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California Lottery Unveils New Video to Showcase How All Californians Benefit from Lottery Funding

SACRAMENTO – The California Lottery [unveiled a new video](#) today during its public commission meeting, highlighting the impact that Lottery funding has on Californians. The video showcases the Medical Assisting program at Long Beach City College (LBCC), which is funded with Lottery dollars.

Since 1984, the Lottery has raised \$39 billion for California’s public schools – [kindergarten through university level](#).

“Big, giant jackpots and the large sums we raise for education may get a lot of attention, which is great, but we also want to showcase *how* Lottery funding is ultimately being spent in schools,” said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. “We were thrilled to partner with Long Beach City College to meet not only the students benefitting from Lottery funding but also the thousands of Californians these future Medical Assistants will serve for years to come.”

“We take the time to really listen and understand what employers are looking for in their students... What kind of onramps do [students] need to skill up in terms of being ready for the positions they’re seeking,” said Dr. Mike Muñoz, Long Beach Community College District Superintendent-President, in the video.

The [video](#) further explains how LBCC leverages Lottery funding to purchase the critical supplies that students work with in the classroom before moving on to careers in medical facilities.

“If we didn’t have California Lottery dollars, often times those costs would be passed onto the student,” Dr. Muñoz also told California Lottery. “That often times creates barriers for students whether they are able to continue with their education or not.”

Lottery funding is largely discretionary for the state’s roughly 1,000 school districts as well as higher educational entities. In addition to the video unveiled today, anyone can see how much Lottery money goes to local districts across California with the interactive map tool on the California Lottery [website](#).

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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 \$1.88 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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