

## WHAT EVERY PARENT NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT EDUCATION FUNDING

- ✓ Over the past two years, \$17 billion has been cut statewide from public schools, or \$2,500 per student. The Governor's current budget proposal cuts billions more.
- ✓ These state budget cuts mean class sizes have ballooned in many grades, more than 30,000 teachers and other educators have been laid off, and programs that give students a well-rounded education like art, music and social sciences have been greatly reduced or eliminated outright.
- ✓ Proposition 98 is the statewide minimum school funding guarantee, passed overwhelmingly by California voters in 1988 to ensure that our students receive a quality public education. Some of the current budget proposals would suspend this law.
- ✓ California's schools rank at the very bottom of all 50 states in class size, and nearly last in the nation in per-student funding. (*Source: Education Week "Quality Counts," 2010*)
- ✓ California spends nearly \$2,400 per student less than the national average, which is \$10,557 per student, while California students receive \$8,164 per student. (*Source: Education Week "Quality Counts," 2010*)
- ✓ In the past two years, California's public schools have taken more than their fair share of state budget cuts. Public education has been subjected to 60 percent of the cuts, even though it makes up only 40 percent of the state budget.
- ✓ After decades of budget cuts and our students being forced to do "more with less," a recent report from UCLA surveying principals across the state found that:
  - 75 percent reported that summer school had been reduced or eliminated removing student opportunities for remediation or enrichment;
  - 75 percent reported reductions in instructional materials and supplies critical in supporting student learning;
  - 62 percent reported that teachers in their schools had been laid off, threatened with layoffs or reassigned to other schools.(*Source: UCLA, Educational Opportunities in Hard Times, 2010*)
- ✓ In order to ensure that our students have access to the quality education they deserve, our state's leaders need to find ways to generate more revenues for our public schools.
- ✓ For more information about the impact of the state budget cuts to schools, please visit: [www.protectourstudents.org](http://www.protectourstudents.org). To learn more about how you can become involved in your local PTA, please visit [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org).

**The Education Coalition represents more than 2.5 million teachers, parents, administrators, school board members, school employees and other education advocates in California.**