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Legi Update, August 25, 2003

No Action Yet to Eliminate CTAP Program

As everyone is aware, the 2003-04 State Budget was more than a month late in being passed by the Legislature. The budget was approved by the Assembly only after a package of \$300 million in additional spending on priorities for Republican legislators was agreed to. Out of the \$300 million in Republican priorities, \$50 million was earmarked for school district equalization. The \$50 million is to come from an equal amount of reductions to categorical programs that have already been significantly reduced. Under this proposal total school funding stays the same as that approved by the Senate in the Budget Bill, AB 1765, but the dollars would be modified if the Senate and the Governor agree to this deal.

The \$50 million for equalization comes from reductions to the following:

- Education Technology (CTAP) - Cut by an additional \$14.810 million which eliminates funding for the entire program
- Principal Training - Cut by an additional \$2.5 million leaving only \$2.5 million
- Math & Reading Professional Development - Cut by \$14.228 million
- Deferred Maintenance - Cut by another \$18.462 million

These fund shifts are not a part of the actual budget but are in a new trailer bill, SB 1046, which has now been sent to the Senate for final consideration before being sent to the Governor. It is not clear whether the Senate or the Governor will agree to the change in K-12 funding set out in SB 1046.

We urge all CSLA members that participate in CTAP to contact their legislators and oppose the last minute shift of these funds. The best argument to use is that school district equalization has only been attempted when new Prop 98 revenues are available. Now is not the time to severely cut important K-12 programs in an effort to provide additional funding for some districts in the state.

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