

700 North Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
calottery.com



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

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Phone: (916) 822-8131

Email: PIO@calottery.com

Twitter: [@calotterypress](https://twitter.com/calotterypress)

Mega Millions® Jackpot Reaches \$555 Million for Tonight's Draw

\$49 Million Raised for CA Public Schools From This 3-Month Jackpot Run Alone

SACRAMENTO – Tonight's estimated jackpot for the twice-weekly Mega Millions draw has climbed to an estimated \$555 million! The jackpot has been rolling for three months now, and with sales continuing to climb, California's public schools kinder through university are benefitting big.

Since the jackpot began to roll on April 19, 2022, the contribution to education from sales is estimated to already be \$49 million, a figure that will continue to climb the higher the jackpot gets.

"It's very exciting to see jackpots get this big because you never know when it could be hit here in California," said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. "And, of course, higher jackpots usually mean more players, so sales go way up too. That's huge for our beneficiary, which is California public education, so it's most definitely a win-win no matter what."

Mega Millions tickets are \$2 each and the draws happen on Tuesdays and Fridays at 7:59 p.m. Odds of winning the jackpot are 1 in 302.5 million, and the odds of winning any prize are 1 in 24. If someone hits tonight's jackpot and decides to take the lump sum, the prize will be worth \$316.9 million!

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 set aside for other things can 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.

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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 totaled more than \$1.8 billion for fiscal year 2020-21, 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 almost \$8.4 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.

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