

CALIFORNIA STATE PTA
Legislation Information Alert
October 3, 2008

Thank you for all of your advocacy on the state budget!

As you are most likely aware, after initially threatening to veto the state budget package, the Governor negotiated some modifications with the Legislature and recently signed the budget into law.

While we are all relieved that the state finally has a budget in place – more than 80 days later than required – it is still not a budget for which Californians can be proud. It does not do nearly enough to set our state on a course that will fund our education system or support our children at the levels needed in order for Californians and our economy to continue to flourish in the future.

The children in school right now deserve the resources necessary to provide them with a world-class education. Leaders in Sacramento have acknowledged that this budget deal simply passes along our severe budget problems into the next year. Parts of the package, such as borrowing from future state lottery proceeds, will also require voter approval in a special statewide election.

For more information about this budget, you can go to http://www.cbp.org/documents/0809_finalbudget.pdf for an analysis prepared by the California Budget Project.

Even though we are disappointed by this budget deal, we can be proud as an organization that so many of our parents and volunteers throughout the state made their voices heard on behalf of children. Without PTA's voice, and the support of our partners in the education community, schools would have been cut even deeper in this budget.

We want to personally commend the nearly one-million volunteers members of PTA across California for all of your amazing effort during this past year to make our legislators and the public more aware of the vital need to stand up for children. Thank you for your dedication from January all the way through September. You have helped send the message loud and clear that California must invest more, not less, in our children's future.

We also want to assure you that we will continue to push for serious school funding and education reform. For instance, this month we will be releasing a special edition of *PTA in California* devoted to helping our members learn more about long-term reform issues. In addition, many ideas and efforts are already being discussed in Sacramento and around the state so that we never again suffer through another budget year and budget process like this one, (understanding that, because of this year's budget deal, we already know we'll be faced with a deficit for next year's budget).

The work that all of you have done this past year to advocate for children has been powerful! You have helped build a foundation for longer term reform that will enable us to advance our mission. This will require continued persistence.

Thank you for all of your hard work and all that you continue to do for children!

*If you would like to be added to our "Legislation email alert list," please send your name and email address to Leginfo@capta.org.