

Today's News Clips  
December 12, 2008

Hello:

As the state budget crisis worsens, and lawmakers refuse to act on finding new sources of revenues, more school districts are announcing massive cuts. The news stories and editorials below detail discussions about "doomsday" plans to close all schools weeks early if the state runs out of cash, as well as deep education cuts involving San Jose, Yucaipa, San Mateo, San Luis Obispo and LAUSD schools....

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Gov. Schwarzenegger: Budget gap has increased by \$3.6 billion  
<<http://www.newspaperclips.com/npcapp/bounce.aspx/npcemail/30776/1/bW15c2xpbnNraUBjdGEub3Jn/235817421>>  
(Los Angeles Times © 12/11/2008)

Reporting from Sacramento — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced this morning that the state's financial crisis has worsened substantially in recent weeks, with the projected budget deficit growing by another \$3.6 billion. The news from the governor, delivered in a hastily arranged press conference, comes as lawmakers have yet to heed his call to address the problem in emergency se...

Legislators act like zombies as state's fiscal crisis deepens daily  
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(Los Angeles Times © 12/11/2008)

Reporting from Sacramento — California's Capitol has been shrouded in fog -- literally and figuratively. The literal fog is seasonal and can smother the Central Valley for days on end this time of year. The figurative fog is year-round. Both types are a curse. They depress moods, hamper vision and are characterized by denseness. The literal fog is called tule fog, and it is cr...

New battle cry for Dems: Get rid of two-thirds vote on budget  
<<http://www.newspaperclips.com/npcapp/bounce.aspx/npcemail/30776/3/bW15c2xpbnNraUBjdGEub3Jn/600047202>>

(Contra Costa Times © 12/11/2008)

By Steven Harmon MediaNews Sacramento Bureau Posted:  
12/10/2008 07:37:24 PM PST Updated: 12/10/2008 10:12:10 PM PST  
SACRAMENTO — Eliminating the supermajority vote required to pass budgets has become the Democrats' newfound battle cry, especially as another round of potentially lengthy and acrimonious budget negotiations appears inevitable. Ideally, Democrats would like to be able to pa...

School districts contemplate early closures in face of state budget crisis

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(Contra Costa Times © 12/11/2008)

While nobody's shouting it, education advocates in Sacramento have begun talking quietly about a doomsday scenario — in which districts close schools as much as weeks early if the state runs out of cash. "This is actually something folks in education have said is a possibility," said Hillary McLean, press secretary for State

Superintendent Jack O'Connell on Wednesday. "Of course, no one is ...

East Side Union chief to propose a budget that eliminates all sports  
<<http://www.newspaperclips.com/npcapp/bounce.aspx/npcemail/30776/5/bW15c2xpbnNraUBjdGEub3Jn/235821849>>  
(San Jose Mercury News © 12/11/2008)

In an extraordinary cost-cutting proposal even for hard times, a school chief in East San Jose wants to eliminate football, basketball, soccer and all other athletic programs involving thousands of students at 11 high schools. "I didn't do this for shock value," said Bob Nunez, superintendent of the East Side Union High School District. "I did it because I need to look at the academic programs we...

Yucaipa-Calimesa school board prepares for deep cuts  
<<http://www.newspaperclips.com/npcapp/bounce.aspx/npcemail/30776/6/bW15c2xpbnNraUBjdGEub3Jn/235883412>>  
(Riverside Press Enterprise © 12/11/2008)

10:00 PM PST on Wednesday, December 10, 2008 By MICHAEL PERRAULT The Press-Enterprise YUCAIPA - Proposed state education budget cuts outlined by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger have newly elected trustees of Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified School District bracing for the need to trim spending despite little wiggle room. Even before Chuck Christie, Jane D. Smith and Jim Taylor were sworn in Tuesday ...

Sequoia approves up to \$800,000 in savings  
<<http://www.newspaperclips.com/npcapp/bounce.aspx/npcemail/30776/7/bW15c2xpbnNraUBjdGEub3Jn/235883974>>  
(San Mateo Daily Journal © 12/11/2008)

By Heather Murtagh A plan to save approximately \$800,000 through cuts and projected savings through the remainder of the school year was approved by the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees last night as a first step to restore an 8 percent reserve. Investment losses, tax rebate and anticipated state revenue drops led the district's reserve to dip ...

Editorial: Strict spending cap is key to breaking impasse over state budget

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(Oakland Tribune © 12/11/2008)

Over the past few years, state budgets have been "balanced" with borrowing, raiding voter-designated funds, delaying payments, creative bookkeeping and a lot of wishful thinking about future revenues. But there is no way to wish away a faltering economy that is reducing tax revenues while demands for more spending continue unabated. It is long past time for our leaders in Sacramento to take a har...

Editorial: State action needed to save schools

<<http://www.newspaperclips.com/npcapp/bounce.aspx/npcemail/30776/9/bW15c2xpbnNraUBjdGEub3Jn/235884411>>

(San Luis Obispo.com © 12/11/2008)

It's become painfully evident that we can't trust Sacramento to do right by the state's 6 million public school children — including the 35,000 K-12 students enrolled in San Luis Obispo County schools. The Legislature's failure to resolve the ongoing financial crisis in the only way possible at this point — by a combination of budget cuts and tax increases ?...