

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 \$830 Million for Tonight's Draw!

More Than \$73.5 Million Already Raised for Public Schools

SACRAMENTO – The jackpot for tonight's Mega Millions draw continues to soar closer to the \$1 billion mark! The estimated \$830 million up for grabs tonight is the third largest jackpot amount in Mega Millions game history.

This massive jackpot is helping the California Lottery raise extra money for public education, benefiting grades kinder through 12, community colleges, public universities, and other educational entities. **The current Mega Millions jackpot run alone has already generated more than \$73.5 million for schools.**

"The funds we raise are largely discretionary, meaning schools can spend those dollars on things they otherwise couldn't, like attracting and retaining quality teachers, buying state-of-the-art equipment for students, and more," said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson.

This jackpot run alone has already generated more than \$70 million for schools!

Players should buy their tickets for tonight's Mega Millions draw in person at one of the more than [23,000 locations](#) that sell Lottery games across the state. App-based and online ticket resellers and delivery services are unregulated and unauthorized in California. Additionally, borrowing money to play or spending more on Lottery tickets than someone can afford can lead to significant problems. If a player recognizes that they have a gambling problem, they can call the California Problem Gambling Help Line at 1-800-GAMBLER.

Tonight's Mega Millions draw happens at 8 p.m. Tickets have to be purchased by 7:45 p.m. to be eligible for tonight. If someone hits the jackpot tonight and opts to take the lump sum cash prize, that would be worth an estimated \$487.9 million before federal taxes. **If no one hits tonight's jackpot, it will roll to an estimated \$1.025 billion for Friday'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 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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