



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
Nov. 14, 2012

Contact: Larry Slonaker, SCCOE
(408) 453-6662

Prop. 30 aids schools, but serious funding issues remain

SAN JOSE, CA – The passage of Proposition 30, the temporary tax increase to avoid further budget cuts to California schools, has brought some sense of relief in the education community—coupled with a precautionary note.

The measure means that school administrators will be able to avoid draconian cuts of \$457 per student that otherwise were to have been implemented. However, California schools must continue to deal with the state budget cuts that have been imposed over the past several years, which have pushed many districts into deficit spending and reduced class time for students.

“We all owe a debt of gratitude to the voters for cutting through the misinformation, and giving their strong support to Proposition 30,” said Joseph Di Salvo, president of the Santa Clara County Board of Education. “Our challenge now is to make sure people understand that our schools are not receiving new funding, beyond what was already budgeted.

“Our schools will continue to struggle with the series of severe funding cuts that have been imposed over the past five years.”

Proposition 30 increases taxes on earnings over \$250,000 for seven years and sales taxes by ¼ cent for four years, to fund schools. Without its passage, nearly \$6 billion was to have been cut from California school budgets, which would have led to unprecedented actions such as further reductions to the school year.

A recent report by Education Week placed California 47th among the states in expenditures per pupil. And the California Budget Project has characterized the past 10 years as “a decade of disinvestment” in California public education.

“We have a long ways to go to be made whole again,” Di Salvo said. “But Proposition 30 is an excellent start. Election Day 2012 was a good day for public education— in California and the nation.”