

OUR KEY MESSAGES

- We appreciate the Governor offering a more straightforward, balanced approach to solve the state's \$25 billion deficit – one that does not rely solely on cuts.
- We also appreciate the Governor's efforts to limit further cuts to K-12 education, which has already endured more than \$18 billion in cuts totaling a loss of \$1,900 for each student during the past three years.
- In a survey of local PTA leaders throughout the state, 98 percent rated adequate school funding as the most important priority for our advocacy efforts.
- The Governor's budget also proposes severe cuts to services that are vital to so many parents and families, including higher education, child care, Healthy Families, public libraries, CalWORKs and foster care.
- A strong public education system – kindergarten through college – plus stable support programs and services for children and families are essential to California's future prosperity and a thriving economy.
- Even deeper budget cuts will occur unless voters approve a June 2011 ballot measure to extend current temporary taxes. **We urge your support to place this measure on the June ballot to allow voters to decide.**
- PTA believes that we must work toward a long-term solution for adequate and stable education funding. **PTA supports AB 18 (Brownley)** to produce a comprehensive plan for finance reform to support pupil achievement.
- We also support **SCA 5 (Simitian)** to lower the threshold for local school parcel taxes from the current two-thirds vote to a super majority of 55 percent, to allow local communities the option of passing local funding measures.
- We will continue to raise our voice on behalf of the state's more than 9 million children.
- (If meeting with staff) How can we schedule a meeting with the member in his/her district office to further our conversation on these important issues?