Education Coalition Budget Briefing
June 3, 2010

- **Jeff Freitas** – Legislative Advocate for the California Federation of Teachers
- **Debbie Look** – Legislative Director of the California State PTA
- **Estelle LeMieux** – Legislative Advocate for the California Teachers Association
- **Bob Wells** – Executive Director of the Association of California School Administrators
EDUCATION COALITION SUPPORTS ASSEMBLY BUDGET PROPOSAL, REJECTS GOVERNOR’S MAY REVISION BUDGET TO CUT $4.1 BILLION MORE FROM SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

Sacramento – Education Coalition policy experts hosted a budget briefing today to announce their support of the Assembly budget proposal and to oppose the Governor’s May Budget Revision, which cuts more than $4.1 billion from California’s schools and students according to the Legislative Analysts’ Office.

The Governor’s proposed budget would further reduce revenue limit funding, the general purpose support for schools, by $1.5 billion. This represents a cut of about $250 per student. The Governor also proposes cuts of $1.4 billion to child development programs, $28 million to county offices of education, $550 million from the K-3 Class Size Reduction program, and $206 million from virtually all K-12 programs to impose a negative cost-of-living adjustment.

The Assembly budget proposal honors the commitment made less than a year ago by the Governor and the Legislature to California’s students, does not suspend or manipulate the Proposition 98 Constitutional funding guarantee for public education, and does not impose more cuts on schools that have been devastated by $17 billion in cuts over the past two years.

“The Governor and legislators need to raise the revenues necessary to invest in California’s students now,” said Debbie Look, the legislative director of the California State PTA. “With nearly 1 million PTA members throughout the state, we know just how hard parents and many others are working to help schools survive during these tough times. But we cannot make up for the non-stop budget cuts that our children have endured.”

At the press conference, members of the Education Coalition called on the Governor and legislators to stop breaking promises to our students; reject further cuts to schools; restore funds owed to districts; and protect voter-approved Proposition 98.

“More than 26,000 teachers received pink slips earlier this year,” said Estelle Lemieux, legislative advocate for the California Teachers Association. “These devastating cuts mean fewer teachers in our classrooms, larger class sizes and less individualized attention for our students to help them learn. We cannot expect our students to continue to do more with less and less. It’s not fair to them, their education and their future.”

“Schools have been forced to implement the bulk of budget cuts to balance the budget for too long,” said Bob Wells, Executive Director of the Association of California School Administrators. “Our schools now are at the bottom in the nation compared to other states in virtually every educational spending category, yet California remains one of the largest economies in the world. We’re calling on the Governor and lawmakers to invest in the future and make our schools and students priorities now.”

The Education Coalition represents more than 2.5 million teachers, parents, administrators, school board members, school employees and other education advocates in California. For more information, please visit our website at www.protectourstudents.org.
$4.1 billion includes the following cuts to schools and students:

- School districts and county office of education revenue limits: $1.5 billion
- Eliminate state-subsidized child development: $1.4 billion
- Reduce funding for K-3 Class Size Reduction: $550 million
- Negative cost-of-living adjustment: $206 million
- Funding shift to pay on-going costs with one-time funding: $322 million
- Other: $100 million

Source: LAO Report (May 18, 2010)
Governor’s May Revision Cuts More Than $4 Billion From Public Schools

Current Law Minimum Guarantee = $53 billion

Source: LAO Report (May 18, 2010)
Governor’s May Revision compared to the Assembly Budget Proposal

Minimum School Funding Guarantee = $53 Billion

$49.1

$54.8

Source: LAO Report (May 18, 2010)
The California Jobs Budget (May 25, 2010)
Excerpts of Local News Reports Detailing the Impact of State Budget Cuts to Schools and Students…

Contra Costa Times
16 teachers to be laid off in Etiwanda School District
By Canan Tasci
May 30, 2010

Etiwanda School District board members last week approved laying off 16 certificated employees.

The recommendation to terminate the employees - primarily permanent and probationary teachers - was based on hearings conducted by an administrative law judge earlier this month.

"This is never a fun process because good people are losing their jobs," said Terry Embleton, Etiwanda's assistant superintendent of personnel.

"This is very emotional for teachers and for staff. We have excellent teachers who are losing their positions and it's not their fault. They didn't do anything to create this."

Etiwanda had to cut its budget by $14.5 million in the next three years.
Natomas Unified closes all 8 elementary school libraries
By Diana Lambert
May. 28, 2010

Is it the end of an era, or just a blip on the education budget radar?

As school districts throughout the Sacramento region confront another year of multimillion-dollar deficits, school libraries have moved into the cross hairs.

On Thursday, the Natomas Unified School District closed all eight of its elementary school libraries in a last-ditch effort to overcome a $17.3 million shortfall.

VoiceOfSanDiego.com
Bigger Deficit, Possible New Cuts Threaten School Budget
By Emily Alpert
May 27, 2010

San Diego Unified is now projecting a higher deficit than it did in February, when it hashed out its initial plan to close an estimated $87 million deficit for next school year.

It has to find more than $26 million more to balance its books before the end of June, when its budget is due. And on top of that, the school district could face $31.8 million more in state cuts.

The Modesto Bee
Ceres teachers face 8.5 percent pay cut
District's final offer is pay reduction, less work
By J.N. Sbranti
May 26, 2010

The Ceres school district gave teachers a final take-it-or-leave-it contract offer Tuesday, insisting they accept an 8.5 percent pay cut to save jobs and protect students from having their school year shortened.
The Ceres Unified Teachers Association was told it has until June 4 to agree to the final proposal or the district will implement it anyway. Teachers’ only recourse then would be to strike.

The final offer was made after a marathon negotiating session Monday, which ended in deadlock about midnight.

School board cuts $7.1M

By Nick Taborek
May 29, 2010

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District on Thursday slashed $7.1 million from its budget, a step toward closing its $12 million funding shortfall.

The cuts the school board approved on Thursday were less than the $8.9 million in reductions Superintendent Tim Cuneo had recommended.

The cuts will mean increased class sizes district-wide and fewer school counselors, nurses and library employees. The cuts also eliminated $440,000 from the district office’s operating budget.

With the cuts, secondary school classes will have 35 students per teacher, instead of 33 students per teacher, at most campuses. Elementary school classes will have 27 or 30 students per teacher, with smaller class-size increases approved for schools with a significant percentage of low-income students.

Fewer Napa school days next year

By NATALIE HOFFMAN
May 25, 2010

Napa Valley Unified School District students will lose four school days from the 2010-11 academic year, according to a recent school board decision.

The move, which will shrink the school calendar from 180 to 176 days, follows ongoing state budget cuts to education and district negotiations with teachers’ unions.
Although public districts must provide students with 180 instructional days according to the California Education Code, legislation written into the state budget gives districts permission to cut up to five days from their calendars, Debbie Brenner, the district’s assistant superintendent for business services, said.

The furloughs will impact all of NVUSD’s approximately 1,800 employees, saving the district about $1.5 million for the coming school year, Brenner said. The district’s general annual budget is about $115 million.

**Contra Costa Times**

McKinleyville student art show may be its last; middle school art and music program faces potential elimination

By Allison White  
May 21, 2010

The McKinleyville Middle School art exhibit has received special treatment this year with a display in its own venue starting today, but the art teacher fears it may be the student's last show.

Predicted budget cuts from the state have California school districts preparing to make more reductions and eliminate more programs, and this year McKinleyville Middle School's art and music programs are on that list. Teacher Ken Weiderman has taught the seventh-and-eighth-grade art course for five years and received a pink slip in March, meaning he may not have a job next year.

**Redlands Daily Facts**

School districts poised to cut classified staff

By Debbie Pfeiffer  
May 20, 2010

Area school districts will have to make do with fewer cafeteria workers, custodians and other classified employees during the next school year.

After announcing hundreds of teacher layoffs in recent days, school districts throughout the San Bernardino area are planning to layoff other employees to save money in these tight fiscal times.
And so far, whittling down the number of proposed layoffs has proven a greater challenge than last year when jobs were saved by an influx of federal stimulus funding.

Long Beach Schools Will Have 5 Furlough Days Next Year
by Ryan ZumMallen | Long Beach News
May 10, 2010

An agreement that will shorten the 2010-2011 public school year and could save the district $12 million was tentatively agreed upon by the Long Beach Unified School District and the Teachers Association of Long Beach (TALB) today.

Five furlough days will be enacted next year to bring the number of teaching days to 175, the minimum number allowed by the state.