



**California Federation of Teachers**  
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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**The California Federation of Teachers issued the following statement today in response to Governor Brown's State Budget proposal:**

Thanks to the influx of revenues from Proposition 30, the Governor has begun to restore funding for education and other important programs hurt by years of budget cuts, and we support his stated intention to provide additional assistance first to the most needy schools and communities.

"The governor has proposed an additional \$2.7 billion for K-14 education, which is what voters supported in passing Prop. 30," said Jeff Freitas, CFT Secretary-Treasurer. "We are pleased to see that the Governor has increased combined funding for CSU and UC by \$500 million to 'obviate the need' to increase tuition. However, as the Governor noted throughout the Prop 30 campaign, these new revenues will only get California part of the way toward restoring the services we have lost."

Added CFT President Joshua Pechthalt, "We do have some concerns that proposed changes in funding to the K-14 systems may reduce or eliminate programs that are critical to diverse educational populations, potentially reducing access for students and communities."

#### *Adult education*

Pechthalt said, "We appreciate the governor's renewed emphasis on providing education access for adults. For many years adult education has experienced reduced funding, causing school districts to cut and in some cases eliminate adult education programs, even as adult students are looking to acquire skills to meet a changing economy. We are concerned about placing this expanded responsibility solely within community colleges at the same time that community colleges, with their own reduced funding and

policy changes, still have the responsibility for multiple educational missions," said Pechthalt. "We are concerned about moving forward with centralizing adult education programs without any guarantee that cuts to adult education services will first be restored. We want to work with the governor and the legislature to make sure the benefits of this approach outweigh any new burdens."

*K-12: Weighted Student Formula/Local Control, class sizes*

"We share the governor's concern for focusing on the state's most needy students, but ever since school districts have been given greater flexibility, important programs have been decimated throughout the state. You can't just give local administrations carte blanche," said Freitas. "Simplifying school funding is a necessary reform, but we must guarantee its fairness as well."

"Categorical programs were put in place for a reason. The state has an interest and an obligation to ensure that school districts are making the best decisions possible, and that means retaining some categoricals," Freitas said.

The CFT shares the governor's concern with class size. "California has one of the highest class sizes in grades K-3 in the nation," said Pechthalt. "We, like the governor, want to encourage manageable class sizes in grades K-3, and we want to see California move towards smaller class sizes in the early grades. This is critical to delivering quality education in these important years."

*Higher Education: Increased funding and tuition freezes*

Said Freitas, "We endorse the Governor's commitment to keep UC and CSU tuition and fees from increasing. CFT has always supported the Master Plan for Higher Education's call for free public education at all levels. We would like to see a rollback in these student fees and costs so that higher education can return to being accessible and affordable for all Californians."

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