



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ***Scratchers® Aren't Toys: California Lottery Urges Players to Gift Responsibly This Holiday Season***

**SACRAMENTO** – As we enter the holiday shopping season, the California Lottery reminds players to gift responsibly. Lottery tickets are not toys or appropriate stocking stuffers for children.

"While our games are meant to spread fun and joy this season, especially our holiday-themed Scratchers®, it's crucial to note that it's against the law for anyone under 18 to participate in lottery activities," said California Lottery spokesperson Carolyn Becker.



According to the National Council on Problem Gambling, research shows that the earlier a person's participation or exposure to gambling is, the more likely they are to develop a gambling problem later in life. Gambling exposure during childhood often happens with some kind of lottery game; tickets may be given to a child by an adult who is unaware of the associated risks.

The California Lottery strongly emphasizes to its network of more than [23,000 retail partners](#) that selling Lottery games to anyone younger than 18 is strictly prohibited by law. To ensure compliance, the Lottery employs underage decoys to prevent sales to minors.

Committed to maintaining the highest standards in game sales and promoting responsible gaming, the California Lottery has been recognized as the first lottery in the United States to achieve the World Lottery Association's highest certification and recertification for its educational efforts.

For additional information about the National Council on Problem Gambling's campaign on responsible gifting, please [click here](#).

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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 \$2.07 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 \$8.85 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](http://www.calottery.com)