

Public education is important. But not to the Governor and the State Legislature.

Otherwise, why would they have just signed a state budget that cuts school spending by more than \$11 billion? California already ranks 47th in the nation in per student spending. In our school district these new cuts are going to mean:

- *teacher and school employee layoffs*
- *a shorter school year*
- *reduced busing and other school services*
- *thousands of dollars less in every classroom*
- *larger class sizes*



There *are* alternatives. The state budget problem could have been taken care of with tax increases on the wealthy and the corporations. Instead, they *reduced* taxes on corporations. This happened because California requires a 2/3 budget vote, instead of a simple majority, and a small group of anti-public education legislators can block passage of a fair budget thanks to special interest pressure. Now the state budget problem becomes our local problem.



What can you do?

- Contact your school board members: tell them to protect the classroom. No layoffs!
- Contact your legislators: tell them the 2/3 rule has to go.
- A Sacramento rally March 16 will protest these cuts. More actions will follow. Be part of the solution.

 **California Federation of Teachers**
AFT/AFL-CIO
for more info: www.cft.org



FIGHT FOR CALIFORNIA'S FUTURE