Why Our Children Need Prop 39…

Too many students and not enough desks are all too familiar complaints echoing through the halls of California’s public schools. California’s surging population growth has led to overcrowded classrooms where children are forced to attend class in portable trailers and teachers have as many as 50 students per classroom -- making it all but impossible to learn.

Before we can invest in fixing our classrooms, we must first overhaul the way school bond money is spent. Proposition 39 on the November ballot will fix the way schools spend money AND help fix our schools.

Below is a snapshot of the current conditions facing our children everyday:

Overcrowding…
- California has more students per classroom than any other state except Utah.
- Research has shown that students in overcrowded schools score significantly lower on both mathematics and reading exams than other students.
- Over the next ten years, California will need to build an additional 20,000 classrooms and 544 new schools to accommodate enrollment growth without considering class size reduction or the need for modernization of existing classrooms.
- Many districts are forced to convert cafeterias, libraries, gymnasiums, trailers and teacher’s lounges in order to provide space for incoming students.
- One third of all K-12 classrooms in our state are portable “trailer-type” classrooms.

Poor Conditions…
- More than 50% of California public schools are more than 30 years old, an age at which maintenance and repair costs increase markedly.
- According to a report from the California Department of Education, “Decaying environmental conditions such as peeling paint, crumbling plaster, nonfunctioning toilets, poor lighting, inadequate ventilation, and inoperative heating and cooling systems can affect the learning as well as the health and morale of staff and students.”
- Studies have shown that students believe their poor school conditions to be a reflection of society’s lack of concern for their education and their behavior is negatively affected by this interpretation.
- More than half of California’s schools lack adequate electrical power for computers.
- California ranks dead last in students per instructional computer.

Class Size Reduction Programs - A positive change that should be implemented…
- Research has demonstrated that class size reduction has a significant positive impact on academic performance and discipline. Students, teachers and parents all report positive effects from the impact of class size reductions on the quality of classroom activity.
- Expansion of class size reduction programs continues to be held up by a lack of available facilities.
- To expand class size reduction to the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades would require another 24,000 classrooms.
- To expand class size reduction to the seventh and eighth grades would require another 14,412 classrooms.

The Need is Clear…

VOTE YES ON 39!

FIX THE WAY SCHOOLS SPEND MONEY AND FIX OUR SCHOOLS!