



## KEY POINTS TO COMMUNICATE

- This budget flunks the basic test of good government: It hurts our children. Our children did not create this financial crisis and they should not have to pay for it.
  - A budget is a reflection of our community values. This budget does not value the education, health, or welfare of our children and the future of California **(Insert personal statement)** e.g. *I am the parent of two elementary school children in\_\_\_\_\_ . I volunteer at my boys' school, etc.*
  - I know how important it is to have small class sizes and enough textbooks for all children. And I know how important it is to close the achievement gap.
  - I want to make sure my children and all the children in California have everything they need to succeed.
  - All the politicians say we have to work together to find strategies to close the achievement gap. Any cut to education— much less a \$ 4 billion dollar cut – is not a good strategy.
  - Larger class size is not a good strategy. Fewer textbooks is not a good strategy. Fewer teachers is not a good strategy. Cuts to health care are not a good strategy
  - California's budget problems should NOT be balanced on the backs of school children.
  - California already spends about \$2,000 less per student than the national average.
  - A state budget proposal that looks at cuts alone is not a real solution.
  - Investing in public education is also one of the most important ways to ensure the long-term growth and health of our state's economy. Today's students are tomorrow's well-educated and highly skilled citizens who will fill more high-paying jobs, create more new businesses, and cost the state less in other social services – if we support them now.
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