



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts:

César A. Cruz 510/388-3587

March4Education@yahoo.com

<http://www.march4education.org>

Scottie Smith 510/223-5820

rcs101@att.net

West County Residents to March 70 Miles to State Capitol

West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) March to Sacramento, CA.

Kick-Off Rally on Friday April 9th, 4:00 PM

18th Street and Sanford Ave., San Pablo, CA

Final Rally in Sacramento Friday April 16th, 1:00 PM

Sacramento State Capitol, 10th Street and L, Sacramento, CA

San Pablo, California, April 6, 2004. The March for Education Committee is making its final preparations for their 70-mile march to Sacramento. They will advocate for equity in education funding, full funding of Proposition 98, and elimination of the 1991 WCCUSD bail-out loan. The kick-off rally starts at 4:00 PM on Friday, April 9th next to Downer Elementary School on 18th Street in San Pablo. The final rally will be in Sacramento at 1:00 PM on Friday April 16th in front of the State Capitol. They are encouraging a statewide mobilization for educational advocacy.

The March for Education is a grassroots movement of parents, students, teachers, and community members who came together to address educational funding at the local and state level. They began planning the march before WCCUSD announced the elimination of libraries, counselors, sports, programs and personnel.

The March for Education Committee has had a number of positive and fruitful meetings with several California state representatives including Senator Tom Torlakson. As quoted in the West County Times, Sunday April 4, 2004, Robert Oakes, press secretary for Sen. Tom Torlakson, D-Antioch, said "the senator hopes Schwarzenegger hears the group's plight. He's a strong supporter of bringing this message to the Capitol," Oakes said of Torlakson, who plans to join the marchers about two hours outside Sacramento.

The March for Education Committee and students from several schools have been writing Governor Schwarzenegger asking him to meet with the marchers after their rally on April 16th. They're calling this letter-writing campaign "A Penny for Education." Each person who writes is encouraged to enclose a penny for education. More details can be found on the March for Education website.

The March for Education has been endorsed by The League of Women Voters of West Contra Costa County; Bayside Council of PTAs; Hercules, Pinole, Rodeo and Crockett NAACP; Richmond NAACP; El Cerrito NAACP; SEIU (South Bay Local 715); West County Parents; PinoleCARE; ASU Senators of Contra Costa College; Youth Together; David Tokofsky, LAUSD Board Member; Thomas McLaughlin, Livermore USD Board Member; Maria Alegria, City of Pinole Council Member; Diablo Valley College Student Government; Vanguard Public Foundation; Opportunity West; Northminster Presbyterian Church, El Cerrito, Social Justice Committee; Women's Economic Agenda Project; California Poor Peoples Economic Campaign; Paul Morris, City of San Pablo Council Member; Genoveva Calloway, City of San Pablo Council Member; 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.

For route information from April 10, 2004 through April 16, 2004 please contact 510/223-5820 or Opportunity West at 510/236-5812.

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