

Letter Suggestions for “A Penny for Education” Campaign

We are asking that people and children write letters to Governor Schwarzenegger to tell them how they feel public education is being treated in the State of California. Along with the letter, we are asking people to tape a penny to the bottom of the letter and ask that this penny be put in a fund to be spent only on public education at the school site level—not on more administrators or more programs, just the schools. Please check out our website at www.march4education.org for further updates about this campaign.

Some suggested ideas that people can write about:

- Your personal experience in how your school has changed (not taken care of, less books, more crowded classrooms, less personal time with the teacher, etc.).
- Cuts that are being made to your school programs like counselors, music and sports.
- Good teachers are being given lay-off notices.
- No vacation for education (legislators are currently on spring vacation—and they typically don’t work a full Friday).
- Equal funding for all California students (the way public school is funded in the state is too complex and does not give each student an equal education regardless of how wealthy or poor their district and area is)—change the formulas in how public schools are funded.
- Governor Schwarzenegger should show up at the rally on April 16th and meet with the March for Education delegation.
- Do not cut Proposition 98 funding (the governor and a group of education organizations agreed to not fully fund this proposition that was passed by California voters in exchange for not making any further cuts to the education budget).
- Why is more money given to prisoners in California than students?

Make sure that parents sign their approval for their minor children to write to the governor.

Write to Governor Schwarzenegger and ask him to meet with the March for Education group on Friday April 16, 2004 at 2:00 PM. Let him know that if education and children are important to him, and if he is truly the people’s governor, he will set aside his personal plans and meet with the group to start making things better for the children of California. The children are our future, and they cannot compete in the world marketplace without an equitable and world-class education.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

You can also phone, fax or write to your local state legislators and let them know how you feel about California public education. Refer to the lists of legislators on our website for addresses, phone and fax numbers.

A Sample Letter

April 8, 2004

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor:

I am writing you to inform you that my school, and many others will be marching to Sacramento. We will start our march at my school, E.M. Downer Elementary in San Pablo and amrch 70 miles to Sacramento. My classmates and I are marching for equality in funding to ALL California schools. Also, we have been told that you can erase the money our school owes, by signing a paper saying so, would you please consider doing this to help us keep our libraries, counselors, sports and music programs. I think that kids will want to stay in school if they have music and sports. I am giving up my Easter vacation so I can march, would you please be available on April 16th, 2004 when we arrive in Sacramento, and help us fix this problem.

Sincerely,

David Ramirez



A Penny for Education

As parent of the above child, I give my permission for my child to send this letter to Governor Schwarzenegger.

Name

Date