



Talking Points

Governor's Proposed Cut to School Administration Developed February 2010

- Local districts and locally elected school boards, not state politicians, know best how to manage cuts at the local level.
- The governor's proposal for a \$1.2 billion reduction in funding for school district administration fails to recognize critical principal support programs and state and federal mandates for educational services districts now provide. It further burdens school principals with responsibilities fulfilled by district offices and it does nothing to eliminate required district-level programs and services.
- A 2007 report commissioned by Governor Schwarzenegger argues for increased support for school site principals and highlights the principal's role in developing high-performing schools.
- Author Linda Darling-Hammond details the ever-increasing demands on school site principals and notes "... it is clear that some vehicles for continuous, consistently available, customized professional development are needed to support principals' learning for the challenging standards-based reform work they are called upon to do." The governor's proposed cuts to school district administration would prevent districts from providing this much-needed support to principals statewide.
- Compared to national standards, California schools are woefully under administered. Nationally, there is one district-level administrator for every 831 students, in California the ratio is 1 to 2,061. California ranks 49th in the nation for its principal/assistant principal to student ratio, with 1 principal/assistant principal for 433 students compared to the national average of 1 to 312.
- State law prohibits California's public education system from having too many administrators. Education is the only division of government in the state with a statutory limit on the size of its management corps.
- Public schools operate with lean management systems. Across the nation, public schools employ fewer managers and supervisors than most public and private sector industries including transportation, food service, manufacturing, utilities, construction, publishing and public administration.
- Research shows great schools are led by great principals and great districts are led by great superintendents. These leaders and their schools, districts and counties are supported by extensive administrative networks throughout the state.