

## Breaking News December 9, 2008

Hello:

More grim news about state's \$11.2 billion budget deficit crisis. Stories today deal with new warnings from state officials that, if lawmakers don't act quickly, the deficit will grow and the state will run out of cash by mid-March. The real state deficit estimate over the next year and a half is more like \$40 billion, not \$28 billion, claims Sacramento Bee columnist Dan Walters. Meanwhile, the superintendent of LAUSD will get \$500,000 in severance pay for quitting, while Riverside Unified has enacted a hiring and spending freeze in reaction to possibly huge mid-year state education budget cuts..

Mike Myslinski  
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State budget crisis: many schools, roads may not be built

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(San Francisco Chronicle C 12/09/2008)

Sacramento - In as early as nine days, nearly \$5 billion worth of public works projects in California, including schools, roads and bridges, could be halted or indefinitely delayed - leading to the loss of thousands of jobs - unless lawmakers fix the state's massive budget mess, state Treasurer Bill Lockyer warned today. Lockyer was among the state's highest ranking finance officials to...

Conference: Schools facing \$1 billion-plus midyear cut

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(Orange County Register C 12/09/2008)

ORANGE ? Public schools in the state likely will be forced to trim their budgets by at least \$1 billion in the middle of this school year, putting an extraordinary burden on parents to find ways to effectively bridge the financial gap in a matter of months, school fundraising experts said at a statewide conference Monday. The state Legislature is expected to act as soon as mid-January on Gov. A...

Dan Walters: Worst deficit news waits around the corner

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(Sacramento Bee C 12/09/2008)

Thousands of words were spoken Monday during an unusual joint session of the Legislature on the state's budget crisis, but the two most important were uttered by the state budget director, Mike Genest, when he quietly told lawmakers that the deficit will be "substantially worse" than the current figure, as staggering as it may be. The current estimate is that the 2008-09 budget is \$11.2 billion o...

CSULB students, workers protest proposed budget cuts

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(Contra Costa Times C 12/09/2008)

CSULB faculty members and students listen as University President F. King Alexander addresses them Monday in a campus rally opposing state budget cuts. Opponents say larger class sizes and fewer classes would result.

(Scott Smeltzer/Staff Photographer) LONG BEACH - Faculty, students and staff at Cal State Long Beach on Monday rallied against current and impending state budget cuts, urging the...

California Legislature told projects could be shut down

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(Sacramento Bee C 12/09/2008)

California state coffers are so dangerously short of cash that \$5 billion in public works projects will grind to a halt within two weeks unless there is a fast solution to the budget crisis, state Treasurer Bill Lockyer warned legislators Monday. Thousands of layoffs could result from delaying construction of projects ranging from school buildings to highway improvements, Lockyer said in a rare j...

Hiring, spending freeze at Riverside Unified School District OKd

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(Riverside Press Enterprise C 12/09/2008)

10:00 PM PST on Monday, December 8, 2008 By SHIRIN PARSAVAND The Press-Enterprise The Riverside Unified school board approved a hiring and spending freeze Monday to deal with anticipated mid-year budget cuts. Gov.

Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed \$2.5 billion in cuts to schools and community colleges to deal with a projected \$28 billion shortfall between state spending and revenue through J...

Oakland schools ready for local control, report finds

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(Oakland Tribune C 12/09/2008)

A team of state evaluators has given the school district its highest ratings since 2003, when a fiscal crisis and multimillion-dollar bailout loan triggered a state takeover. The report's authors cleared the way for the State Department of Education to return all governing power to local officials, a move that would mark a major milestone in the school district's history. "I think we're ready," s...

LA schools chief says he'll take buyout

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(Los Angeles Times C 12/09/2008)

Facing a potentially divisive battle with the school board, Supt. David Brewer agrees to leave and insists the strife is not racially motivated. His severance is estimated at \$500,000. By Howard Blume, Jason Song and Mitchell Landsberg December 9, 2008 Under pressure by civic leaders and members of his own school board, Los Angeles Schools Supt. David L. Brewer announced Monday that he woul...

Study: US students improve in math, science

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(Contra Costa Times C 12/09/2008)

WASHINGTON-In math and science, American kids are doing better than people think, an international study found. But some Asian countries have an edge in math that just keeps growing. U.S. students have made significant gains in math since 1995 and score above average on international fourth- and eighth-grade tests in the subject, according to a study released Tuesday.

However, th...

Charter school rejected again

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(Contra Costa Times C 12/09/2008)

Charter school rejected again Shaun Bishop MediaNews Staff Posted:

12/08/2008 11:57:32 PM PST Updated: 12/09/2008 12:06:02 AM PST A proposal for a new charter high school within the bounds of the Sequoia Union High School District was shot down for a second time Monday night, but proponents say they are not ready to give up yet. The San Mateo County Board of Education voted down 5-2 th...

Prop. 8 foes set 'Day Without a Gay' boycott

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(San Francisco Chronicle C 12/09/2008)

(12-08) 20:26 PST San Francisco -- Since California voters approved Proposition 8 last month and repealed the right of gay couples to marry, initiative opponents have marched, held rallies and blocked intersections.

On Wednesday, they're asked to do something different: nothing at all.

Modeled loosely after the 2006 immigrant rights demonstrations, "Day Without A Gay" is scheduled for Wednes...