



PRESS RELEASE

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Celebrating Four Decades of Raising Extra Money for Public Education, California Lottery Debuts New Anniversary Scratchers®, Including One Making History

SACRAMENTO – The California Lottery is debuting a brand-new Scratchers game this week called *40 Years of Play!* The new game invites players to join the California Lottery in marking its 40th anniversary, celebrating decades of raising supplemental funding for public education.

“For 40 years, we’ve been proud to raise extra funding for California’s public schools,” said Harjinder K. Shergill Chima, Director of the California Lottery. “We are excited to kick off 2025 with a new game that gives people a chance to celebrate with us. Since we sold our first game in 1985, together with our players and our retail partners, we’ve raised more than \$46 billion to benefit students across California.”

The new game gives players two options: a \$2 version with a top prize of \$40,000 or a \$40 option, the California Lottery’s first-ever \$40 game, which offers the chance to win \$15 million.



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The commemorative new game features California's signature grizzly bear and is the first in a series of new Scratchers debuting this year that will nod to the California Lottery's 40th anniversary.

The California Lottery began in October of 1985 after voters passed a ballot proposition allowing the State to sell games with the explicit mission of raising supplemental funding for public schools. Ninety-five cents of every dollar spent on California Lottery games goes back to the community through contributions to public schools, prizes, and retail compensation.

More information about the new games and the mission of the California Lottery can be found online [here](#) and [here](#).

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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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