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AN "ALL-CUTS" BUDGET WOULD REQUIRE DEEP REDUCTIONS IN FUNDING FOR CALIFORNIA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Battered by a still-weak economy, California faces a \$26.6 billion budget shortfall. The Legislature recently approved a spending plan that reflects \$12.5 billion in reductions to higher education, child care, health care, and a range of other state services. The spending plan adopted by the Legislature in March essentially "flat funds" California's public schools in the upcoming budget year. Prior years' budgets, however, have sharply reduced education funding. On a per student basis, funding has dropped from \$8,464 in 2007-08 to \$7,358 this year. The choice now is between an "all-cuts" budget that closes the remainder of the gap with additional spending reductions or a balanced approach that includes additional revenues.

How would an "all-cuts" budget affect public schools? In a February 10, 2011 letter to Senator Leno, chair of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) outlined a path for closing the budget gap without the Governor's tax proposals that would require even deeper reductions to all areas of the budget, including public education.¹ This analysis uses the \$4.6 billion reduction to state support for schools assumed by the LAO – a reduction of approximately \$764 per student – to estimate the loss by school districts at the county level under an "all-cuts" budget approach.

Estimated Reduction to 2011-12 K-12 District Funding by County			
County	Estimated Total Funding Cut	County	Estimated Total Funding Cut
Alameda	\$156,288,000	Imperial	\$26,399,000
Alpine	\$89,000	Inyo	\$2,055,000
Amador	\$3,386,000	Kern	\$125,096,000
Butte	\$23,276,000	Kings	\$20,609,000
Calaveras	\$4,572,000	Lake	\$6,774,000
Colusa	\$3,259,000	Lassen	\$3,794,000
Contra Costa	\$122,874,000	Los Angeles	\$1,187,410,000
Del Norte	\$3,092,000	Madera	\$21,646,000
El Dorado	\$20,757,000	Marin	\$21,919,000
Fresno	\$139,870,000	Mariposa	\$1,581,000
Glenn	\$4,198,000	Mendocino	\$9,265,000
Humboldt	\$13,272,000	Merced	\$40,453,000

¹ The LAO developed its alternative actions assuming legislative approval of all of the Governor's non-tax-related proposals and the following revenue proposals included in his Proposed 2011-12 Budget: the tax amnesty, the Financial Institution Records Match system, the extension of the existing Medi-Cal hospital fee, and the continuation of charges assessed on managed care plans.

County	Estimated Total Funding Cut	County	Estimated Total Funding Cut
Modoc	\$1,180,000	Santa Barbara	\$48,194,000
Mono	\$1,199,000	Santa Clara	\$195,222,000
Monterey	\$51,318,000	Santa Cruz	\$27,898,000
Napa	\$14,752,000	Shasta	\$20,332,000
Nevada	\$9,344,000	Sierra	\$344,000
Orange	\$368,209,000	Siskiyou	\$4,520,000
Placer	\$50,369,000	Solano	\$48,487,000
Plumas	\$1,785,000	Sonoma	\$52,174,000
Riverside	\$306,962,000	Stanislaus	\$76,879,000
Sacramento	\$173,288,000	Sutter	\$14,895,000
San Benito	\$8,272,000	Tehama	\$8,020,000
San Bernardino	\$304,724,000	Trinity	\$1,290,000
San Diego	\$361,208,000	Tulare	\$70,229,000
San Francisco	\$41,108,000	Tuolumne	\$5,152,000
San Joaquin	\$97,805,000	Ventura	\$103,811,000
San Luis Obispo	\$24,986,000	Yolo	\$21,410,000
San Mateo	\$66,505,000	Yuba	\$10,193,000
		Total	\$4,554,000,000

Note: Reductions to K-12 districts are calculated based on each school district's 2009-10 average daily attendance (ADA) as a share of total statewide ADA, including students transferred to county offices of education. Charter school ADA is allocated to the K-12 district that provided the charter. Statewide and district ADA calculations exclude ADA from charters received from a county office of education or the state board of education and students transferred as part of the Basic Aid Choice and Basic Aid Court-Ordered Voluntary Pupil Transfer programs. Reductions are rounded to the nearest \$1,000 and may not sum to total due to rounding.

Source: CBP analysis of California Department of Education and Legislative Analyst's Office data