but ongoing budget cuts deny them programs and support to make it possible. We're asking lawmakers to vote to extend the revenues that are currently in place. It's for students. It's for their future and it's the only conscionable thing to do."

Toby Boyd, a kindergarten teacher in the Elk Grove Unified School District and a California Teachers Association board member, shared, "In my 18 years as a teacher, I've never seen cuts that are so deep and impact so many. Teachers are struggling to give students the time and assistance they need to learn, which is especially critical in our early grades. But these massive budget cuts and growing class sizes are making that impossible. Lawmakers must approve the governor's tax extension plan to give our students a chance at a better education."

"We can't sit back and watch, as our districts are forced to eliminate the very programs that ensure student success," said California School Boards Association President and a

board member in Newport-Mesa Unified School District, Orange County, Martha Fluor. “Something must be done to retain the revenue that enables us to invest in our schools and students.”

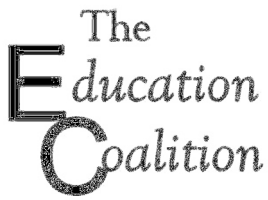
“Parents are understandably upset about the conditions in many of our schools,” said Allan Clark, president of the California School Employees Association. “Maintenance, security, custodial and other critical support services in our schools have already been cut down to bare bones. The more we cut education funding, the harder it becomes to meet the health and safety needs of our students.”

Jo Loss, President of the California State PTA and a board member in Castro Valley Unified School District, also shared examples of how students in California are impacted by the current budget crisis. “It’s time for the adults to step up. Our nearly one million PTA members throughout California are expecting decisive action by our elected representatives. Let the voters decide!” she said.

“We are pleading with Democrats and Republicans to let us make our case to the voters. Let us tell voters what life in our schools will be like with the extension versus life without the extension. We support the budget that sits in the Senate and Assembly awaiting a final vote because it protects schools. But it also depends on extending the temporary revenues,” concluded Renee Hendrick, President of the CA Association of School Business Officials and Executive Director of Business Services with the Orange County Office of Education.

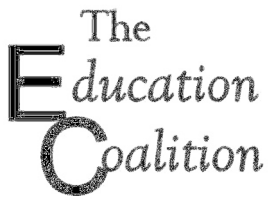
Dennis Smith, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Federation of Teachers (CFT), said, “For democracy to work, elected officials have to do their jobs, and they also have to allow the people to have their say. For legislators who have failed to provide adequate education funding to block a vote of the people is the height of irresponsibility.”

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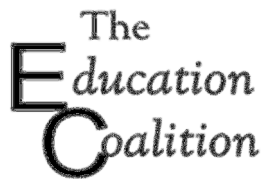
**Equivalencies of Statewide Budget Cuts**  
***(2009-10 School Year Data)***

<b>Total Cuts Figure:</b>	<b>\$2,300,000,000</b>
<b>Cuts Per Student:</b>	<b>\$377.05</b>
<b>Cuts Per Classroom:</b>	<b>\$9,746</b>
<b>Cuts Per District:</b>	<b>\$3,770,492</b>
<b>Teacher Layoffs:</b>	<b>26,437</b>
<b>Classified Employee Layoffs:</b>	<b>57,500</b>
<b>School Closure Days:</b>	<b>8.0</b>
<b>Class Size Increase:</b>	<b>9.1%</b>



**Equivalencies of Statewide Budget Cuts**  
***(2009-10 School Year Data)***

<b>Total Cuts Figure:</b>	<b>\$4,600,000,000</b>
<b>Cuts Per Student:</b>	<b>\$754.10</b>
<b>Cuts Per Classroom:</b>	<b>\$19,492</b>
<b>Cuts Per District:</b>	<b>\$7,540,984</b>
<b>Teacher Layoffs:</b>	<b>52,874</b>
<b>Classified Employee Layoffs:</b>	<b>115,000</b>
<b>School Closure Days:</b>	<b>16.0</b>
<b>Class Size Increase:</b>	<b>18.2%</b>



## **Recent News Reports Highlighting the Devastating Cuts Being Faced by California Schools – Especially if the Temporary Tax Extensions Aren't Passed**

Silicon Valley  
**MercuryNews.com**

### **East Bay school districts grapple with budget scenarios ranging from flat to catastrophic**

March 12, 2011

“Some school districts are calling it the ‘worst-case scenario’ -- a \$2 billion cut in K-12 education funding that is all but guaranteed if California doesn't extend a \$12.6 billion package of temporary taxes.

“But the worst-case scenario, in fact, is far worse than that.

“California's budget deficit is \$26.6 billion. About 40 percent of the state's general fund is allocated to public schools. If the temporary taxes expire this year and the Legislature suspends the state's minimum-funding guarantee for schools, K-12 education cuts could easily reach \$4 billion or more, according to estimates from the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office.

“That's \$700 per student, about 13 percent of the average school district's general-purpose money. And it's twice the amount that many California school districts are preparing to cut from next year's budget.

“The funding scenarios that schools could face are so wildly different -- from flat funding to the loss of \$1,000 per student -- that the two East Bay agencies in charge of monitoring local school districts' budgets don't even agree on how to advise their respective districts.”

**SFGate.com** **AP** Associated Press

### **Nearly 500 SF school employees to get pink slips**

March 3, 2011

“Almost 500 San Francisco teachers and other school employees are expected to get pink slips over the next two weeks as the school district prepares for deep cuts in state funding.

“The San Francisco Chronicle reports that the school board voted 6-1 Tuesday to send preliminary layoff notices to 140 teachers, nurses and counselors, 194 teacher aides and 139 administrators.

“Officials say the district will face an estimated \$27 million shortfall if the state's worst-case budget scenario pans out later this year.

“District officials are required by state law to issue the pink slips by March 15.

“Officials say they hope to rescind most of the layoff notices before school starts in the fall, but that will happen only if California voters approve tax extensions and increases proposed by Gov. Jerry Brown.”

## **More than 500 Oakland teachers to get pink slips this month**

The school district administration says it is preparing for dramatic budget reductions.

March 4, 2011

“More than 500 Oakland school district teachers, counselors and librarians will receive letters this month, notifying them their jobs are in jeopardy, if the school board gives the OK on Wednesday.”

“The list of 538 full-time positions in question, posted on the district's website, includes 231 elementary school teachers, 41 English teachers, 45 social science teachers, 28 sixth-grade teachers, 25 P.E. teachers, 13 social workers, and the entire adult education staff.

“Gov. Jerry Brown's January budget proposal largely protected K-12 education from further cuts, but it hinges on a \$12 billion tax extension and another \$12 billion in reductions to other state programs and services. The Oakland school district is preparing to cut about \$12 million from its budget.

## **Mt. Diablo school trustees propose cuts in district administration, more campus closures**

March 9, 2011

“After reviewing nearly \$32.2 million in budget reductions that could cut deeply into school staffs, Mt. Diablo district trustees offered their own ideas during a contentious meeting Tuesday.”

“The board expects to vote March 15 on nearly \$22 million in cuts in its 2011-12 budget of \$280.6 million, based on the assumption that Gov. Jerry Brown's tax extensions will not make it onto a June ballot or will fail.

“The cuts would amount to roughly \$350 per student.

“However, some experts have predicted that the Legislature might suspend Proposition 98 state education funding guarantees if the taxes fail, which could mean cuts as high as \$780 per student, Lawrence said.

“If voters approve the tax extensions, the district would need to cut about \$2 million from next year's budget.

“The board voted 3-2 to approve preliminary layoff notices for about 180 credentialed teachers and administrators, including nearly 34 music teachers, 32 elementary teachers, 20 librarians and 35 adult-education teachers.”

March 13, 2011

## Sacramento County School Budget Cuts

### SAC CITY UNIFIED

- Budget gap: \$9.05 million; \$22.3 million if tax extensions fail.
- Pink slips: Between 400 and 450 certificated employees; classified employees' numbers unknown.
- Cuts: Cut sports and extracurricular activities; reduce [adult education](#); reduce staff pay by 5 percent; eliminate all but mandatory busing; reduce counselors; [increase class sizes](#) to 40 in high school, 36 in seventh and eighth grades, 34 in fourth through sixth grades and 29 in two grades between kindergarten and third grades.

### SAN JUAN UNIFIED

- Budget gap: \$36.7 million; \$49.6 million if tax extensions fail.
- Pink slips: 597 people – 308 certificated and 289 classified.
- Cuts: [Increase](#) K-3 [class sizes](#) to 30.5; eliminate adult education; end all but mandatory busing; cut counselor positions; cut special-education staffing.

### TWIN RIVERS UNIFIED

- Budget gap: \$9.8 million if tax extensions fail.
- Pink slips: 121 people certificated, 10 classified, 11 management.
- Cuts: Reduce adult education; 4.5 furlough days for teachers; school year remains five days shorter; student learning coaches eliminated on each campus (coach was a teacher who helped monitor assessments and advise teachers on best practices).

### ELK GROVE UNIFIED

- Budget gap: \$40 million if tax extensions fail.
- Pink slips: 285 classified; 687 certificated.
- Cuts: [Increase class sizes](#) to 30 in K-6; reduce central office staffing; cut supplies; reduce professional development opportunities; convert eight year-round elementary schools to traditional schedule; eliminate elementary school computer teachers; freeze health benefits.

### NATOMAS UNIFIED

- Budget gap: \$10 million
- Pink slips: 61 certificated

### FOLSOM CORDOVA UNIFIED

- Budget gap: \$700,000; \$12.4 million if tax extensions fail.
- Pink slips: 171 people, including 62 certificated positions, 69 classified positions and five administrative positions
- Cuts: Trim operating expenses by \$2.8 million; reduce counselors; reduce special education teachers, eliminate two-thirds of sports budget.

## Clovis School District cuts \$8m from budget

March 9, 2011

“Clovis Unified School District trustees made \$8 million in cuts Wednesday night, including a 2% pay reduction for all employees, but avoided having to send out layoff notices next year.”

“The district could still be \$12 million short for the next budget year, which begins July 1, if California voters don't agree to extend taxes that were put in place in 2009 to bridge budget shortfalls by then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. The district's annual general fund budget is \$275 million.

“If voters reject the tax extensions, the district will have to make more cuts next year. The district plans to make up any shortfall this year using budget reserves.

“The largest chunk of this year's savings will come from the 2% pay cut, which will save \$3.8 million. “District trustees also approved a plan to eliminate 27 vice principal, learning director and counselor jobs. Those employees are being reassigned as classroom teachers, but they could apply for other administrative jobs that become vacant due to retirements or promotions, said Kelly Avants, district spokeswoman.”

THE SACRAMENTO BEE [sacbee.com](http://sacbee.com)

## School district layoff choices made in the dark

Schools can't wait for state on tax extension question

March 13, 2011

“School districts across California face a Tuesday deadline to send layoff notices to credentialed employees — teachers, counselors and many managers.

“After a string of budget years full of cutbacks and uncertainty, this year may see more of both.”

“Stanislaus County schools will lose \$36.8 million if state taxes set to expire are not extended. If voters get a chance to weigh in on those extensions, schools won't know until June how much revenue they can count on. They likely won't know until late this month if the taxes will even come to a vote.”

“Patterson...is cutting 21 full-time positions and a part-time slot. The district will raise class sizes to about 30 students, said Superintendent Esther Corral-Carlson.”

“Modesto City Schools board members voted last week to send 32 layoff notices to help fill a \$9.8 million funding gap if the taxes are not extended.”

The New York Times

## Tight Budgets Mean Squeeze in Classrooms

March 6, 2011

“Los Angeles has increased the average size of its ninth-grade English and math classes to 34 from 20. Eleventh- and 12th-grade classes in those two subjects have risen, on average, to 43 students.”

## **LBUSD cuts to carve deeper**

March 9, 2011

“Like many school districts across the country, the LBUSD is facing a budget crisis of epic proportions. The state's third-largest school district has slashed more than \$50 million from its \$700 million annual operating budget so far this year with a grim, ‘worst-case’ plan for program cuts, class-size increases and nearly 800 layoffs come fall.”

“School officials are hoping voters will approve Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed June ballot measure to extend billions of dollars in temporary tax hikes, which they say would save hundreds of jobs. If the measure fails, funding could be cut by \$634 per student, according to district estimates.”

“Superintendent Christopher Steinhauser has urged state legislators to put the tax extension measure on the ballot and let voters decide.”

“‘These are the worst reductions I've seen in more than 30 years in public education. We've cut more than \$200 million since 2008,’ Steinhauser said in a statement. ‘California cannot grow its economy by neglecting its schoolchildren. Our state must find a way to provide stable funding for education.’”

## **DiamondBarPatch**

February 2, 2011

## **Pomona Unified Braces for Budget Cuts**

“Gov. Jerry Brown's budget proposal keeps ‘flat funding’ for education, but Pomona Unified Chief Financial Officer Leslie Barnes said last week that the funding plan rests on a ‘big if.’

“‘That is, if the voters approve to extend taxes for the next five years,’ Barnes said. ‘If they're not extended, then education will take the full brunt of that.’”

“If these taxes are extended, Barnes said, the district will lose \$19 per student for the year — if they are not extended, the district plans to lose \$349 per student.”

“The County of Los Angeles is asking for PUSD to budget as if the taxes will not be extended as well.

“‘The County is going to want to see \$28.5 million in cuts for the next budget,’ Barnes said of overall cuts to the PUSD budget.”

If taxes are extended, overall cuts will be \$19.5 million for PUSD.



## **Classroom size grows at Alisal Union School District**

Budget constraints force district to put more kids in each classroom

March 10, 2011

“Classrooms in the Alisal Union School District just got bigger.

“An average of an additional four students per class will be added to each kindergarten through second-grade classrooms, following action taken Wednesday at the district's Board of Trustees meeting.

“Increasing class size could mean the loss of 16 teachers, according to district staff.

“The new class size will average 29 students, up from 25 during the prior fiscal year.

“The Alisal Union School District is making the cuts to offset an expected \$6 million deficit for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 fiscal years.”



## **Fontana Unified School Board looks to slash counselors, spares athletic program**

March 9, 2011

“Gullit Acevedo, 17, credits school counselors with steering him away from gangs. So he was shocked when the Fontana Unified School District board on Tuesday reversed a decision from last week and voted to warn all 68 of the district's counselors they might not have a job next school year.”

“The senior credits counselor Stacie Koolis with changing focus to his studies and sports training with an eye toward community college after graduation.

“‘I would never have been going to college if it wasn't for her,’ he said.”

“Last week the board voted to potentially cut 51 teacher positions.”

“Russell Groenheim, a counselor at Citrus Continuation School, said the board's decision late Tuesday night has left him ‘distracted, left behind and with diminished hope about the future of the students.’”

## **The Endangered School Nurse**

March 8, 2011

“Forced to figure out how to gut their own budgets to close an estimated \$120 million deficit, principals across San Diego Unified planned to slash half of the nurses who are stationed at their schools and a fourth of the health technicians, who care for students but don't have nursing degrees. Doing so would save roughly \$3.8 million.”

“More than 40 out of roughly 140 nurses in the school district could be warned this week that their jobs are on the line.

“The cuts would leave San Diego Unified with roughly one nurse for every 1,000 kids, according to Gorman's estimates. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends one nurse for every 750 students — and that is just for children who are well.”



## **Santa Barbara School Board Considers Its Options for Making Up \$10 Million Shortfall**

February 22, 2011

“Among the ideas discussed Tuesday night were increasing class sizes, shortening the school year and reducing staffing

“The Santa Barbara School District has prepared for what may be the worst-case scenario in the most recent Fiscal Solvency Plan — \$10 million slashed from next year's expenses.

“That figure is based on the uncertainty surrounding the effective date of unification, which could bring about \$6 million in savings, and whether voters will extend temporary taxes in June. The district has a structural deficit of \$5.6 million, and if the taxes aren't extended, that will be another \$4.6 million, according to Deputy Superintendent Eric Smith.

“‘It's just heartbreaking,’ Superintendent Brian Sarvis said, adding that even in the best case, there are likely to be more cuts next year and the following year.”

## Escondido elementary board OKs proposed cuts

40 teacher positions targeted for layoff notices

March 7, 2011

“The Escondido Union School District board voted Monday night to accept proposed budget cuts of nearly \$10.2 million, including layoff notices for 40 full-time teachers.”

“School board members expressed frustration with a budget process that must be completed before districts know exactly how much funding they will get from the state.

“Trustee Zoe Carpenter said the district has had to make cuts for the past five years as a result of ‘legislative whims,’ but noted that the district in that time continues to win recognition for innovative programs and its California Distinguished Schools.”



## San Bernardino school board votes to send layoff notices

March 2, 2011

“Unsure of how much money it will have next year, the school board voted Tuesday evening to send notices to 272 teachers that they could be laid off.”

“The district is looking to cut \$25million from its budget and last week approved increasing elementary school class sizes - a move that would cut nearly 90 teaching jobs.”

“The district will have to cut \$25 million, assuming that Gov. Jerry Brown is unsuccessful in getting state voters to approve a set of tax extensions in June, officials said.”

“If the tax measure makes it to the ballot and is approved by California voters, San Bernardino City Unified would have to cut \$9 million instead of \$25 million, officials said.”