

**The West Contra Costa Unified School District's
Petition to the State of California for Debt "Forgiveness"**

We the undersigned petition Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the California Legislature to remove the barriers that create a separate and unequal education in the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD). We request that the debts incurred by a previous superintendent of the District, and the lack of checks and balances at the State and local levels, no longer penalize generations of students in the WCCUSD.

We ask the California State government to "FORGIVE" any and all debts incurred under the tenure of Walter Marks, former Superintendent of the WCCUSD.

We recognize the financial and moral responsibilities of urban school districts in providing a quality education for all students. We believe in local and state support for the education of all students. We recognize that the local economy and the State of California's educational formula promote a separate and unequal education system for urban districts like the WCCUSD. Therefore we concur with the California courts and the United States Supreme Court in their determination that the States have the "sole" responsibility for educating all students (as was the determination in the WCCUSD, formally Richmond Unified School District, bankruptcy).

We believe it is with this background that only the Governor and Legislature can correct the inequities of education in the WCCUSD by immediately declaring "FORGIVENESS" of all WCCUSD debts to the State of California.

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