

# Flunk the Budget! Take Action Today

Dear Lincoln Families,

As you may know, the State of California is proposing to cut the state's education budget by \$4.8 billion. Our Glendale Council PTA and the California State PTA opposes any cuts to education and children's programs. "Our children did not create this crisis, and we cannot allow their future opportunities for success to be undermined because of it."

## What does a \$4.8 Billion cut to California public schools look like?

- A 4.8 billion cut means shutting down every school across the state for nearly one month. Can our students afford to be behind in important instructional time?
- Laying off more than 107,000 teachers.
- Increasing class sizes statewide by as much as 35%. At Lincoln, all 4 – 6 upper grade classes have 36 students. A 35% increase means our upper grade classes could have up to 48 students. What are the chances that the K-3, 20:1 student/teacher ratio would remain unchanged?
- Reducing per-student spending by \$786 per student when we already fund schools at \$1,900 **BELOW the national average.**
- Laying off more than 137,000 bus drivers, janitors, food service workers, maintenance workers and other education support professionals.
- Cutting more than \$24,000 per classroom. Parents at Lincoln already provide Kleenex, copy paper, pencils, crayons, markers, glue sticks and writing paper. What more will we be expected to provide?
- Eliminating all music, art and career technical education programs statewide, with room to cut even more. Music and art programs are essential to developing well-rounded students. The Lincoln PTA already pays for all assemblies and the Meet the Masters Art Program. The Computer Lab Assistant and the Primary Music Teacher are paid for by the Lincoln Foundation. The money for these expenditures currently comes from you through fundraising. Are we prepared to give more?

The governor's proposed budget reductions would be disastrous to public schools and they are fundamentally inconsistent with the state's goal of improving student achievement. This budget does not value the education, health, or welfare of our children and the future of California.

Despite lack of funds, our students and schools have made significant progress. Reading scores are up 25 percent and math scores have increased 17 percent in the last four years. We cannot expect this progress to continue while cutting billions from our schools. The resources being provided to our schools do not match the expectations we have set for them. We have the highest standard in the nation but fund our schools at \$1900 below the national average.

The PTA, with the assistance of the Foundation will have a table set up at the Jog-a-thon on March 14<sup>th</sup>. We ask that you stop by and add your signature to letters addressed to our local and state representatives. We are joining the Glendale Council PTA and the State PTA in taking a stand to Flunk the Budget. Please join us and make your voice heard.

Sarah Kauffman, PTA President

For more information: [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org) or [www.glendalecouncilpta.net](http://www.glendalecouncilpta.net)  
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