



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

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Contact: Steve Hopcraft 916/457-5546;
Fred Glass 510/832-8812

TEACHERS: BUSH BUDGET LEAVES CHILDREN BEHIND

Mary Bergan, president of the California Federation of Teachers, issued the following reaction to President Bush's proposed education budget:

“President Bush’s education budget shortchanges California children. The proposed budget makes it nearly impossible for California to meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. It’s not enough to simply state lofty goals. Meeting those goals requires funding and support that the president’s budget proposal lacks. The president has shortchanged 45 education programs, including after-school learning, safe and drug free schools, and community technology programs. The president’s budget also provides less funding for disadvantaged students than authorized by Congress.

“California schools are already absorbing billions of dollars in state cuts. At a time when California students most need the federal government to provide education support, President Bush has short-changed schools and proposed another round of tax cuts that most benefit America’s wealthiest citizens. He has also proposed school vouchers – something Californians have rejected.

The federal budget proposal will worsen the teacher shortage in California and will undercut the performance improvements we’ve seen in the last few years.”

(end)

The California Federation of Teachers represents over one hundred thousand educators and classified employees at all levels of California public and private education.