



On Tuesday, January 10, Governor Newsom presented his proposed 2023-24 state budget that includes a \$297 billion spending plan and an expected \$22.5 billion shortfall. The overall budget theme was categorized by budget shifts (that is shifting funding from one source to another), and delayed implementation and/or reduction of programs. As a big picture, it included \$7.1 billion in delayed spending, \$2.6 billion in spending reductions, and \$4.3 billion in budget shifts. As we had seen in previous budgets, many of the commitments were one-time spending so that in case of a budget shortfall like what is projected, these commitments could be reassessed. All of this to say, the May Revision will paint a clear picture of how much funding is to be allocated to specific programs and if there will be further cuts needed.

We appreciate the Governor's commitment to education, specifically the \$300 million ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund to establish an equity multiplier as an add-on to the LCFF to focus on closing opportunity gaps. However, we are concerned that without a requirement to set goals to close achievement gaps within district plans, the funding will not have the desired impact. We applaud the continued dedication to the educator workforce and would highlight the need for **targeted funding for bilingual teacher preparation programs**. It is for this reason that Californians Together is exploring legislation that would require districts to set goals for closing opportunity gaps in their LCAPs and continue to support the reauthorization of the Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Program (BTPDP).

With a limited budget on the horizon, we will continue to fight for our English learners and ensure that budget cuts don't widen the already existing academic and opportunity gaps. We will highlight the need to protect and expand proven approaches to educator professional learning, like the **Educator Workforce Investment Grants**.



Below are a few items we would like to highlight:

Proposition 98

- Proposition 98 funding for K-12 schools and community colleges for 2023-24 is \$108.8 billion. This represents a decrease of approximately \$1.5 billion relative to the 2022 Budget Act.

Local Control Funding Formula

- The Budget includes a LCFF cost-of-living adjustment of 8.13 percent, the highest cost-of-living adjustment in recent memory. To fully fund this increase and maintain the level of current year LCFF apportionments, the Budget provides approximately \$613 million in one-time resources to support the ongoing cost of LCFF in 2022-23 and roughly \$1.4 billion in one-time resources to support the ongoing cost of LCFF in 2023-24. Combined with growth adjustments, this increase will result in \$4.2 billion in additional discretionary funds for local educational agencies.
- To accelerate learning gains and close opportunity gaps, the Budget includes a \$300 million ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund to establish an equity multiplier as an add-on to the LCFF. These funds will be allocated to local educational agencies based on school-site eligibility, using a more targeted methodology than the existing supplemental grant eligibility.
- In addition to the equity multiplier, amendments are coming to ensure significant student groups or school-level equity gaps within a local educational agency are identified and addressed effectively through the Local Control and Accountability Plan and Differentiated Assistance processes.

Transitional Kindergarten

- \$604 million to support the first year of expanded eligibility for transitional kindergarten, which covers the shift from all children turning five years old between September 2 and December 2 to all children turning five years old between September 2 and February 2. (The 2022 budget included \$614M, so it is now \$10M less)



- The Budget provided \$337 million to add one additional certificated or classified staff person to every transitional kindergarten class, reducing student-to-adult ratios to more closely align with the California State Preschool Program. (The 2022 budget included \$387M for this purpose.)

California State Preschool

- The 2022 Budget Act included a \$312.7 million Proposition 98 General Fund and \$172.3 million General Fund to increase State Preschool Program adjustment factors for students with disabilities, **dual language learners**, and childhood mental health and added an adjustment factor for three-year-olds. These increases were coupled with requirements for State Preschool providers to **(1) incrementally ramp up to serve at least 10 percent of students with disabilities by July 1, 2024, and (2) provide additional supportive services for dual language learners.**

Literacy

- \$7.9 billion one-time for the Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant.
- \$1.5 billion one-time for the Educator Effectiveness Block Grant to train classified, certificated, and administrative school staff in high-need topics, including literacy.
- \$250 million one-time for literacy coaches and reading specialists.
- \$50 million one-time for professional development for educators on learning acceleration in mathematics, literacy, and language development.
- \$15 million one-time to support 6,000 teachers to receive their supplementary state certification in reading and literacy.
- The Budget includes an additional \$250 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to build upon the existing Literacy Coaches and Reading Specialists Grant Program.
- The Budget includes a \$1 million one-time General Fund to create a Literacy Roadmap to help educators navigate these resources and effectively and efficiently use them in their classrooms



Educator Workforce

- \$1.5 billion one-time Proposition 98 General Fund over five years for the Educator Effectiveness Block Grant. Funds were fully apportioned in the 2021-22 school year and are available for expenditure until June 30, 2026.
- \$500 million one-time General Fund over five years for the Golden State Teacher Grant Program. Funds are available for expenditure until the 2025-26 fiscal year.
- \$125 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund over five years for the Classified School Employee Teacher Credential Program. Funds are available for expenditure until the 2025-26 fiscal year.
- A total of \$600 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund over five years to establish new school counselor residency programs or add them to existing teacher residency programs to support the preparation of teachers and school counselors. Funds are available for expenditure until the 2025-26 fiscal year.
- \$250 million one-time General Fund over five years for the National Board Certification Incentive Program
- \$24 million one-time General Fund to waive certain teacher examination fees in the 2023-24 fiscal year.

We will continue to work with the administration and legislature to incorporate priorities. It is our goal to ensure that the inclusion and success of the State's English learners be incorporated in several program initiatives.