

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Department of Finance Pulls the Trigger - Eliminates Home to School Transportation Funding

Today, the Department of Finance released more optimistic revenue projections than those previously offered by the Legislative Analyst's Office. Unfortunately, the projections were not good enough to prevent pulling some of the K-12 education triggers. In addition to cuts to community colleges (\$102 million reduction to base apportionments partially offset by a fee increase from \$36 to \$46 per unit), social services and higher education, the Director of the Department of Finance triggered the complete elimination of the remaining home to school transportation funds (\$248 million) as well as a cut of nearly \$80 million to revenue limit funding. The higher revenue projections largely spared school districts from a possible \$1.5 billion cut to revenue limits.

The cut to transportation has a disproportionate negative impact on low income families; it will force thousands of students to walk to school through dangerous areas and could result in the layoff of thousands of classified employees. School transportation departments cannot absorb such a deep cut without devastating consequences, so CSEA is working hard to convince the governor and Legislature to find an alternative solution.

A fairer solution would be to roll the transportation cut into the revenue limit cut - which allows districts to better allocate the reduction in a way that protects local priorities. At a minimum, making the transportation cut proportional to the others in Tier 2 would go a long way to preserve transportation and other programs that would be impacted by the elimination of transportation funding.

We can still convince the governor and state lawmakers that this is a budget cut California can't afford - but we need to act now. Call your legislators today and urge them to mitigate the cuts to transportation.

Let's show that we are united in our effort to support our co-workers in transportation. Please pass the word on to others at your worksite, and join hundreds of thousands of CSEA members in making three phone calls to show that you are a part of our united effort to stop this catastrophic cut.

CSEA leaders and staff are coordinating our efforts to fight these cuts on multiple fronts. CSEA is working with the Department of Finance and Legislative leaders on possible alternatives, and we have the strong support of State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson. We are leading a coalition of statewide and local stakeholders, including transportation officials, superintendents, and others, to educate and activate our communities and legislators against these destructive cuts, including local lobbying visits and press events.

If you have not taken action yet, please help our efforts by making three critical phone calls. It should only take a few minutes of your time to call the governor, your state Assembly member and your state Senator to leave a message.

Find your representatives with [CSEA Capitol Connection](#).

We can save the big, yellow school bus for generations to come -- all it takes is three short phone calls from you.

**Please call Governor Brown and your state legislators.
Tell them to save our school buses and stop cutting our schools!**