



PRESS RELEASE

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 3, 2024

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California Lottery Celebrates 39 Years of Raising Funds for Public Education

SACRAMENTO – The California Lottery is celebrating 39 years of being in business solely to generate extra revenue for public education. The first ever California Lottery game, a Scratchers called *California Jackpot*, first sold on October 3, 1985. Since then, **the California Lottery has raised more than \$46 billion for public schools** across the state.

“From the very beginning, our mission has been to raise supplemental funding explicitly to support schools,” said California Lottery Director Harjinder K. Shergill Chima. “Our dedicated workforce takes a tremendous amount of pride in the work we do every day – all in the name of public education. We are a mission-focused and cause-driven organization, and we want to thank our players and retail partners alike for supporting education right along with us; we couldn’t be successful without them.”

The California Lottery is a self-funded state agency and was created when voters passed a ballot proposition dubbed the *California State Lottery Act of 1984*, which allows the Lottery to supplement funding for public education through the responsible sale of lottery products.

Now, in the second quarter of Fiscal Year 24-25, the California Lottery is projecting total sales revenues of more than \$9 billion this year, with a contribution to public education of more than \$2.08 billion. If successful, this would be the fourth straight fiscal year that California Lottery has raised more than \$2 billion for California public schools and the 25th consecutive year earning more than \$1 billion for public education.

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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](#). California Lottery is also committed to promoting [responsible gaming](#). Anyone who shows signs of a gambling problem, or knows someone who does, can get free, confidential help by calling the CA Problem Gambling Hotline at 1-800-GAMBLER.



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