



PRESS RELEASE

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Plenty of California Lottery Players Still Feeling Lucky For Tonight's Friday the 13th Mega Millions® Draw

SACRAMENTO – Any superstitious feelings about today's date may not necessarily be deterring *Mega Millions* players ahead of tonight's big draw. A *Mega Millions* jackpot has been won on a Friday the 13th [seven times](#) in the game's history! While that honor has never gone to a California Lottery player, that doesn't seem to be stopping people across the Golden State from getting in on the action.

California Lottery sales for this jackpot run, which began with another Friday the 13th drawing back in September, currently total approximately \$121 million. With approximately 80 cents for every ticket sold here supporting public education, the California Lottery estimates it's raised about [\\$48 million so far for schools](#) just from *Mega Millions* sales these past three months alone.

"When jackpots get high, public schools win," said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. "While we love to hand out big, multimillion-dollar prizes to our players, it's always fun to see the jackpots keep rolling toward the billion-dollar mark. More people inevitably play, and we can raise even more money for education, which is our whole mission."

There have been 26 [Mega Millions](#) drawings with no grand prize winners since Friday, September 13th, and tonight's jackpot just jumped this morning and is now advertised at \$695 million – the 8th largest in *Mega Millions* history. The drawing happens at 8pm PT.

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The mission of the California Lottery is to raise additional funding for public education, helping to supplement school budgets for K-12 as well as colleges and universities. **The California Lottery has raised more than \$46 billion for public schools** through the responsible sale of its games since 1985. Lottery funding for schools is largely discretionary, so administrators and educators can use Lottery money for instructional programs and services they may not otherwise afford. The California Lottery features eight [draw games](#) and dozens of new instant [Scratchers](#) games each year. More than 95% of California Lottery sales revenue goes back to the community in the form of prize payments, [retailer commissions and bonuses](#), and contributions to education. More information about who benefits can be found [here](#). 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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