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

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Strong Sales for \$1.1 Billion Mega Millions® Jackpot Fuel Windfall for California Schools

SACRAMENTO – The California Lottery has raised more than \$84 million dollars and counting for public education thanks to Mega Millions ticket sales ahead of tonight’s projected \$1.1 billion jackpot. That \$84-million figure is just from this Mega Millions draw sequence, which started in mid-October, and does not factor in sales from any other California Lottery games. Tonight’s draw will be the 25th in this series, with a jackpot that’s been growing for nearly three months.

“We’re seeing sales continue to be quite strong as this jackpot yet again crosses the billion-dollar threshold,” said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. “And we love that because it means schools are winning big. Whether anyone in California hits the jackpot or not, we already have tens of thousands of winners in the form of public school students across the Golden State.”

If someone does hit the jackpot tonight, matching all six numbers correctly, they’ll have the option of choosing 30 annual payments or taking the cash value of the prize, also known as the lump sum, which is estimated to be \$576.8 million. **If nobody hits the jackpot, it’s projected to roll to \$1.35 billion for Friday’s draw** and would carry an estimated cash value of about \$708 million.

California Lottery’s communications team has been posting sales figures for California throughout the day on Twitter [@calotterypress](https://twitter.com/calotterypress). California’s sales for this rolling jackpot sequence have already totaled about \$211 million leading into tonight’s draw.

As jackpots rise, California Lottery reminds players to enjoy the game responsibly and only spend within their means. Anyone who recognizes signs of a gambling problem in themselves or in a family member or friend can get FREE help by calling the confidential California Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLER.

Tonight’s draw is slated for 8pm PT, and it usually takes several hours for results to be certified at a national level, which has to happen before the final outcome of any win is announced. Tonight’s draw entry period closes at 7:45pm PT, so any tickets purchased after that would be eligible for Friday night’s drawing.

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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 the jackpots continue to grow, the California Lottery would also like to remind players to play responsibly and within their budgets. If you feel you have a gambling problem or know someone who does, you can get free confidential help by calling the California Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLER.

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