



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

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CFT President Marty Hittelman on the announcement that California is not among Race to the Top finalists:

“The governor and certain legislators tried to panic everyone in California into passing so called reform legislation in order to meet Race to the Top criteria. We believed at that time, and continue to believe, these ideas will create more harm than good. The main purpose was not real reform, which can only be accomplished when California school funding is restored and all stakeholders are working collaboratively, but to draw attention away from the governor's and legislature's terrible choice to maintain corporate tax loopholes and tax reductions for the rich instead of meeting the needs of all Californians for decent education. California's Race to the Top application would have brought the state \$700 million in federal dollars, after cutting \$18 billion in state dollars over the past two years. The reason why today, March 4, educators, students, and parents are in the streets demanding education funding could not be more clear. They're saying, ‘Give us decent schools, not make believe reforms. Give us decent education funding, not rhetoric. Give us a promising future, not broken promises.’ Now at least California will not be the guinea pig for these misguided proposals. We'll see if others can make this program work.”

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