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## *West County Residents to March 70 Miles to State Capitol*

WCCUSD (Richmond/San Pablo) March to Sacramento, CA.

# March for Education Meets with Legislators in Sacramento and Receives More Endorsements from the Community

**San Pablo, California, March 31, 2004.** Representatives from March for Education had a number of positive and fruitful meetings yesterday with several California state representatives. They are arranging more meetings with state and local government officials, and are looking forward to having more discussions with them regarding the West Contra Costa County School District's financial obligations. They also plan on discussing the educational funding issues facing California's students as they continue to face more local and state cuts to their educational programs.

March for Education is a grassroots organization of parents, children, teachers, community leaders and concerned citizens who came together shortly before the West Contra Costa County School District's announcement that they are eliminating sports, libraries, counselors, and other programs and personnel.

March for Education has received new endorsements from **Hercules, Pinole, Rodeo and Crockett NAACP; Richmond NAACP; El Cerrito NAACP; SEIU (South Bay Local 715); West County Parents; and Youth Together.** Other endorsements include Council Member Paul Morris, City of San Pablo; Council Member Genoveva Calloway, City of San Pablo; WCCUSD School Board Member Glen Price; WCCUSD School Board Member George Harris, III; Comité Downer; Richmond Progressive Alliance; Teachers for a Progressive Union; the Barbara Alexander Academy; and the Education Not Incarceration Coalition, statewide.

**On April 9<sup>th</sup>** the West Contra Costa County School District community will start their march to Sacramento, ending up with a rally at the **Sacramento State Capitol on Friday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.** They insist on equity in education funding, full funding of Proposition 98, and elimination of the debt negotiated with the State after the bankruptcy bailout in 1991.

These parents and community activists seek to educate the community about the many factors that have brought this district to where it is now. These factors include the "No Child Left Behind" requirements that are not fully funded by the federal government; the post-Proposition 13 tax consequences that create an inferior educational environment in poorer tax-based and urban areas; the fact that Governor Schwarzenegger negotiated an agreement with several educational organizations to reduce Proposition 98 allocations for the next fiscal year; and many other issues.

For interviews please contact Mr. César A. Cruz or Ms. Scottie Smith.

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