

Sacramento County Board of Education
Resolution No. 08-05
State Budget Cuts

WHEREAS, California's more than 6 million students deserve high-quality schools with well-trained educators, small class sizes, quality instructional materials, up-to-date textbooks, and dynamic parental support; and

WHEREAS, the state of California faces a remaining budget shortfall that of at least \$8 billion;

WHEREAS, Governor Schwarzenegger's 2008-09 proposed budget calls for massive and devastating cuts to education by reducing Proposition 98 funding by \$4.4 billion; and

WHEREAS, the proposed cuts to Proposition 98 funding would mean laying off tens of thousands of teachers statewide and would also result in increases in class size, not to mention further erosion of the support system for students provided by classified and paraprofessional staff; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed budget would cut \$85 million to Sacramento County schools; and

WHEREAS, according to recently released reports and studies, California spends \$1,900 less per student than the national average – seriously underfunding its public schools; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed budget cuts are fundamentally inconsistent with the state's goal of improving student achievement, at the time when our students are making progress toward meeting rigorous state and federal education standards; and

WHEREAS, the "Getting Down to Facts" studies show that billions more need to be invested in education in California to ensure the opportunity for all students succeed now and in the future; and

WHEREAS, the voters approved – and continue to support – Proposition 98 to protect schools and students from harmful budget cuts and to establish a minimum level of education funding; and

WHEREAS, the budget problem was not created by our students and fixing the problem should not come at the expense of their educational progress and success; and

WHEREAS, the budget problem primarily is the result of revenues falling dramatically below projections and increases in debt payments; and

WHEREAS, the past several budget shortfalls have been primarily resolved with temporary measures of short-term budget cuts and massive borrowing; and

WHEREAS, the debt costs of previous budget borrowing total over \$4 billion, or half of the remaining budget shortfall; and

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WHEREAS, the tax cuts approved in the past 10 years have an annual cost of \$7 billion; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed cuts would only temporarily balance the budget for one year with multi-billion dollar deficits to return the very next year, putting education once again at risk for even deeper cuts; now therefore.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sacramento County Board of Education strongly opposes the Governor's proposed cuts to education and urges the Governor and the Legislature to restore past tax cuts, close tax loopholes, and eliminate wasteful tax expenditures in ways that have little, if any, negative economic impacts and provides the revenue to fully fund education and other critical state services.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of March 2008 by the Sacramento County Board of Education.