



Teachers Shall be Supplied Necessary Instructional and Classroom Materials

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Teaching takes a toll on educators' pocketbooks as they routinely buy supplies for their financially strapped schools. It is not uncommon to hear that a teacher used \$1,000 of personal funds during the course of one school year. Some schools limit paper for making copies to well below what is needed, yet at the same time they require teachers to send newsletters and other paper communications home to parents. In poorer communities, families who do not have access to the Internet - so they can receive teacher information electronically - must rely on paper communications.

Teachers feel the pinch in other ways too. Students routinely come to class without pencil and paper. While teachers attempt to encourage students and parents to be prepared, some students struggle for resources due to family income or simply come to school without what they need.

The Legislature provided districts with funding that would give teachers up to \$250 each year for supplies. However, districts were allowed to withhold some or all of that \$250, if they used the money to fund teaching positions. Some teachers did not receive one penny of the \$250 supply money.

The SCEA supports state legislation that requires local school district furnish teachers with adequate instructional materials and classroom equipment. The SCEA suggests the following legislation:

1. Instructional materials and classroom equipment shall be adequately furnished to each teacher.
2. Each district shall establish a materials committee comprised of teachers from the district, which shall study the purchasing practices of the district with regard to instructional materials; including, but not limited to textbooks. The goal of the materials committee shall be to increase efficiency and quality of such purchases.

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