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

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California to Benefit Amid Third Largest Jackpot in U.S. History

SACRAMENTO – The *Mega Millions*® jackpot for tonight’s draw is an estimated \$1 billion. It’s now the third largest jackpot in U.S. lottery history. Each increase further extends the California Lottery’s contributions to California public schools.

95 cents of every dollar spent by players goes back to the community in the form of contributions to public education, prizes and retail compensation. As of this morning, sales for this current rolling *Mega Millions* sequence have generated nearly \$99 million to benefit public education and counting in California. The *Powerball*® run, which ended with a win in Maryland on Wednesday, helped California generate more than \$82 million for public education.

Responsible play is still the mantra. The Lottery reminds players to play it safe by only purchasing tickets during essential shopping trips and following all public health guidelines. Resources are available to help players minimize trips to the store, such as the [California Lottery® mobile app](#) where players can check if their ticket is a winner and the *Advance Play*® feature that allows players to play the same numbers for up to 10 future draws with a single purchase. Lastly, we remind players to only play within their means.

Mega Millions draws are Tuesdays and Fridays at 8 p.m. PT. **Sales close at 7:45 p.m., so players must buy their tickets by then to qualify for this evening’s draw.**

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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

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 would 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