



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

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Contact: Jorge De La Cruz

(916) 822-8554

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CA Lottery Provides More Than \$37 Billion in 35 Years

SACRAMENTO – The California State Lottery is celebrating a big anniversary in a big way. October marks the 35th anniversary of California Lottery games – 35 years of providing supplemental funding for public education. The Lottery is marking its anniversary by highlighting recent record-breaking sales of its new Pac-Man Scratchers® which, along with its robust marketing campaign, fittingly pays homage to the '80s.

The Pac-Man Scratchers® games – available at \$2, \$5 and \$10 – hit markets on September 14. Thanks largely to this new family of games, Lottery Scratchers® sales broke an all-time record with nearly \$120 million worth of tickets sold in a single week. The second week saw an even bigger Scratchers sales record, coming in at \$121.4 million. The previous Scratchers sales record dates back to the start of the Lottery in October of 1985.

“Now more than ever, we understand the importance of the California Lottery and its unique role in our state,” said Alva V. Johnson, Director of the California State Lottery. “Together with our players and supporters, we honor our 35-year tradition by continuing to work hard to advance our mission to support public education with additional funding benefitting our schools, students and communities.”

In 1984, California voters passed Proposition 37 - the California State Lottery Act - to authorize the creation of a lottery; the first California Lottery tickets were sold on October 3, 1985. A legislative change made to the Lottery Act in 2010 furthered our mission by allowing us to offer higher prize payouts for some of our games. As a result, players have made it possible for the Lottery to contribute even more funding to education. **The California Lottery has contributed over \$37 billion to public education since the games began.**

The Lottery's contributions to education have increased steadily over the years. Just in the past 10 years, annual revenues to education increased by a whopping 72 percent – from \$1.09 billion to \$1.87 billion (Fiscal Year 2019). The Lottery also notes several other achievements in its 35 years, including:

- California was the first Lottery in the U.S. to obtain the highest Level 4 Certification in the World Lottery Association's Responsible Gaming Framework, and it continues to emphasize responsible gaming across the entire operation.
- The Lottery also developed and implemented a 20-year Facilities Master Plan. Beginning in 2012, it acquired and moved into its own facilities, ensuring business continuity and operational flexibility, which saves the state money and allows additional funds for public education.

- The Lottery's headquarters building in Sacramento, seven district offices and its Southern Distribution Center are all also LEED certified, and the Lottery has eight facilities that are zero-net energy buildings – meaning they produce as much energy as they consume.

The California Lottery and its employees proudly continue to serve an essential government function, providing supplemental funding to the state's public schools, colleges and universities. In addition, Lottery sales also help with critical revenue to local retailers that sell tickets, in the form of bonuses and commissions. Many Lottery retailers are small, locally-owned businesses trying to stay afloat in what's proven to be a challenging economic year.

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About the California Lottery

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 transfers to public education total approximately \$1.8 billion for fiscal year 2018-19, which amounts to a modest percentage of education's overall budget. However, this funding is largely non-discretionary, meaning schools can use this for important, yet unfunded instructional programs they could otherwise not afford. During the same period the Lottery generated almost \$7 billion in sales, more than 95% of which goes back to the community in the form of prize payments, retailer commissions and bonuses, and contributions to education. The California Lottery urges its customers to play responsibly. Problem gambling resources are available to anyone at 1-800-GAMBLER.

www.calottery.com