



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

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 8, 2023

Email: PIO@calottery.com

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

From New Textbooks to Robotics Programs, Central Valley Schools and Colleges Benefitting from California Lottery Funding

Since 1984, the Lottery has generated more than \$1.9 billion to help local officials enhance public education in Tulare, Fresno and Madera counties

FRESNO — The California Lottery and local education leaders convened a roundtable discussion today to discuss the benefits supplemental Lottery funding provides for public education in Fresno and surrounding communities.

Since the California Lottery was approved by voters in 1984, the state agency has generated more than \$41 billion in additional funding for California's public schools, colleges and public universities, including more than \$1.9 billion to K-12 districts across the Central Valley, many with significant Latino student populations.

Local educators say the funding, while making up only a small portion of education budgets, delivers high value benefits from updating textbooks, curriculum and instructional materials, to sustaining learning, arts, and athletics programs and propping up teacher salaries.

"This funding is mission critical, especially in ensuring that colleges like ours can provide avenues of success for all of our students through whatever program they choose to pursue," said Ghada AL-Masri, Fresno City College Vice President of Educational Services.

For example, the nursing program at Fresno City College, with class sizes of 464 students annually, derives significant funding from Lottery supplemental contributions. "I got into this program because it has given me the opportunity to meet many patients, and help them with translations to communicate with nurses, and help them feel more comfortable with nurses and hospitals," said Leticia Del Rio Lamas, Fresno City College nursing student.

Local school officials and governing boards have discretion in how most Lottery funds are used, which optimizes its benefits, educators said.

Within the California State University system, as an example, CSU Summer Arts is hosted on a CSU Campus each summer, this year at Fresno State.

"The program receives its principal funding from Lottery dollars", said Rachel May Smith, the program's director. "The program allows hundreds of college students from across California to live

and study with world-renowned artists and CSU faculty in the fields of art, creative writing, dance, media, music and theater.”

At Golden Plains Unified School District in San Joaquin, officials hired a teacher on special assignment to implement a new robotics program. Fresno Unified School District, the fourth largest in California, uses its share of Lottery money – about \$19 million in FY21-22 – for textbook purchases and teacher salaries.

“These stories are so rewarding to hear,” said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokeswoman. “This is why the Lottery was created and why we do what we do. I can tell you with confidence that every decision we make – from the types of games we deliver to extending security and integrity in our operations – is always with our mission in mind.”

About 95% of California Lottery revenue is reinvested in local communities, including prizes, contributions to public education, and commissions and bonuses to more than 23,000 local retail partners.

Last year, the California Lottery generated an estimated \$2 billion for public schools, the 22nd year running that more than \$1 billion was raised.

###

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 approximately \$2 billion for fiscal year 2021-22, 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 more than \$8.8 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. 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.

www.calottery.com