

On March 4, Start the Day for Students

STAND UP FOR SCHOOLS AND CALIFORNIA'S FUTURE



Talking Points

CTA is joining students, educators, faculty and other union members for a statewide day of action March 4 to support public education, school funding and other essential services.

Our Message to Lawmakers on March 4:

1. No more funding cuts to public education and other essential services.

- Lawmakers have cut more than \$17 billion from public schools and colleges in the last two years and more cuts have been proposed.
- Class sizes have increased to unmanageable numbers, denying students the one-on-one attention they need. More than 70 percent of elementary schools reported class size increases.
- Art, music, PE, career technical education and summer school programs have been eliminated.
- Rising student fees and reduced course offerings mean fewer students can go to college. Student enrollment fees increased more than 30% this year.
- More than 16,000 educators and education support professionals were laid off in 2009, meaning less support for students.
- California spends \$2,400 less per student than the national average and ranks 46th in per-pupil funding.
- State budget cuts have decimated health care programs for poor children as well as services for seniors and the disabled.
- Investing in public education is the best way to improve our economy and our future.

2. Close corporate tax loopholes.

- Rather than taking more money from our public schools, lawmakers should rescind the more than \$2 billion in tax breaks they gave to large corporations and oil companies last year.
- These tax breaks were negotiated in secret by the Legislature and corporate lobbyists with no public hearings and no requirements by these companies to create new jobs.
- California taxpayers are paying more while big corporations are paying less.
- In these tough economic times, everyone needs to pay their fair share.