Besides offering you entertaining games, the California Lottery’s sole mission is to generate supplemental funds for all California public schools. Since 2000, we’ve been lucky. We’ve sent more than $1 billion a year to public education. That means K-12, Community Colleges, CSU and UC campuses and several specialized schools. Now keep in mind, the Lottery’s supplemental funding to public schools will not solve education’s budgetary problems. In fact, our contributions amount to only about 1% of public education’s overall needs. It’s really modest when you come down to it, but parents, teachers and administrators tell us that every little bit helps.

To see how much your school district has received every year since 1985, visit: calottery.com/giving-back/how-much-money

If any of these apply to you, we want to hear from you! Just send us a quick email to pio@calottery.com and we’ll be in touch!

At the California Lottery, we’re always looking for ways to shine a light on the great things happening every day within our state’s education system.

• Do you know a school that’s doing great things with the money it receives from the California Lottery?
• Maybe you know of a school with an amazing art program that would be willing to have their art displayed at our Lottery Headquarters Building in Sacramento.
• Or perhaps you know an exceptional teacher or student at your school with a great story to tell.

Supplemental Lottery Funds Benefit Schools in Real Ways

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We believe that with a good education, caring teachers, committed administrators, active parents and exceptional students, every California public school student can realize their dreams. Add critical supplies needed to learn in a positive, safe environment and the possibilities are endless – whether you want to be a scientist, a small business owner, a firefighter or a teacher – a good education is the gateway to success.

At the California Lottery, our part is relatively minor, but in conversations with parents, teachers and principals we realize that our annual contributions to education are critical to many one-time programs that would otherwise be cut when budget times are tight.

How Lottery Money Gets to Schools

Did you know that the Lottery has provided public schools with approximately $30 billion in supplemental funds since it first began operating back in 1985? But how does that money actually get to public schools? What is the process and who decides which school gets how much money?

Well here’s how it works:

• On a quarterly basis, the State Controller’s Office (SCO) takes possession of all quarterly Lottery sales and audits that amount.

• Using a formula that mirrors how the federal government allocates funding to public schools, the SCO determines how much each County Office of Education or School District is allowed. Supplemental dollars are provided for California public education at all levels, including K-12, the UC and CSU Systems, Community Colleges, Hastings College of the Law, plus several specialized schools.

Since 1985, here’s how Lottery funds have been distributed:

• K-12th Grade: 76.71%

• Community Colleges: 16.22%

• California State University System: 4.3%

• University of California: 2.7%

• Other Educational Entities: 0.07%

Hear their stories

"It allows me to have projectors in the room, mounted on the ceiling, which is such a nice convenience. So, it just makes teaching easier."

Lauren Osajima-Baird, Teacher

Diamond Bar High School, Diamond Bar, Los Angeles County

"I think it’s amazing that the Lottery is such a small percentage, yet the impact that the funds have is so great."

Zack Larsen, Principal

Mission San Juan Capistrano High School, San Juan Capistrano, Orange County

"The Lottery money is a constant source of revenue that we know and can count on to supplement instruction material – especially books."

Tom Rutten, Principal

MVHS High School, San Jose, Santa Clara County

"If we didn’t have the lottery funds right now we would need to look at cutting a staff member, we would need to look at our days on the calendar, for example, that money is equal to three days of school for our students a year."

Janet Wilson, Superintendent

Dehesa School District, El Cajon, San Diego County

EXAMPLES OF: Lottery Funds at Work

ICEF Vista Academy

Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co.

Used to help purchase many items including computers and software programs.

Johanna Boss High School

San Jose, San Jose Co.

Purchase art supplies used to help students become engaged in school and express themselves in a positive manner.

Mt. San Antonio College

Walnut, Los Angeles Co.

Used to help buy an airplane for its aeronautics program.

ICEF Vista Academy

Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co.

Used to help purchase many items including computers and software programs.

Dehesa School District

El Cajon, San Diego Co.

In addition to purchasing Accelerated Reading and Language Programs, this school used its Lottery funding to help purchase basic school supplies for its students.

Browns Elementary

Rio Oso, Sutter Co.

Students can easily view lessons thanks to the use of video projectors the school purchased with California Lottery funding.

Thurgood Marshall Academic High School

San Francisco, San Francisco Co.

Purchase technology components needed to bring textbooks to life and assist in the instruction of students, many of whom are English learners.

Mr. San Antonio College

El Cajon, San Diego Co.

Used to help purchase basic school supplies for its students.

Dehesa School District

El Cajon, San Diego Co.

In addition to purchasing Accelerated Reading and Language Programs, this school used its Lottery funding to help purchase basic school supplies for its students.

Hello and welcome to the world of possibilities, where anything can happen!