



PRESS RELEASE

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Governor Schwarzenegger Signs Legislation to Increase the Number of Highly Qualified Teachers Serving California Students

In response to the shortage of highly qualified teachers in California, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today signed legislation to streamline the credentialing process, improve support and incentives for new and experienced teachers and help low-performing schools hire the best teachers. Today at John Muir High School in Pasadena, the Governor signed [SB 1209](#) and [SB 1655](#), both bills are authored by Senator Jack Scott (D-Altadena).

"These are both great bills that will make our schools better for our children," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "I want to help principals at our lowest-performing schools bring in teachers to build a winning team and give new and experienced teachers the tools they need to succeed."

SB 1209 addresses the challenges California is facing due to the loss of 100,000 teachers over the next decade because of retirement. Specifically, the bill:

- Removes barriers for out-of-state teachers by eliminating duplicative requirements and accepting out of-state training verified by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.
- Simplifies credential testing by allowing new teachers to substitute the Multiple Subject California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET) and other tests, like the GRE, for the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST).
- Enhances new teacher and intern support by establishing mentoring programs and providing \$6,000 annual stipends to experienced teachers who mentor new teachers in low-performing schools.
- Improves compensation and teacher distribution by helping local educators provide compensation packages that recognize professional experience and rewards teachers that serve in challenging school settings
- Encourages professional development through participation in individual professional growth programs and requiring that all teacher preparation programs include a performance assessment.

Governor Schwarzenegger's budget included \$22.7 million in funding to implement this legislation.

Currently, school principals must give existing teachers first priority for open positions. Principals also are often forced to accept voluntary transfers of teachers, who may not be performing well at another school.

SB 1655 will help low-performing schools hire more quality teachers by:

- Giving principals flexibility to reject a voluntary transfer of a teacher.
- Changing hiring deadlines, allowing principals to hire promising teachers early on.

The Governor's 2006-07 budget includes:

- \$50 million in one-time funding for a School Enrichment Block Grant to help low-performing schools recruit and retain quality teachers and principals.
- \$25 million for an expansion of the Math and Reading Professional Development program to provide additional professional development for teachers of English learners.
- \$1.5 million to extend the Governor's Science and Math Initiative to increase the number of science and math teachers trained at the University of California and California State University.
- An increase of \$400,000 in the Certification Assignment and Waivers Division to reduce credential processing backlogs.