

EDUCATION

An investment we can't afford to cut.

California Budget Q & A Get the facts – Get more info – Make your voice heard!

Questions & Answers

For More Info:

Q: How does California compare with other states?

A: California has the eighth largest economy in the world. It is the most prosperous state in the nation by far and yet –

- California ranks 48th in the nation with respect to the number of students per teacher, averaging 19.1 students for each teacher, while the US as a whole averaged 14.7 students per teacher.
- California ranks 51st—*last*—on guidance counselors and librarians, with only 1.1 guidance counselors per 1,000 students or about half the national average
- California ranks 46th in the nation for education spending when adjusted for regional cost differences (Education Week).
- Out of the 52 states and other jurisdiction that participated in the Nation's Report Card conducted by NAEP, only one scored below California on the 2007 fourth grade reading assessment.

California School Finance
www.californiaschoolfinance.org

Education Week
www.edweek.org

The Nation's Report Card
National Assessment of Educational
Program (NAEP)
<http://nationsreportcard.gov/>

Q: Don't the public schools get lots of money from the state lottery?

A: Lottery funds contribute, on average, less than 2 % of a school district's income. A small portion of these funds is earmarked specifically for instructional materials.

California Budget Project
www.cbp.org

Q: How will the budget cuts affect my family and school?

A: Personnel costs account for about 85% of a school district's budget. Some potential effects of the budget cuts could include:

- laying off teachers and increasing class sizes even further.
- laying off or not filling positions for counselors, librarians, nurses and more.
- eliminating programs and services.

California State PTA
www.capta.org or
www.pta1stdistrict.org

Pasadena Unified School District
www.pusd.us

Q: What can I do about this now?

A: Write a letter to your state representative telling that these drastic budget cuts are unacceptable. These letters can be dropped off at your school's front office, mailed directly, or sent via e-mail through the website on right.

www.edvoice.org/go/pasadena