



Stop the manipulation of Proposition 98

Governor's \$5.6 billion withholding shortchanges students, undermines state constitution and breaks trust with voters

A DANGEROUS PATTERN THAT MUST BE STOPPED

For the third consecutive year, Gov. Gavin Newsom's budget proposal manipulates and withholds funding guaranteed for schools under Proposition 98, stripping \$5.6 billion — more than \$900 per student — from California classrooms.

A BROKEN PROMISE TO VOTERS

Proposition 98 is a voter-approved, constitutional guarantee designed to ensure schools receive stable, predictable funding, especially in difficult times. But the Governor is treating it like an option, normalizing practices that weaken school funding and erode public trust. Californians created Proposition 98 to prevent exactly this kind of budgetary shell game where:

- » Funding is being delayed or withheld
- » The formulas are being altered
- » The law is being subverted

If the state can change the rules whenever it's inconvenient, then a "guarantee" stops being a guarantee at all.

REAL CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENTS

Calling it a "manipulation," a "deferral" or treating it as "settle up" doesn't change the reality that this is a cut and students will pay the price through:

- » Larger class sizes
- » Fewer teachers and support staff
- » Reduced counseling and mental health services
- » Cuts to arts, enrichment and after-school programs
- » Less individualized attention for students
- » Hiring freezes and layoffs
- » Increased burnout
- » Fewer people entering or staying in the profession

THE CALL TO ACTION

California leaders must act now and:

- » **Reject** the \$5.6 billion Proposition 98 manipulation
- » **Restore** every dollar owed to public schools
- » **Honor** the constitutional guarantee voters demanded
- » **Make good on their obligation to public school students**

Anything less is a failure to uphold the law, and a failure to support California's students.