

More stories look at the potential fallout for California schools and public services from the governor's proposed new budget. Despite the success of the CTA-backed Quality Education Investment Act program to help at-risk schools, several Bay Area QEIA schools are fighting to keep their state intervention funding after local district cuts and other factors led to missing required QEIA mandates. Teachers at Mt. Diablo High School are blaming their principal for not meeting QEIA class-size requirements....

## THE **HEAR** AND **NOW**: Quotes From The Clips

"Those are the ones who are really getting cheated, and those are the ones we can't pay back for what they have lost."  
--- CTA Vice President **Eric Heins**, pointing out that any tax measures passed in November won't help current students already hurt by unprecedented cuts (see story # 1).

"It's a complex, multidimensional chess match, where right now the chess pieces are not fully assembled. There's a dynamic environment where the actions in one area can affect the others."  
--- **Steve Glazer**, Gov. Brown's top political adviser, reflecting on the fact that 86 California ballot initiatives have been filed to date (# 2).

"CalSTRS is the best-run public pension system in the country. Educators paid for their modest retirements and they rely on the CalSTRS pension to remain self-sufficient. Let us keep an eye on the big picture. There may be room for some 'tweaking,' but there is no need for reform of CalSTRS."  
--- Retired educator **Greg Barker** of Moorpark, president of Division 28 (Ventura County) of the California Retired Teachers Association, refuting attacks on STRS (# 11)

### [1/ Brown's budget proposal gives voters stark choice](#)

(San Francisco Chronicle © 01/08/2012)

SACRAMENTO -- The California Teachers Association, the largest teachers union in the state, issued a statement saying the organization has "grave concerns" about the class size reduction proposal. Eric Heins, vice president of the union, said the organization has not yet endorsed Brown's tax proposal or any other of the ballot measures that would increase taxes. He said none of them will return California's schools to an appropriate level of funding. "Even if a funding initiative and (Brown's) funding proposal goes through as it is, it really keeps us at 'awful' because we're already bare bones," Heins said.

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### [2/ Gov. Brown's release of budget a prelude to a wild political year](#)

(San Jose Mercury News © 01/09/2012)

SACRAMENTO -- "It's a complex, multidimensional chess match, where right now the chess pieces are not fully assembled," said Steve Glazer, Brown's top political adviser. "There's a dynamic environment where the actions in one area can affect the others." The Legislature also has a huge amount on its plate. It must decide whether to: Spend \$2.7 billion to begin the first phase of high-speed rail...

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### [3/ Fresno Valley schools face more uncertainty if Gov. Brown's tax plan fails](#)

(Fresno Bee © 01/06/2012)

FRESNO -- Gov. Jerry Brown's budget proposal offers little reassurance to California's public schools, community colleges and universities, because their funding hinges on whether voters approve a \$6.9 billion tax plan. Education funding for 2012-13 is tied to a proposal for a half-cent sales-tax hike and increased levies on the wealthy that Brown wants to put on the November ballot. "There is a...

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### [4/ QEIA showdown: Nine Contra Costa County QEIA schools could lose millions of dollars in state funding starting in the fall](#)

(Contra Costa Times © 01/09/2012)

CONCORD -- Mt. Diablo High is among nine Contra Costa County QEIA program campuses that could lose a total of nearly \$7 million a year in state funding for low-income schools because of failing to meet grant requirements. Teachers voted "no confidence" in Principal Kate McClatchy last month, saying her failure to comply with class-size requirements for the Quality Education Investment Act grant c...

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### **5/ Threatened by low test scores, Vallejo QEIA schools fight for funding**

(Vallejo Times-Herald © 01/08/2012)

VALLEJO -- The Department of Education recommends the 11-member board deny waivers that would allow Vallejo High School and Cooper Elementary School to keep its Quality Education Investment Act funding for another year, according to staff reports posted at the end of December. The extra year would be used to raise the two schools' test scores to meet the requirements to sustain the state funding, said Alana...

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### **6/ Special Report: No Child Left Behind's impact remains under scrutiny**

(Modesto Bee © 01/08/2012)

MODESTO -- The No Child Left Behind Act rode in on a white horse, with the pledge of success for every student. Tying goals to federal funding for poor students put teeth behind that dreamy smile. After a decade dedicated to helping struggling students, however, in-depth reading tests show no real change. Differences in achievement between ethnic groups have budged only slightly — too many are still being left behind...

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### **7/ House ESEA draft would rein in federal accountability rules**

(Education Week © 01/09/2012)

House Republicans released two draft bills that would significantly scale back the federal role in K-12 schools and go further than any other proposal yet to dismantle the accountability tenets at the heart of the decade-old No Child Left Behind Act. The measures, put forth by U.S. Rep. John Kline, R-Minn., chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee today, take some of the same st...

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### **8/ How weighted funding would work**

(Educated Guess © 01/09/2012)

Districts in which nearly 90 percent of students are either low-income or English learners (such as Long Beach Unified and Los Angeles Unified) will get \$3,000 more per student than districts where only 20 percent of students are disadvantaged (like Poway and Irvine) — once the new system of school funding that Gov. Jerry Brown is proposing is fully phased in. A district with 90 percent disadvan...

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### **9/ Ballot initiative would expand role of online classes in K-12 system**

(Inland Valley Daily Bulletin © 01/08/2012)

A statewide ballot initiative that would expand the role of online courses in the K-12 educational system has entered circulation, prompting support from local education leaders. Proponents of the measure, called "The California Student Bill of Rights Act," must gather 504,760 signatures from registered voters by June 1 for the initiative to qualify for the November ballot. It entered circ...

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### **10/ Pitting schools, taxpayer pocketbooks**

(Inland Valley Daily Bulletin © 01/08/2012)

Gov. Jerry Brown announced his budget plan for the coming year last week, and he's presenting voters with a choice: Pay more in taxes or cut \$4.8 billion from state schools. Republicans already are blasting the proposal, which includes temporary tax hikes: a half-cent increase to sales tax and higher taxes for the wealthy, both of which would sunset in 2017. At the same time, the c...

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### **11/ Retired teacher column: No need to reform public pension system for teachers**

(Ventura County Star © 01/08/2012)

Re: Doug Crosse's Dec. 29 commentary, "Abuse and flaws call for reform of public pensions": The premise of the opinion piece by Crosse is that the Dec. 7 column by Timm Herdt ("Glitzy pensions? Not for teachers") did not "address the big picture." Crosse's assertion is that the California State Teachers Retirement System should be "reformed" to address the "abuses and fatal flaws" within CalSTRS...

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### **12/ School districts to introduce transitional kindergarten**

(San Bernardino Sun © 01/09/2012)

A new transitional kindergarten program will be introduced in the 2012-13 school year at districts statewide to supplement traditional kindergarten and to accommodate a change in state law. The move comes as the state begins changing the date by which children must turn 5 to be eligible for kindergarten. "California is currently one of the few states that still has a Dec. 2 start date for kinder...

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### **13/ Is it OK for teachers and students to be Facebook friends?**

(Sacramento Bee © 01/09/2012)

SACRAMENTO -- High school teacher Jennifer Kennedy has a prepared response for students who send her "friend" requests on Facebook. No. Or, at least not until they graduate. It's a rule she said she shares with fellow teachers at Sacramento New Technology High School. Increasingly, school district officials across the region and throughout the country are coming up with their own guidelines for...

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### **14/ Teachers' 403(b) Plans See Big Changes**

(The Wall Street Journal © 01/09/2012)

For years, teachers in Albany, Ga., invested in tax-advantaged savings programs known as 403(b)s just as many educators elsewhere do: Instead of getting a menu of stock funds or other investment choices from their employer, like those offered in corporate 401(k) plans, the teachers listened to pitches from insurance agents pushing their various companies' programs. More in Quarterly Investing in ...

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