

**Rally: Lafayette**

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# PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 11, 2011****Parents Protest Education Cuts and Vow To “Wake Up Lamorinda!”**

On May 24<sup>th</sup> parents from Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda will join with 20 other rally sites across the state, to “Wake Up California!” to the budget crisis facing public schools.

**Lafayette, CA :** On behalf of the over six million children educated in public schools in California, Lafayette for Education and Educate Our State, are organizing parents and supporters in a show of solidarity and frustration with the current educational system and the lack of support by the California legislature. Lafayette will be holding a rally at Lafayette Plaza Park at 7 a.m. on Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> to show local support for this statewide issue and demonstrate parents’ objection to the potential massive budget cuts facing their schools. “Without the passage of the revenue extension measures by our legislature, our schools will cut nearly 20,000 teachers statewide, see burgeoning class sizes and elimination of nearly all enrichment programs,” said Linda Shaffer of Educate Our State a parent led, non-profit campaign demanding high-quality schools for all children in California.

“The parents in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda are standing up for their children and their schools. California schools have experienced \$18 billion in budget cuts since 2007 and compared to every other state in the nation, we are at the bottom of the barrel in per student funding” said Jean Follmer, from Lafayette for Education, a grassroots community group dedicated to identifying and supporting stable funding sources, as well as sharing information about education-related efforts through the state of California. More information at [www.LafayetteForEducation.weebly.com](http://www.LafayetteForEducation.weebly.com).

Educate Our State, a grassroots campaign with over 35,000 supporters statewide, has gained substantial political clout and press over the past year (including an extremely successful recent campaign in which over 60,000 letters were sent to legislators in Sacramento), is organizing the statewide “Wake Up California!” day of events. On May 24<sup>th</sup> over 20 rallies will be held from Sacramento to San Diego. A map with an updated list of sites is on the website [www.educateourstate.org](http://www.educateourstate.org).

“Parents want to bring attention to the crisis facing our schools” said Teri Levy of Educate Our State. “Parents are frustrated and want our legislators to save public education funding now.” California lags behind all but a few states with respect to funding (lower than 43<sup>rd</sup>), standardized test scores (math 43<sup>rd</sup> and reading 46<sup>th</sup>; NAEP 4<sup>th</sup> Grade 2009), and staff to student ratios (50<sup>th</sup>, NCES Common Core of Data, 2007-2008).

Educate Our State founders stress that this event shows the public’s desire to make education the priority it needs to be in order for this state to thrive. For more information about “Wake Up California!” and rallies scheduled in specific areas, please visit [www.educateourstate.org](http://www.educateourstate.org), Facebook at [www.facebook.com/educateourstate](http://www.facebook.com/educateourstate) and follow us on Twitter at #wakeupCA and #educateourstate.

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