



California Federation of Teachers  
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

**MEDIA ADVISORY FOR:**

**Friday, March 14th - Monday, March 17th, 2003**

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**Thousands of California teachers,  
school workers to be laid off**

By Saturday, March 15th, layoff notices will be mailed to more than 5,000 California teachers and education workers. Massive layoffs are being authorized. State law requires that teachers being laid off must be notified in writing by March 15<sup>th</sup>. More than 5,000 layoffs have already been counted in just 32 school districts! Community colleges, K-12 schools, and early childhood educators are being laid off in record numbers.

After years of recruiting and preparing teachers to instruct California students to meet world-class standards, the State and school districts across California are now deciding to dump these educators.

“What a pity that policymakers would rather close classroom doors than close tax loopholes given to favored interests. Laying off teachers is a waste of the massive investment we’ve made in the last few years. Not many laid off teachers are going to wait around for legislators to raise revenues,” said Mary Bergan, president of the CFT. “Based on experience during the last layoffs during the 1970s, the majority of these talented teachers will shift to more stable and financially rewarding careers”

Kent Mitchell, president of United Educators of San Francisco, said the layoff notices will undercut teacher morale, “Pink slips have a disparaging effect on classrooms and people’s lives. It is very disturbing to know that you might lose your job.”

**If you would like to speak with a teacher or a teachers’ leader about the layoffs, please contact Steve Hopcraft or Fred Glass at the above phones and email addresses.**

*The California Federation of Teachers represents over one hundred twenty thousand educators and classified employees at all levels of California public and private education.*

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