

MEMBER SEARCH RESULTS

Senators

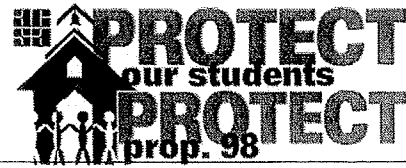
| Member | District Number and Office | Capitol Office |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| <u>Ducheny, Denise Moreno</u> | 40 637 3rd Avenue Suite A-1 Chula Vista, CA 91910 (619) 409-7690 53-990 Enterprise Way Suite 15 Coachella, CA 92236 (760) 398-6442 1224 State Street Suite D El Centro, CA 92243 (760) 335-3442 | State Capitol Room 5035 Sacramento, CA 94248-0001 (916) 651-4040 |

Assembly Members

| Member | District Number and Office | Capitol Office |
|-------------|---|--|
| Salas, Mary | 79 678 Third Avenue Suite 105 Chula Vista, CA 91910 (619) 409-7979 | State Capitol Room 2137 Sacramento, Ca 94249-0079 (916) 319-2079 |

GOVERNOR

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Arnold Schwarzenegger | State Capitol Building Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 445-2841 fax (916) 445-4633 Local Office 1350 Front Street, Suite 6054 San Diego, CA 92101 (619) 525-4641 fax (619) 525-4640 email via website: www.govmail.ca.gov |
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California is losing ground in per-pupil spending, now ranking 46th in the nation, and trailing the national average by nearly \$2,000 per student.

Education Week gave California a grade of D+ for school funding

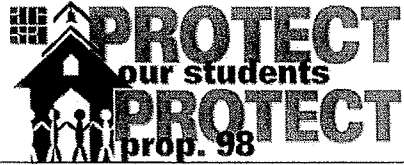
| | Per-pupil expenditures (PPE), adjusted for regional cost differences (2005) | Rank |
|-------------------------|---|-----------|
| District of Columbia | \$12,429 | See note |
| New Jersey | \$12,252 | 1 |
| New York | \$12,218 | 2 |
| Vermont | \$12,105 | 3 |
| Wyoming | \$11,126 | 4 |
| Delaware | \$10,661 | 5 |
| Connecticut | \$10,652 | 6 |
| Rhode Island | \$10,581 | 7 |
| Maine | \$10,539 | 8 |
| Wisconsin | \$10,199 | 9 |
| West Virginia | \$10,073 | 10 |
| Pennsylvania | \$9,985 | 11 |
| Massachusetts | \$9,930 | 12 |
| Nebraska | \$9,930 | 13 |
| Maryland | \$9,829 | 14 |
| Indiana | \$9,542 | 15 |
| Ohio | \$9,441 | 16 |
| New Hampshire | \$9,323 | 17 |
| Michigan | \$9,197 | 18 |
| North Dakota | \$9,181 | 19 |
| Virginia | \$9,169 | 20 |
| Iowa | \$9,026 | 21 |
| Hawaii | \$9,022 | See note |
| National Average | \$8,973 | |
| Montana | \$8,951 | 22 |
| Minnesota | \$8,891 | 23 |
| Kansas | \$8,862 | 24 |
| Arkansas | \$8,790 | 25 |
| South Dakota | \$8,736 | 26 |
| Georgia | \$8,658 | 27 |
| Illinois | \$8,621 | 28 |
| Louisiana | \$8,582 | 29 |
| Alaska | \$8,562 | 30 |
| New Mexico | \$8,431 | 31 |
| Oregon | \$8,353 | 32 |
| South Carolina | \$8,339 | 33 |
| Missouri | \$8,276 | 34 |
| Kentucky | \$7,978 | 35 |
| Colorado | \$7,939 | 36 |
| Alabama | \$7,924 | 37 |
| Texas | \$7,687 | 38 |
| Florida | \$7,539 | 39 |
| North Carolina | \$7,525 | 40 |
| Mississippi | \$7,513 | 41 |
| Tennessee | \$7,506 | 42 |
| Washington | \$7,432 | 43 |
| Oklahoma | \$7,331 | 44 |
| Nevada | \$7,141 | 45 |
| California | \$7,081 | 46 |
| Idaho | \$6,867 | 47 |
| Arizona | \$6,232 | 48 |
| Utah | \$5,463 | 49 |

CA ranks 46th, down from 43rd in just two years, and nearly \$2,000 below the national average.

Source: Education Week Quality Counts 2008

Note: Education Week excluded Washington DC and Hawaii from their rankings because they are single-jurisdiction states.

Sample Letter to Legislator or Governor from Parent



Dear XXX,

As a parent of a child in X grade, I was both outraged and saddened to learn about the Governor's proposal to cut funding to our schools. Year after year, we are being forced to fight to ensure our children receive the quality education they need and deserve.

Whenever the state faces a budget shortage it seems politicians immediately attack our children and our schools to solve the problem. That's just not fair. Our kids had nothing to do with creating the current budget problems and funding for their education is supposed to be protected.

The Governor's proposed \$4.8 billion budget cut will severely damage the quality of education in our state. The proposal would decimate the voter-approved minimum-funding guarantee for schools. That is incredibly short-sighted and simply unacceptable.

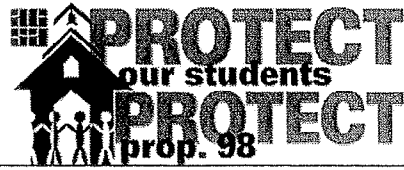
These budget reductions would be disastrous to public schools. A \$4.8 billion cut to schools would mean laying off tens of thousands of teachers, statewide increases in class size and the further erosion of the support staff provided to our students. This would threaten the progress that our kids are beginning to make.

At a time when we are starting to see progress in student learning throughout California, this budget represents a giant step backward. Reading scores are up 25 percent and math scores have increased 17 percent in the last four years. This progress cannot continue with these proposed cuts to our public schools.

As a parent, I understand the challenges inherent in balancing a budget, but I strongly oppose Governor Schwarzenegger's 2008-09 budget proposal and plans to eviscerate funding for students and schools. Our kids and our schools did not create this budget problem, and their education and future progress shouldn't be undermined because of it. My child, my student, deserves better than this.

Sincerely,

Sample Letter to the Editor #2



(Most letters to the editor need to be kept to about 200 words – but your local paper will have specifications on their Web site and also in their “letters” section.)

Dear Editor:

I'm a (PARENT) of a student at (SCHOOL NAME) here in (CITY NAME), and I'm very concerned about how the Governor's proposed \$4.8 billion education funding cuts will impact our local schools.

These cuts are equivalent to \$24,000 less for every classroom, or increasing class sizes by more than a third.

I know first-hand how important smaller class sizes are to improving student learning, and I don't want to see us turn back the clock on our kids' education. Smaller classes have helped my child excel in math and reading, and to deny that opportunity to other students would be a terrible mistake.

Or: (give a personal example – i.e. my son/daughter excelled in school when he/she was able to take an art class that sparked his/her interest in the history of the Renaissance.)

I'd hate to see programs like this slashed – because when we cut these important learning opportunities, we're short-changing our kids.

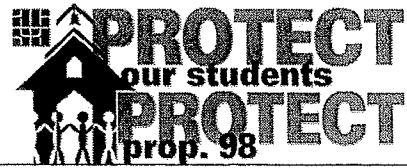
Voters passed Proposition 98 twenty years ago to ensure a minimum funding guarantee for our schools. Over the years, we've reaffirmed our support for this law. It's time for the politicians to listen to the voters and stop trying to siphon money away from our students.

I want to urge the Legislature to reject the Governor's short-sighted budget and invest in California's future.

Sincerely,

(NAME)
(CITY)
(CONTACT INFORMATION)

Sample Letter to the Editor #1



Dear Editor,

As a school leader, I follow the state's budget situation each year, often with great interest and sometimes with great dread.

We all knew that this year California would be facing a huge budget deficit. But nothing prepared me for Gov. Schwarzenegger's initial solution: solving the fiscal emergency strictly through budget cuts, including cutting education by a whopping \$4.8 billion.

All too often when the state faces a budget shortage it seems like politicians immediately want to attack Proposition 98, the minimum funding guarantee for education, to solve the problem. The fact is Proposition 98 exists to protect funding for students' education.

The recent 'Getting Down to Facts' studies showed that education needs more, not less, funding. Yet, many of the very same people who have ignored the improvement in test scores over the last four years, and who decry the state of education in California, now want to take an ax to education funding. It flies in the face of logic.

I appreciate the Governor's tough challenge in balancing the budget, but I strongly oppose his 2008-09 budget proposal and plans to eviscerate Proposition 98. Our students and schools did not create this budget problem, and their education and future progress shouldn't be undermined because of it.

These budget reductions would be disastrous to public schools. A \$4.8 billion cut to schools would mean laying off tens of thousands of teachers, statewide increases in class size and the further erosion of the support classified and paraprofessional staff provide to our students. This would threaten the progress that our students are beginning to make. Reading scores are up 25 percent and math scores have increased 17 percent in the last four years. This progress cannot continue with these proposed cuts to our public schools.

Locally, this would mean (laying off XXXX teachers; cutting XXXX programs; other examples) in our school district, and I am confident that our school community won't stand for it.

Sincerely,