



PRESS RELEASE

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2024

PIO@calottery.com

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

Dueling Jumbo Jackpots – A Winning Combination for California Schools

SACRAMENTO – The [Mega Millions®](#) jackpot is now closing in on \$800 million after no one hit it Tuesday night. Today, though, all eyes will be on the other giant jackpot up for grabs – [Powerball®](#) – now offering an estimated \$559 million top prize in the drawing this evening.

Tonight's will be the 31st *Powerball* drawing in the current jackpot run, which began more than two months ago. If only one person hits the jackpot tonight, they'll have the option of taking an estimated \$273.3 million cash prize or the final jackpot total over 30 annual payments.

Whether there's a jackpot winner tonight or not – and no matter where the jackpot is hit – California schools are benefitting nicely from these climbing prize pots. Combined sales related to these dueling jackpot runs have helped the California Lottery raise **nearly \$95 million for public education** so far – just from these games alone. That figure will continue to climb throughout the day and week as *Mega Millions* and *Powerball* sales continue to soar.

“Every dollar counts when it comes to public education,” said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. “The California Lottery is proud to support public schools; it’s our sole mission and the only reason we exist. When we see jackpots climb this high, we take even more pride in our work, knowing schools are reaping the rewards as well as any winners.”

Mega Millions and *Powerball* tickets are \$2 each, and from every ticket sold in California, about 80 cents [helps schools](#). Tonight's *Powerball* drawing happens at 7:59pm PT, and anyone hoping to win tonight has to buy their ticket by 7pm at any of the more than [23,000 California Lottery retail locations](#) throughout the state.

###

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 \$43.8 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.



education
calottery.com