

Californians for Improved School Funding



This important message from Delaine Eastin *former California Superintendent of Public Instruction*, has been forwarded by

[Californians for Improved School Funding](#)

Dear Friend of Education:

I am a native Californian. I was brought up by generations who had survived the Great Depression and the Second World War. They were people of modest means who dreamed of a better future for their children and grandchildren, and they knew that education was the key to that future. I attended public schools in California and then was privileged to attend the University of California at Davis and the University of California at Santa Barbara. I have had a wonderful life and my education was the key.

Later, as the state grew richer and more school financial responsibility for education went to Sacramento, our great educational system from kindergarten to higher education began to slip. The state cut back a little, then a little more, then a lot more. The vaunted education system that was 5th of the 50 states in per pupil spending in 1965 has dropped to 47th, and the decline continues. This is nothing short of tragic. Just as the global economy and the information age made education more important than ever, the California dream of a great education for all, became a tragic nightmare of diminished expectations. Quite frankly, the grown-ups of my generation are letting our children down.

We have an opportunity to begin reversing that trend. We are one of only four states that requires a 2/3's vote to raise money locally for schools. If we reduce that to 55%, still a super majority, but not so dramatic and difficult to achieve, we could allow communities to raise additional funds to help their local schools meet local needs. There is a constitutional initiative to do just that, the Local Control of Local Classrooms Funding Act, currently being qualified to go before voters this November.

The authors have set a limit on how quickly additional local support can grow -- \$250 per election, adjusted for inflation -- and have allowed senior citizens who choose to do so, to opt out. They have also required strict disclosure and accountability as to how the funds will be used and are spent. This is a reasonable, realistic opportunity to raise our level of local support for K-12 education, even as we protect homeowners and seniors. I hope you will join the California Parent Teachers Association and lots of good people across our state in rising to the challenge of helping our children to compete in the global economy. As California goes, so goes the nation. Think about and act to support this initiative. Please raise your voice for our children and for America's future.

This is a pay me now or pay me later opportunity. If we raise money for education, we will spend less for unemployment, welfare and incarceration in the long run. If we educate all of our children to love our state and our nation, they will not let us down. If

we fail to educate our children about our nation and its values, they will not hold our country or its democracy near and dear. Please help us to save our children from ignorance, about which Charles Dickens wrote "beware...I see that written which is doom".

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours most sincerely,

Delaine Eastin
California Superintendent of Public Instruction 1995-2003

Here is How You Can Help:

[Collect signatures](#)

We need everyone to take an active role - please return ASAP

Help spread the word!

[Ask your school board members to endorse](#) and

[Pass a board resolution supporting the initiative](#)

State PTA Endorses the Act **Thursday, February 04, 2010 12:25 PM**

Million-Member Organization mobilizes to qualify initiative for November ballot
Sacramento, CA February 4, 2010: **The California State PTA announced that it is mobilizing its nearly 1 million members to support Californians for Improved School Funding's** ballot initiative, the Local Control of Local Classrooms Funding Act

Follow the link below for complete press release:

<http://www.improvedschoolfunding.com/sign.aspx>