

No Cuts to Education



An Organizing Packet

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No Cuts to Education – An Organizer’s Packet

All of education is under attack - from K-12 to the Universities. Programs are being cut in all the schools and elementary, middle and high schools are being closed. We all need to organize to fight back against these attacks on education – these attacks on the young people of California. We cannot allow ourselves to be divided K-12 against the Community Colleges or CSUs against the UCs. We need to use all of our forces to fight together. We are all impacted – young and old by these cuts.

Part of organizing is having tools. Information can be a powerful organizing tool. We think that it is important that all of us understand how the budget cuts are affecting all levels of education. And so, we have put together this organizing packet to provide some of this information to begin to help us organize against the budget cuts. Feel free to use any and all of it.

You can become an organizer at your school and in your community against the budget cuts.

If you want help in getting organized -- contact:

www.AgainstCuts.org

Or email us at: nocutstoeducation@gmail.com

Let us know if you find useful resources so we can pass them on to others.

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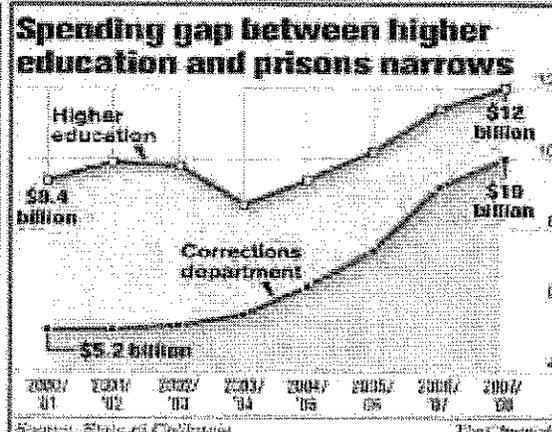
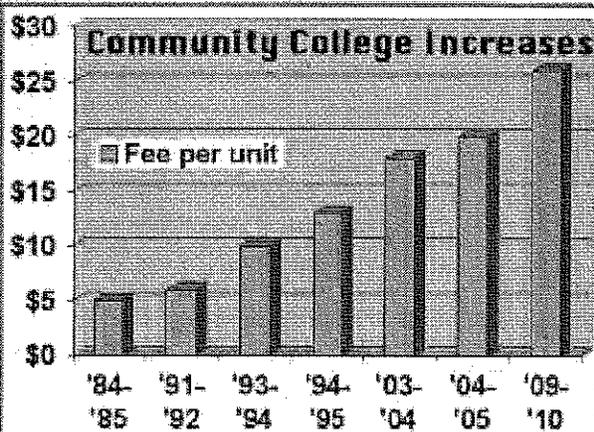
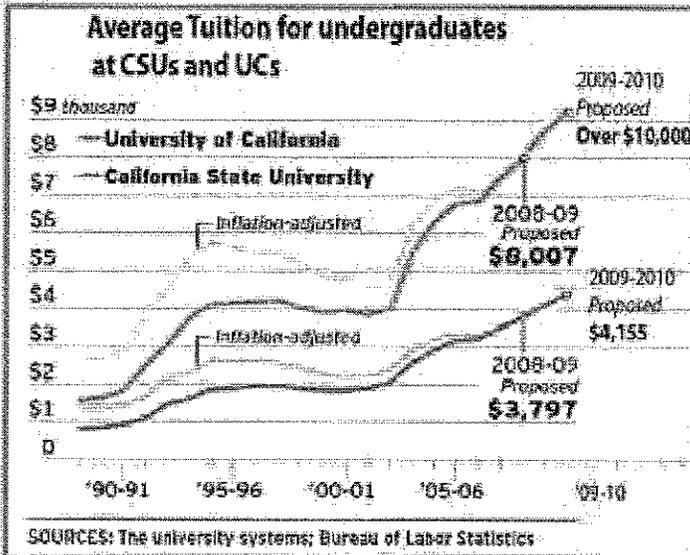
Education Under Attack

- Over Nine Billion Dollars Cut From Education for 2009
- Since 2007 Education has Been Cut by 42 percent

- K-12 Cut by \$5.2 billion
- CCs Cut by \$935 million
- CSUs Cut by \$584 million
- UCs Cut by \$813 million

What Do These Cuts Mean?

- About 250,000 students denied access to community colleges
- Tens of thousands denied admission to CSUs and UCs
- Fee Increases at all levels
 - CCs – \$26 Per Unit
 - CSUs – \$4,155 per year for undergrads
 - UCs – over \$10,000 per year for undergrads



K-12 Under Attack

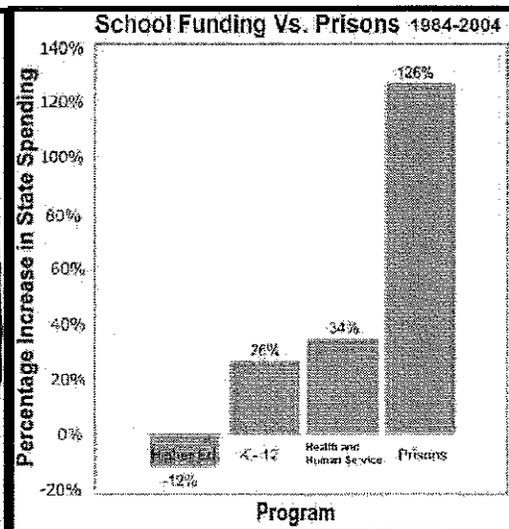
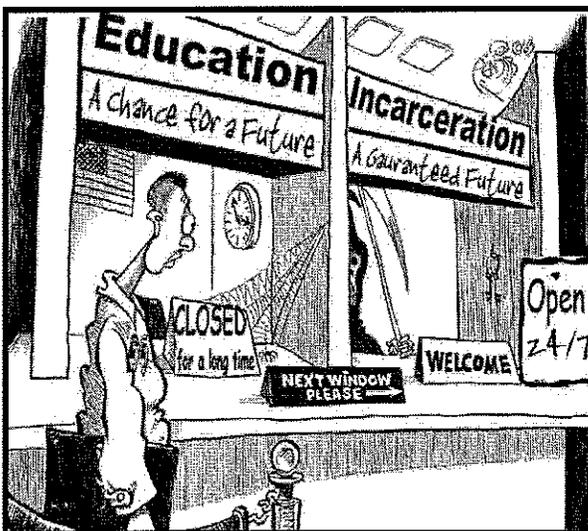
Sacramento's Message to K-12 Students: Your Education Isn't Important

California politicians have cut nearly \$6 billion from the state's K-12 system. These cuts will make California's education funding, which is currently ranked 46th in the country, even worse. And with continued budget deficits, the cuts will only continue, until we decide to stop them.

A few facts:

- The average high school dropout rate in California is 20 percent. In some neighborhoods in Oakland and Richmond and Los Angeles, the dropout rate is over 50 percent.
- In many districts, the average class size has gone from 30 to 40 or even 60 students. Classes this size make education impossible.
- The Los Angeles Unified School District eliminated summer school for 150,000 students in 2009.
- California spends \$1,900 less than the national average on each student.
- California students have the third worst math test scores in the country.
- California teachers are paid below the national average on a per pupil basis: \$3,479; compared to the national average of \$3,811.
- California school districts issued 27,000 pink slips to teachers last spring. Thousands of teachers and staff were permanently laid off.
- Fewer people want to be teachers with these cuts happening. In California, the number of students enrolled in teaching preparation programs has declined by 13 percent while the number of new teaching credentials has declined by 17 percent.
- The new Federal program has California and other states scrambling for Federal funds that are only available if schools are focused on teaching to standardized tests and penalizes teachers and administrators for low test scores. Like every other aspect of this society, big changes are needed in the schools. But these reforms are not aimed at providing a quality system of education. They guarantee a standardization of teaching and curriculum that does not provide a quality education.

What Are This Society's Priorities?



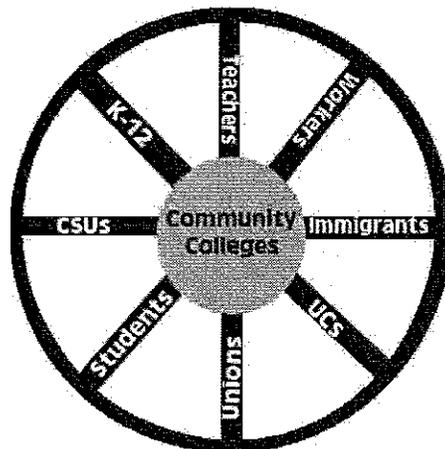
The Community Colleges Under Attack

What Are The Community Colleges and Who We Are?

- We are nearly 3,000,000 students in 110 campuses– the largest college system in the U.S.
- One out of every thirteen California residents is enrolled at a Community College.
- More than half are women. More than half are minorities.
- One-third are over 40 years old.
- Eighty percent are working while taking classes.

Their Economic Crisis and Our Education

- With the crisis created by the banks and insurance companies, access to our colleges is being denied or threatened.
- In the past two years, more than \$840 million has been cut from the Community College budgets.....
- Classes are being cancelled and programs are being cut and eliminated.
- Some colleges have eliminated their summer programs, others have severely cut classes.
- Support programs and educational grants are being slashed – including special support programs, tutors, library services and many others.
- In all schools, there are huge cuts in summer classes; in some schools summer sessions are being eliminated.
- This is just the beginning, some of the cuts are being offset by a one-time Federal bailout. If we allow this to continue, it will only get worse.
- Since 1994, there has been a fee increase of \$16 per unit. Since 2005, the increase was from \$20 to \$26 a unit - a 30 percent increase. There is a proposal for another increase – to \$30 a unit.
- Students are paying more and getting less – larger classes and fewer choices.
- There has also been a surge of people coming into the community colleges, nearly five percent this year. They are laid off workers, high school graduates and military veterans looking to Community Colleges as their hope in gaining skills or taking classes they can't get at the State Universities.
- Since 2004-05, there has been close to a 16 percent increase - nearly 400,000 additional students on our college campuses.
- This year, an estimated 250,000 students were turned away due to a shortage of classes.
- Other students aren't getting enough units to qualify for financial aid and have to drop out.
- More students are losing their jobs and are ending up homeless.
- Support staff is being laid off and furloughed, meaning fewer services and maintenance.
- Faculty, especially part-time teachers, are being laid off.



CSUs and UCs Under Attack

As the cost of a university education keeps increasing, it is becoming a luxury reserved for the very rich. For most poor and working class people, higher education is not even an option.

At The CSUs

Since 2008, over one billion dollars has been cut from the CSUs.

Tuition has increased 152 percent since 2000, from \$1,650 to \$4,155.

With the latest rounds of cuts, over 40,000 students will be turned away in the next two years.

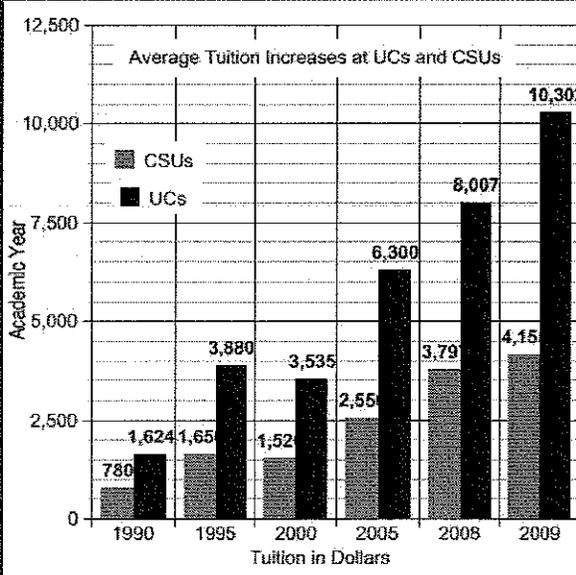
There will be no Spring admissions in 2010.

Across the CSUs, faculty have been forced to take nine unpaid days off per semester (so-called furlough days).

Over 47,000 workers have been forced to take at least two days off per month without pay.

In 1988, student fees only accounted for eight percent of CSU revenue. The rest, 92 percent, came from state funds. In 2007, student fees accounted for over 32 percent.

The average student loan debt for CSU students is about \$17,000.



At The UCs

Since 2001, fees have risen over 277 percent.

UC Regents have approved a tuition increase of 32 percent in November, making tuition over \$10,000 per year.

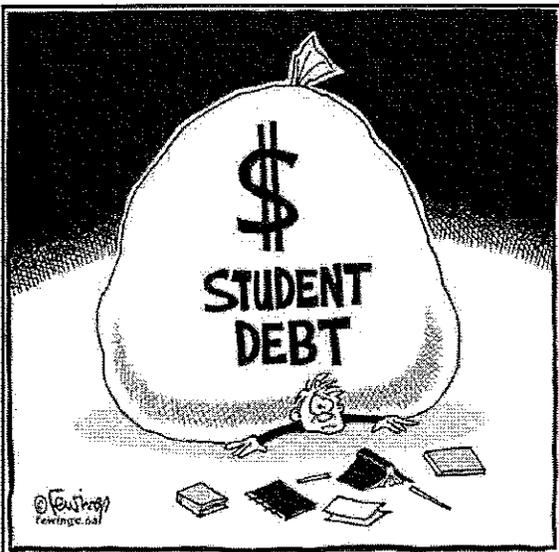
Tuition has more than doubled since 2002.

At least eight percent of the courses have been cut.

Enrollment was reduced by 2,300 students for Fall 2009.

UC faculty and staff will be required to take from 11 to 26 unpaid days off -- amounting to a salary reduction of four to ten percent. Over 80 percent of faculty are affected by this cut.

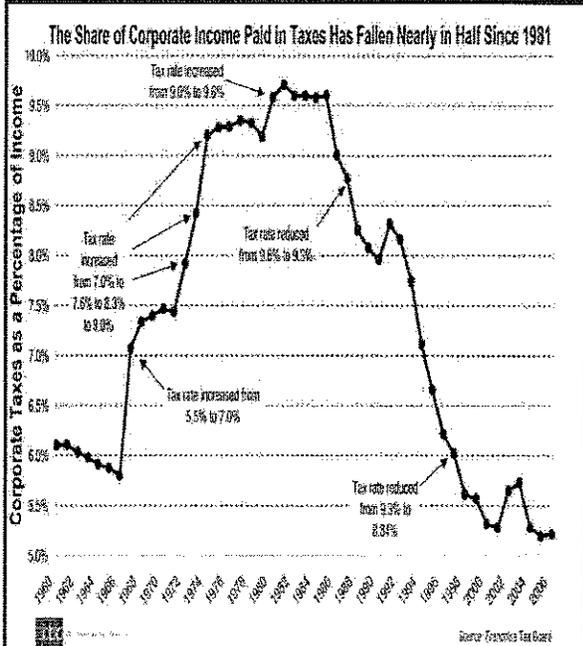
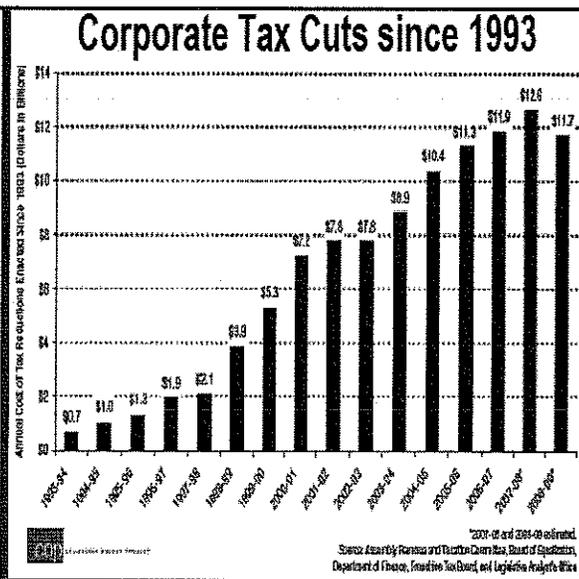
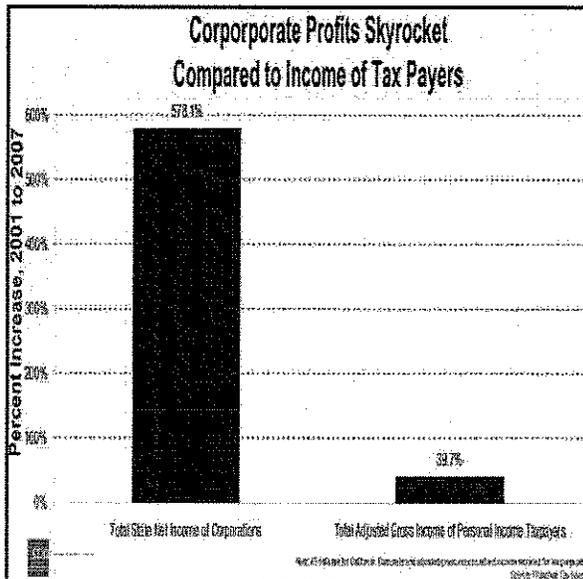
The average student loan debt for UC graduates is over \$25,000.



California's Tax System -- Whose Priorities?

Year after year, corporate income taxes continue to make up less of the state budget revenue. If corporations had paid the same share of their profits in corporate taxes in 2006 as they did in 1981, corporate tax collections would have been \$8.4 billion higher.

Personal income taxes make up about 50 percent of the California State Revenue while corporate taxes make up only about ten percent.



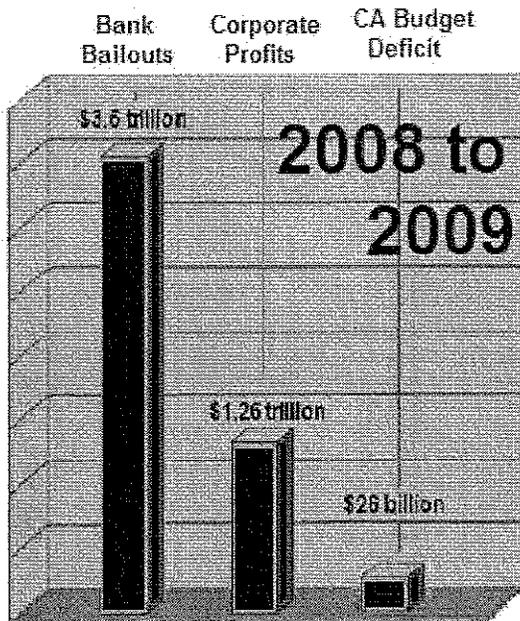
The Rich Are Getting Richer

In the United States

- The U.S. has 24 percent of the world's wealth produced in one year, or \$14.29 trillion.
(www.imf.org September 09)
- The U.S. has 45 percent of the world's 793 billionaires.
(www.bea.gov, July 09)
- The government has already paid \$3.5 trillion to corporations to bail them out. Estimates of the total cost and debt go as high as \$23 trillion.
(U.S. Treasury, July 09)
- In 2008, total corporate profits in the U.S. were \$1.36 trillion.
(www.msnbc.com March 09)
- Exxon Mobil made a record \$45.2 billion profit last year. This year it will make another \$28.2 billion.
(www.nypost.com January 09)

In California

- California is the ninth largest economy in the world.
(California Chamber of Commerce, August 2009)
- In 2006, California produced twelve percent of U.S. wealth, or \$1.8 trillion.
(MyBudget360.com, July 2009)
- Of the 400 richest Americans, 81 are from California.
(Forbes.com, September 2008)
- The annual income of Californians increased by \$64 billion dollars from 2004 to 2007. From these profits, 30 percent went to the richest one percent of Californians.
(California Budget Project, June 2009)
- Chevron, based in San Ramon, made \$23.9 billion in profits. (San Jose Mercury News, September)



California Budget Deficit:
\$26 billion



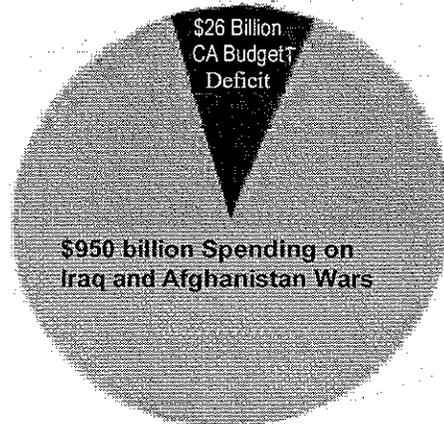
The money exists! We should not pay! Tax the rich!

The Costs of War - as of Jan. 13, 2010 (<http://costofwar.com/>)

The U.S. wars on the people of Iraq and Afghanistan are an intolerable waste of human life and wealth. The people of Iraq and Afghanistan should have the right to live free from U.S. military violence and the destruction it causes. The United States government chooses to spend a huge amount of money on war, while education and other social services are cut in the U.S.. Does this make any sense?

Wealth Wasted on War

- So far, the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have cost \$950 billion in Congressional appropriations alone.
- And the Federal Budget for 2010 includes a request for another \$130 billion.
- Californians alone have paid more than 120 billion of our tax dollars for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- U.S. war spending alone accounts for 48 percent of the \$1.47 trillion spent on war across the entire world each year.



Lives Destroyed

Iraq

- An estimated 2.3 million Iraqis have been killed since the invasion in March, 2003, either through direct violence or lack of access to resources.
- An average of 5,000 Iraqis have been killed every month since the beginning of the war in 2003.
- Another six million people, or 15 percent of the country's population have been driven from their homes.

Afghanistan

- Over 100,000 Afghans have been killed by the U.S. In Afghanistan, many more people killed are uncounted due to lack of infrastructure to account for those killed.
- One in four Afghan infants die due to lack of medical care and nutrition.
- Every 30 minutes an Afghan woman dies in childbirth.

What Could The War Pay For?

\$950 Billion would pay for...

- 308,396,946 People with Health Care for One Year **OR**
- 22,599,968 Public Safety Officers for One year **OR**
- 17,944,326 Music and Arts Teachers for One Year **OR**
- 161,777,753 Scholarships for University Students for One Year **OR**
- 195,584,767 Students receiving Pell Grants of \$5350 **OR**
- 8,139,680 Affordable Housing Units **OR**
- 461,193,337 Children with Health Care for One Year **OR**
- 143,595,239 Head Start Places for Children for One Year **OR**
- 17,188,969 Elementary School Teachers for One Year

**One month of war spending would pay for the entire
\$26 billion California budget deficit!**

A Few Useful Websites for Budget Cut Information

General Tax Information

California Tax Reform Association
<http://caltaxreform.org/>

California Budget Project
<http://www.cbp.org/>

State Controller's Office - Ongoing assessment of the budget
<http://www.sco.ca.gov/index.html>

EdSource – General information and analysis of the budget and its impact on education
<http://www.edsource.org/>

Teachers' Unions and Organizations – budget issues and commentary

California Federation of Teachers
<http://www.cft.org/>

Cal State University Faculty Union
California Faculty Association
<http://www.calfac.org/>

Faculty Association of California Community Colleges
<http://www.faccc.org/>

California Community Colleges

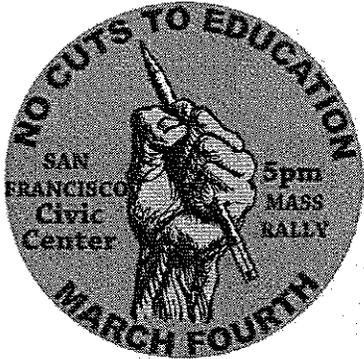
Chancellor's Office
<http://www.cccco.edu>

Community College League of California
<http://www.ccleague.org/>

War Expenditures

Cost of War – National Priorities Project – See the cost of the war to your state or city or town
<http://www.costofwar.com/>

War Resisters League – Where our Income taxes really go
<http://www.warresisters.org/>



Join The Fight For Education!

How Can You Get Involved?

Everyone is connected to public education. Some of us are students, some are parents, some work in education or we have friends, family members, neighbors or friends who are in school or work in the schools. Education is key to a quality life. Education is a right, not a privilege. Education is the future of our society.

Be an Organizer

- Download the organizer's packets.
- Download the flyer for March 4th demonstration.
- Take information into your union, community or church.
- Talk with family, friends and neighbors.
- Post fliers in your neighborhood or workplace.
- Get a "No Cuts" T-shirt and wear it.
- Get T-shirts and buttons for others.
- Contact us to join us in getting the word out.
- Come to our meetings and learn from others.

Download packets and get updates at: <http://www.againstcuts.org/>

Contact us at NocutsToEducation@gmail.com

THE TIME TO FIGHT BACK IS NOW!

No Cuts to Education

The Time to Fight

Back is Now

