

RIGHT TO LEARN

Our Schools,
Our Stories,
Our Solutions

www.RightToLearnCA.org

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About Right To Learn

The Right To Learn Campaign began with a simple premise: that students had a valuable and untapped perspective on what needed to change in their schools so they could receive the kind of education they deserve.

Over the past 40 years, California's school system has gone from being one of the best in the country to one of the worst. In January 2008, *Education Week* ranked California 46th in the nation in per-pupil spending, at nearly \$1,900 below the national per-student average. The state also has some of the largest class sizes in the country and ranks dead last in the number of counselors, school nurses and librarians per student.

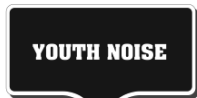
In November and December 2007, more than 700 young people from across the state shared their thoughts about the biggest challenges facing California's education system on the Right To Learn Web site. Candid and concerned, these youth—veteran consumers of California's K-12 education system—feel they have received an inadequate education from such an innovative and wealthy state, from the teachers in their classrooms to the food in their cafeterias to the extracurricular programs their schools provide. Beyond their specific concerns, youth issued a resounding plea to educational decision-makers to involve them in their deliberations.

California is now facing a proposed \$4.8 billion in cuts to funding for public education – the equivalent of 107,000 much-needed teachers or \$24,000 per classroom statewide. And students are tired of politicians ransoming their futures.

Armed with the powerful voices of youth, the Right To Learn Campaign is working to identify student leaders willing to hold one of more than 100 rallies across the state on their campus on **Friday, April 18**. Through unified action and a coherent voice, students throughout the state will advocate for politicians to look for alternate means of closing the state's budget deficit. Their actions will be aggregated in photos, videos and text on the Right To Learn Web site as a testament to the views of young people statewide.

United together around a common goal for better education, California students can—and will—make a difference. For themselves. For their communities. For the future of the state.

To learn more about Right To Learn or identify a student leader, please contact Community Outreach Coordinator Cristina Mitra at 415-375-3096 or cristina@youthnoise.org.



be heard.

www.YouthNoise.com

