



STATE OF EMERGENCY

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L.E.A.R.N.: State Council Ideas for Potential Activities

Focus on LEGISLATIVE Activities

Renting a “cuts freedom” train to haul teachers to the Capitol for start of protests on May 9. Message could be: “Let’s put California back on track!” Other labor groups and media could get on board.

Set up phone banks to call legislators and flood their e-mail inboxes.

Have a nonpartisan approach in distributing message on the importance of teachers and how they help children learn.

Target the businesses of legislators in their home districts.

Student letter drives to representatives, including students telling their own personal experiences with teachers and their schools.

Create a resolution that demands legislature take a pay cut that equates to the funding shortfall in public education.

Make CTA whistles so that teachers can literally be whistleblowers about the state budget, include other organizations in sounding the alarm to the emergency.

Distribute a “recipe for educational success” to participants: 1 part stable curriculum, 1 part clear standards, 1 part relevant professional development, 1 part small class sizes, 1 part local educators involved in decision making, 1 part parent participation. Mix and bake to create a quality education for all.

Circle the offices of “problem legislators.” Target them with various actions.

Send cans to legislators in protest of teachers getting “canned” and to mark the job losses in their districts. Could also make it a can food drive to support local food banks.

Take ½ photo of Assembly members and have kids draw the other half with a message stating what they want for their teachers.

Call for legislators to take the mandated tests - CAHSEE, STAR, etc.

Role Reversals: Ask legislators/administrators/etc. to teach for a day.

Picket/rally in front of legislators' offices/homes.

Encourage people to participate in letter writing campaign by offering raffle tickets.

Email members of Congress to pressure state legislators.

Organize a "mock recall" of legislators.

Follow targeted legislators for the entire day.

Create a "Bad Legislators" list and post it in multiple locations.

Send baked goods to legislators for a bake sale – one cupcake per lost teacher.

Ask legislators to do a teacher's job for a day on-camera.

Send essays to legislators for them to grade.

Send "pink slips" to legislators who are not supporting students and schools. The pink slip deadline coincides with the primary election date.

Send politicians their report card listed on the CTA website along with a pink slip.

Work with SCTA and other student organizations to set-up voter registration tables on campus.

Hold "fax the legislator" events where college students, faculty and staff sign faxes to the targeted legislators and fax them hourly.

Reach out to EVERY PARENT

Phone calls and letters home to parents. Hand out information to parents and the community by walking neighborhoods around school sites after school. Hold “Grade-ins” in local malls or other public places to show the work that educators do long after the school day has ended. Distribute cards written by teachers that serve as testimonials of how the cuts would affect the classroom.

Each teacher makes five calls to parents. Call script title: “5 to Stay Alive.”

Organize parent visits to classrooms so that they see the realities of class size.

Highlight teachers who are also parents.

Have parents write letters to the newspapers and blogs and websites.

Have a “Parent Forum” where parents watch a video of exactly what budget cuts are doing and then hold a discussion. Invite news media.

Invite parents for a demo of overcrowded classrooms (also invite media).

Have students and parents do informational picketing for one hour outside their school site.

Have teachers and parents hold “house meetings” to talk about what is happening in schools.

Have “open house” where teachers show all their personally purchased materials that students and classrooms.

Have parents and students camp in front of schools all night.

Create a Facebook fan page “Stop the slow death of higher education.”

Have teachers being laid off contact parents and other CTA members.

Create webinars to help educate parents about the budget realities and what they can do to support teachers.

Have voter registration forms available for parents during parent- teacher conferences.

Make phone calls on Parents’ Day. Call parents to tell them how their child is doing and then talk about the budget cuts and invite them to attend the rallies.

Faculty post an extra credit question on your final asking students to respond to a writing prompt such as: “What is the value of a higher education?” “What would happen to this town/city if our college or university would close tomorrow?”

Create a YouTube site so college students can post videos answering key questions:

- “Why protect public education and essential social services?”
- “Why is higher education important?”
- “How would it impact you if tomorrow higher education no longer existed?”

Faculty host interactive lecture of the day: Discuss how higher education is slowly dying and ask students to share ideas for organizing, mobilizing and educating the general public.

Hold a “teach-in”: The history of unions and why we need public sector workers.

Use Day of the Teacher to APPRECIATE educators and ALLIES

Partner with PTA, other parent and community groups to thank educators.

Hold field trips to fire stations or police stations to involve other allies and show the value of the services they provide to the community.

Connect with service organizations, religious organizations, etc.

Make this a day or week of "Positive Action." Work with other groups to coordinate blood drives, statewide organ donor signups, etc.

Have a "teen dancing" contest showcasing the positive impact of teachers and the arts on students.

Have students create a BIG poster on a school bus that is sent to Sacramento (Teachers will fill this bus).

Have one-on-one meetings with college students to bring in a younger demographic and get them involved.

Meet with Local Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, etc. to talk about the impact of cuts on schools and communities.

Visual of how 3 classrooms are shuffled into two; kids sit on floor with no books, chanting, "We need a teacher."

Have Wisconsin educators and legislators join in support of the California unions.

Empty chairs outside a school with photos of laid-off teachers.

Have public employees line the main streets of community to show the pivotal role public employees play in communities.

Wear red and distribute YouTube video of teacher appreciation online.

"Penny drive" where kids empty piggy banks to support teachers and deposit it at the state capitol.

Create a space where there is a visual representation of the 20,000 pink slips.

Create "SWAT Squads" to go out into the neighborhood to leaflet homes with information about the impact of the cuts and the week of action.

Lemonade stands to raise money for local schools.

One day of every teacher (and parents) posting on Facebook or Tweet 30 times a day with a viral message. Flood the social networks with our message.

Set-up an “Honor Tent” and invite students, faculty to give recognition to a faculty or staff member who made a positive life-changing difference in their lives by signing cards, videotaping messages, taking a flower to present to the individual on campus.

Promote the Need for REVENUE for schools and other essential public services: Tax Fairness

Educate members about the need for Tax Fairness. Utilize all resources on the CTA website

:Refrain from Shopping Day. “Show the value of educators and other public employees and the economic contribution they make to local communities by refraining from shopping one day

Ask each district to come up with “worst case scenario” based on state budget and share this with everyone

Focus on how much money has gone to bail out Wall Street and big corporations

Take mug shots of teachers and students to make point that prisons receive better funding

Throw monopoly money in the toilet to show that all our money is going down the drain

Picket corporations that don’t pay taxes

Publish a list of companies that are not paying their fair share of taxes. Send letters to these companies and the media and picket their offices. Withdraw funds from banks that are not paying their fair share

Have “math lessons” at district offices. Have math teachers doing simple math to show the consequences of budget ISSUES

One-day boycott of Microsoft and other corporations that are pushing failed education reform efforts.

Hold a day without public higher education dollars and ask students not to shop at all

Post torn-up play money all over campuses with X’s drawn through them to symbolize the dollars lost when students don’t have the opportunity for college

Hold “lunch-ins” on campus, so that students and faculty do not buy lunch on-campus

Use Tax Day to educate about tax fairness

It's *NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL*. Declare a STATE OF EMERGENCY

300 volunteers take over the State Capitol May 9-13 to demonstrate the need for immediate action as the state budget cuts are destroying our schools and communities.

Regional rallies will be held to call on legislators to “free the occupants” by passing tax extensions and protecting public education and other essential public services. Regional rallies are in Sacramento, SF Bay Area, Los Angeles, Fresno/Bakersfield, Inland Empire, San Diego and Palm Springs.

Every educator brings at least one friend to the rally

Turn fire/earthquake drill into crisis response drill to the budget cuts (involve students and the community)

Coffins filled with letters from students, teachers and parents to coincide with “Day of Mourning”
Tombstones mark the death of education on schools sites and college campuses.

Attempt to close a major artery into town/cities

Have celebrities involved in the demonstrations

Include voter registration drives at rallies

Have the sit-in be silent with thousands of supporters sitting in silence across the state or coordinate a moment of silence statewide at each rally

“Hands across the state” with educators linking together in a chain

Dye hair red or wear red wigs

Members wear t-shirts with number of students in their classroom

Have a week of breakfast with different individuals to highlight different topics related to education

Moment of silence for every teacher RIF'd

Hold “Free the Capitol 300+” events on college campuses

Encourage mass participation of all college students at CTA rallies local to them. Wear gray and educate public about the death of higher education by sharing stories and them

Caravan to regional rallies

Homeless encampments of students and teachers as they can afford a place to live

Paint campuses and schools with flyers, ribbons, etc. , all of a specific color to raise awareness

Miscellaneous Ideas and Actions for Before or During State of Emergency Week

Speak at service organization meetings (even during state of emergency week)

Short documentary that highlights the effects of RIFS (staff disappears)

Create a Facebook fan page entitled: “Stop the slow death of higher education.” Post the following question on the page: “If college was taken away tomorrow, what would you do?”

Encourage college students to wear gray for the entire week – especially during finals week to mark the slow death of higher education

Localize talking points and fact pages for each community, district or college campus to include specific cuts in those areas

Have a song written about the events as a call to action. An “anthem” for the participants

Billboards, radio ads and viral videos to promote the week

Use Tax Day – April 18 to pass out flyers before/after school about funding cuts, tax fairness and impact of RIF’d teachers

Have people participate in a run across the state with a torch (like the Olympics)

Wear a specific color during the whole week

Night-time vigils with coffins and black armbands

“Billion Dollar Bake Sales” for schools and colleges

“Flash Mobs” at strategic community locations

Begin “chain letter” pass it on campaign

Statewide “A Day with No Teachers”

Afternoon of silence with tape across mouth that reads: “our silence gives permission to others.”

Sleep-Ins at libraries to show that they are closing early

“Bone graveyards” to show we are down to barebones funding

Informational picket lines before or after school and on college campuses

“Tent City” at Chancellor’s/President’s homes and/or offices

Wristbands with statements

Freeway Signs on overpasses or put chairs with pink slips alongside main thoroughfares

Teacher/School Staff and Student Walk-In: All educators and staff from a school or students and faculty from college meet at certain point and walk onto campus

“Work to the Contract” Everyone do ONLY what they are supposed to do according to the contract

CTA Service Centers throughout the state coordinate media events leading up to the week of action and invite CTA officers and Board members

Pay for everything with \$2 bills to show true impact of teachers

Highlight different teachers every week

“Lights Out Day” during the week where educators teach in the dark

Set up 2 classrooms: 1 with that is the size of this year’s class; the other that is the size of next year’s class

Protest at an MLB game. Everyone wears a matching shirt and sits in one section. Have scoreboard acknowledge their presence (i.e., “pink-slipped teachers seated in section ___”)

Each district can hold a “How Many Kids Can Fit in a Classroom?” event

Work with organization like Ben & Jerry to have them create a labor-union flavored ice cream that can be sold at the rallies and in stores

“Teach-Ins” in prisons

Create video called “Jail House Rock” showing connection of schools to prisons

Student Video Contest: Have contest for youth to create a video about what education costs would mean to them

T-Shirt Option – Front: “Proud to Pay Taxes,” Back: “California’s Kids Are Worth It”