



Tom Torlakson's Education Plan

Full information available at: <http://www.tomtorlakson.com/issues>

- 1. School Funding** – Bring our schools back to the top five in the nation in performance and in funding by returning to the proportionate level of funding California schools enjoyed in the early 1970s would bring in billions in desperately needed resources. He will work towards this goal by: (A) maintaining the integrity of Proposition 98, and treating the Proposition 98 standard as a floor for education funding, (B) expanding the guarantees on Proposition 98 to increase certainty and continuity of school funding, and (C) developing ways to bring more revenue into state and local education budgets.
- 2. Ensure Public Schools are Safe and High Quality** – Ensure public schools in every neighborhood are safe and provide high quality education so parents do not have to shop around for schools in other areas. Education is and must be a local, neighborhood priority. Work to make sure that each of them is safe, healthy and has breadth of programs needed so each child can achieve success and be ready for college or career.
- 3. Support Competitive 21st Century School Environment** - This includes support for: (A) more career technical education and individualized pathways to success for students; (B) 21st Century digital learning environments and using technology as a way to better engage students to provide them with more hands-on, applied learning, while providing teachers with powerful technology to help boost student achievement overall; (C) providing the professional support systems necessary to encourage and aid excellent teachers in every classroom-this includes the full school support team: classroom aides, bus drivers, secretaries, cooks, maintenance staff (such as electricians and plumbers), janitors, computer and information technology specialists; (D) ensuring California's public education system provides students with the tools and skills needed for success in the global economy; (E) a continued state commitment to funding 50% of local school building costs for complete 21st century schools and for paying its full share for the modernization and rehabilitation of our older schools; and (F) ensuring the cost of 21st Century technology is included in our funding of school facilities.
- 4. Ensure Children Access to good Food, Adequate Healthcare, and Quality Physical Education** – Address student health to fully fight the achievement gap and the drop-out rate.
- 5. Empower Parents to be More Involved in Schools** – Promote increased parental involvement in local school campuses, particularly in our most challenged schools-where getting parents involved can be a challenge for many personal, economic, and institutional reasons.
- 6. Improve High School Graduation Rates** – Improve the commitment to support systems and programs. These programs include safe after school programs; gang intervention and violence prevention programs; enhanced career technical education classes; partnerships with business to bring relevancy to our middle and high school education; funding more counselors to address students academic, emotional, social, and mental health needs; ensuring access to health care for all our students to identify learning disabilities early, to offer preventive care to reduce health



problems that keep our students out of the classroom via the curriculum; restoring funding for school nurses; and organizing access to health care plans such as MediCal and Healthy Families.

7. **Hold Charter Schools Accountable** – Hold Charter Schools accountable by being subject to oversight and demonstrating success, just like any other public school must do. Audits, board transparency (disclosure), and requirements to meet the same academic standards as public schools are key accountability components.

8. **Higher Education** – Stop the state's defunding of the higher education systems. Take steps to protect and enhance CalGrants. Use the platform provided by the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction to argue for a reinvestment in the higher education system and will lobby members of the State Legislature and other members of the CSU Trustees and UC Regents about the harm spending cuts and fee increases are doing to our state's future.