

Concerned about the Proposed State Budget for 2008-09? You Should Be!

Here's how you, your PTA & school community can make a difference!

Attached is information from a variety of sources regarding the governor's proposed budget cuts for 2008-09. The figures are real. The current proposal cuts \$720,000.00 from schools right now (2007-08 budgets) and \$4.6Billion statewide. Torrance's piece of this devastating figure is \$8.7 million. 85% of TUSD's budget goes toward salaries, with the balance to programs. A cut this big will touch every level of our students education; it will affect every child in Torrance schools.

More information is available at http://www.capta.org/assets/managed/whatsnew-pdf/CAPTA_Press_Statement.pdf

There is a letter writing campaign underway right now. See the attached info to better understand the proposed budget and the direct affects to all California schools. Attached are *sample letters, phone script and a list of key contacts* in Sacramento. These items are also available on several websites including www.torrancecouncilofptas.org, www.tusd.org, and www.torranceparents.org.

How To Take This Campaign To Your School!

- Consider the following recommendation for motion at your next PTA meeting: "I move that the ____ PTA stand in opposition of the proposed suspension of Proposition 98 and that we (or the ____ PTA) support a letter writing campaign to our state's elected representatives expressing our position."
- Council has a Story Board available for loan! Just Ask and you can borrow it for display at your next big PTA event (ie Association Meeting in February).
- Provide copies of the phone script with contact info to all families and staff. Calling is just as effective as a letter (email is NOT encouraged).
- Provide the links listed above to all families and school staff so they can customize letters, print and mail.
- Provide hard copies of letters to all families and school staff members. Ask them to sign and print their contact info at the bottom of each letter.
- Provide letters in your newsletters, online, at PTA events and meetings, etc.
- Provide a collection box on campus for all letters.
- Compose a letter from your school's PTA Board of Directors, signed as a group.
- As a parent, talk to your children, get them involved!

Council's offer to each unit: If you bring all letters to the March 5th Council Meeting COUNCIL WILL SEND YOUR LETTERS TO SACRAMENTO! No cost to your PTA!

What have you got to lose? Our students and district stand to lose MILLIONS if we do nothing! Take a stand, get involved, speak up and be heard TODAY!

Questions? Contact Karen Cristy, Torrance Council of PTAs Legislation Chair.
kcristy@socal.rr.com 310-891-0303 (email preferred). Thanks for taking a stand!