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P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Generational Wealth: Mega Millions® Jackpot Just Increased to an Estimated \$1.35 Billion!

Contributions to CA Public Schools Increase with Growing Ticket Sales

SACRAMENTO – Thanks in part to strong sales in California and across the nation, the *Mega Millions* jackpot has just been increased to a projected \$1.35 billion! That’s the kind of money that could set someone up for generations.

The current estimated jackpot represents the second largest jackpot ever for *Mega Millions* and the fourth largest in U.S. history. The California Lottery website includes important information for players, including [odds](#) and [how to claim a prize](#) if someone matches all of the numbers in tonight’s drawing.

California Lottery recommends that players sign the back of their ticket immediately after the purchase and take a picture of both sides for security. Players should treat that piece of paper as if it has immense value because there is a chance that it could be life-changing. Earlier this month, a single jackpot-winning *Powerball*® ticket was sold at Las Palmitas Mini Market in Los Angeles and is [now worth \\$1.08 billion](#). The California Lottery never knows who the winners are [until they come forward](#) and are thoroughly vetted.

As ticket sales increase, so does the amount of money California Lottery is raising for public education. Just from this *Mega Millions* sequence (30 completed draws), the California Lottery estimates having raised \$90.2 million already. That figure will continue to climb throughout the day.

California Lottery players have [more than 23,000 choices](#) for where to buy tickets in person. Anyone who buys tickets through online lottery resellers is [not eligible to win](#).

California Lottery also reminds players that playing lottery is a form of entertainment, and players should only enjoy these games within their budget.

Mega Millions drawings take place every Tuesday and Friday at 8 p.m. Tickets for tonight's drawing must be purchased by 7:45 p.m. Tickets sold after that will be eligible for the following draw next Tuesday.

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The California Lottery's mission is to provide supplemental funding to California public schools, including kindergarten and grades 1-12, community colleges, the California State University, the University of California, and other California public educational entities. The funds the Lottery transferred to public education approximately \$2 billion for fiscal year 2021-22, which amounted to a modest percentage of education's overall budget. However, this funding is largely discretionary, meaning schools can use this for important, yet unfunded instructional programs they would otherwise not afford. During the same period, the Lottery generated more than \$8.8 billion in sales, more than 95% of which went back to the community in the form of prize payments, retailer commissions and bonuses, and contributions to education. As jackpots rise, the California Lottery would like to remind players that gambling should be fun. Borrowing money to play, spending above a person's budget, or using money intended for other purposes can ultimately lead to significant problems for players and their families. If a player recognizes that they have a gambling problem or if someone knows of someone who may have a problem, the Lottery recommends calling the California Problem Gambling Help Line at 1-800-GAMBLER.

www.calottery.com