

saveSLOcountyschools.org

Key Points to Communicate

These are points about the budget, but what really matters is how we are affected as individuals and families. When you are talking to people include your **personal statement** (e.g. *I am the parent of two elementary school children in _____ . I volunteer in my kids' classrooms, and I cannot imagine how we can cut out \$24,000 next year.*)

- This budget flunks the basic test of good government: It hurts our children. Our children did not create this financial crisis and they should not have to pay for it.
- A budget is a reflection of our community values. This budget does not value the education, health, or welfare of our children and the future of California
- It is important to have small class sizes and enough textbooks for all children. It is important to close the achievement gap.
- All the politicians say we have to work together to find strategies to close the achievement gap. Any cut to education — much less a \$4 billion dollar cut — is not a good strategy.
- Larger class size is not a good strategy. Fewer textbooks is not a good strategy. Fewer teachers is not a good strategy. Cuts to health care are not a good strategy
- California already spends about \$2,000 less per student than the national average.
- A state budget proposal that looks at cuts alone is not a real solution.
- Investing in public education is one of the most important ways to ensure the long-term growth and health of our state's economy. Today's students are tomorrow's well-educated and highly skilled citizens who will fill more high-paying jobs, create more new businesses, and cost the state less in other social services — if we support them now.