



# Governor's Budget Proposal for 2012-13

## CSBA's Positions

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### Revenues

- While the decision of new revenues will almost assuredly be made by voters, legislators must know how important revenues are to ensuring that school districts don't face further significant cuts.

### Integrity of Proposition 98

- Should the Legislature approve automatic trigger cuts based on the failure of a funding initiative in November, then it should not include the manipulation in Prop. 98. The Legislature must reject the inclusion of debt service payments in the guarantee under this contingency scenario.

### Trigger Reductions

- Schools should not bear the brunt of the cuts if a trigger is pulled. The reductions should be spread across the budget in a way that doesn't disproportionately affect students.
- Trigger cuts are detrimental to districts' ability to effectively budget and should not continue as a standard budgeting practice.

### New Funding Model – Weighted Student Formula

CSBA supports a comprehensive reform of the school finance system and has specifically supported proposal to move a weighted student formula model and thus conceptually supports the Governor's move to such a model. However, we do have some very specific issues and concerns that must be addressed to ensure that the goals of such an approach can be achieved.

- Policy review: There must be a deliberative and thorough policy review of the proposal that allows for full input into the design of the proposal.
- Use of new revenues to hold districts harmless: It is imperative that such a significant funding allocation shift not include districts that lose funding, rather the change should be implemented with new revenues for schools.
- Not start from a lower base: By implementing the proposal in 2012-13, the new funding model would be based on a substantially deflated base. Districts have incurred over \$20 billion in cuts and deferrals since 2008 and starting from there is not the right starting point. Funding cuts must be restored before making such a change.
- Appropriate weights: While targeting funding to English learners and need students are both desirable, are there other weights that should be considered such as regional cost differences or grade spans?
- Programs excluded: Discussions need to occur to determine if there are programs that should be excluded from the block grant.

## **Mandates**

CSBA supports providing full funding for the costs school districts incur performing tasks and functions associated with mandated activities. Some key issues need to be addressed to ensure the Governor's proposal is beneficial to districts and counties.

- All changes to requirements or eliminations should be done through the policy process.
- Seek assurance that the \$178 million budget is sufficient to fund the mandates in the block grant and that funding will be available for districts that opt to go through the traditional claiming process.
- Assure that the audit process is not overly burdensome, but rather reviews district activities to ensure that districts met the underlying statute.
- Reject the elimination of the second science course required for high school graduation and the Behavioral Intervention Plans mandates. These are two mandates approved by the Commission on State Mandates. These decisions have been challenged but have been upheld.