



SAMPLE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: State's poor K-12 education funding

It's time for a reality check: Did you know that despite boasting the world's fifth-largest economy and the highest GDP of any state in the nation, California ranks toward the bottom nationally in per-student funding and last or nearly last in almost every measure of school staffing?

Those figures are beyond disheartening and disappointing to me — as they should be for all Californians. It's beyond time to reverse four decades of underinvestment in California's public schools and restore greater pride to our public education system.

That's why I'm all in on supporting the push for Full and Fair Funding (learn more at www.FullAndFairFunding.org). This campaign led by the California School Boards Association and the Association of California School Administrators would raise California from 38th nationally in school funding to the national average. Our community's and state's public schools, and the 6.2 million student they serve, deserve nothing less.

NAME

CITY

Re: Preparing tomorrow's students today

We hear a lot these days about the jobs and economy of tomorrow. It's clear that as a state that has always led the pack in terms of innovation, California should be heavily investing in preparing today's children for that future. But, unfortunately, we're falling well short.

Our public education system, despite its best efforts, lacks the funding and resources to provide all students with the components of a high-quality education. Improvements are needed to reverse sorry truths: California ranks toward the bottom nationally in per-student funding and last or nearly last in almost every measure of school staffing.

But there's now a great chance to make a difference. The Full and Fair Funding campaign led by the California School Boards Association would raise California from 38th nationally in school funding to the national average. That's what our state needs, and that's why I'm backing the cause.

NAME

CITY

Re: Demand more for K-12 students

For years we've asked lawmakers to increase school funding to reduce class sizes and provide students with learning that will take them into future careers prepared for anything that lies ahead. But for too long those requests have fallen on deaf ears and our children's educations have stalled as a result, as evidenced by state-wide test results.

California is the fifth-largest economy in the world, yet we rank toward the bottom nationally in per-student spending and last or nearly last in almost every measure of school staffing. We should be providing all we can to make sure our kids have the resources to thrive in their classrooms and beyond.

We have a chance to make our voices heard. I'll be supporting Full and Fair Funding, an initiative led by the California School Boards Association that would bring our per-student spending up to the national average. Let's make sure our kids have everything they need to succeed.

NAME

CITY

Re: Maintaining California's leadership position

California has the fifth-largest economy in the world and is a national leader when it comes to tech and innovation. The only way to ensure that our state continues to grow economically and remain a leader is to invest in our kids — our future workforce. Yet, when it comes to per-student funding, California ranks 38th in the nation.

Recent teacher strikes throughout the state have made it abundantly clear that inadequate funding causes student hardships in the form of larger class sizes, lack of extra academic supports, and lack of nurses and librarians, to name a few. Our students deserve better. That's why I am supporting the California School Boards Association's Full and Fair Funding initiative. It will raise \$15 billion annually for California schools — enough to get California students to the national average. It's the least we can do for our students.

NAME

CITY

Re: Meeting student needs

Given our state's wealth (California is the fifth-largest economy in the world) and the high needs of its student population, investment in our schools should be among the nation's highest. Instead, the top 10 states spend \$7,000 more per student than California does. Even the average state invests almost \$2,500 more per student than California.

To meet the needs of 6.2 million public school students and prepare them for an increasingly competitive, complex and technological world, we simply must do more. Our students need more teachers, more counselors, more nurses and librarians, and more academic supports in order to succeed. I am supporting the California School Boards Association's Full and Fair Funding campaign, which will bring out school funding level to the national average if passed. Our students deserve that and more.

NAME

CITY