



## KEY POINTS TO COMMUNICATE

- This budget flunks the basic test of good government: It hurts our children. Our children did not create this financial crisis and they should not have to pay for it.
  - A budget is a reflection of our community values. This budget does not value the education, health, or welfare of our children and the future of California **(Insert personal statement)** e.g. *I am the parent of two elementary school children in\_\_\_\_\_.* *I volunteer at my boys' school, etc.*
  - I know how important it is to have small class sizes and enough textbooks for all children. And I know how important it is to close the achievement gap.
  - I want to make sure my children and all the children in California have everything they need to succeed.
  - All the politicians say we have to work together to find strategies to close the achievement gap. Any cut to education— much less a \$ 4 billion dollar cut – is not a good strategy.
  - Larger class size is not a good strategy. Fewer textbooks is not a good strategy. Fewer teachers is not a good strategy. Cuts to health care are not a good strategy
  - California's budget problems should NOT be balanced on the backs of school children.
  - California already spends about \$2,000 less per student than the national average.
  - A state budget proposal that looks at cuts alone is not a real solution.
  - Investing in public education is also one of the most important ways to ensure the long-term growth and health of our state's economy. Today's students are tomorrow's well-educated and highly skilled citizens who will fill more high-paying jobs, create more new businesses, and cost the state less in other social services – if we support them now.
-



## **KEY POINTS TO COMMUNICATE: BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

According to the independent analysis of the California Budget Project:  
The Governor's Proposals include:

- \$4.825 billion of cuts to spending covered by the Proposition 98 school-funding guarantee. Proposed 2008-09 cuts to K-12 education, including the loss of federal matching funds, translate into a reduction of \$786 per student.
- \$1.126 billion of cuts to state Medi-Cal spending. The largest share of the savings would come from reducing payments to providers of a number of health services by 10 percent.
- \$463 million of reductions to the CalWORKs Program. The largest share of the savings would come from terminating aid to certain children who receive assistance through the state's "safety net" program.
- \$324 million in savings from suspending the June 2008 and June 2009 state cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for cash assistance grants for low-income seniors and persons with disabilities in the SSI/SSP Program.
- \$372 million in reductions to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. These savings are largely due to proposals that would expedite release of more than 20,000 nonviolent offenders from state correctional facilities.

