STATE OF EMERGENCY www.castateofemergency.com

L.E.A.R.N. -- Ideas for Week of Action Activities

Focus on LEGISLATIVE Activities

1. Role Reversals: Ask legislators/administrators/etc. to teach for a day.
2. Picket/rally in front of legislators' offices.
3. Encourage people to participate in letter writing campaign by offering raffle tickets.
4. Email members of Congress to pressure state legislators.
5. Send "pink slips" to legislators who are not supporting students and schools. The pink slip deadline coincides with the primary election date.
6. Remind all legislators of the importance of teachers and how they help children learn.
7. Work with SCTA and other student organizations to set-up voter registration tables on campus.
8. Hold "fax the legislator" events where college students, faculty and staff sign faxes to the targeted legislators.
9. Set up phone banks to call legislators and flood their e-mail inboxes.
10. Make CTA whistles so that teachers can literally be whistleblowers about the state budget, include other organizations in sounding the alarm to the emergency.

Reach out to EVERY PARENT

1. Phone calls and letters home to parents. Hand out information to parents and the community by walking neighborhoods around school sites after school. Hold "Grade-ins" in local malls or other public places to show the work that educators do long after the school day has ended. Distribute cards written by teachers that serve as testimonials of how the cuts would affect the classroom.
2. Organize parent visits to classrooms so that they see the realities of class size.
3. Make phone calls on Parents' Day. Call parents to tell them how their child is doing and then talk about the budget cuts and invite them to attend the rallies.
4. Hold a "teach-in": The history of unions and why we need public sector workers.
5. Have parents write letters to the newspapers and blogs and websites.
6. Have "open house" where teachers show all their personally purchased materials that students and classrooms.
7. Have teachers and parents hold "house meetings" to talk about what is happening in schools.
8. Invite parents for a demo of overcrowded classrooms (also invite media).
9. Have teachers being laid off contact parents and other CTA members.
10. Create a YouTube site so college students can post videos answering key questions:
    - "Why protect public education and essential social services?"
    - "Why is higher education important?"
    - "How would it impact you if tomorrow higher education no longer existed?"

Use Day of the Teacher to APPRECIATE educators and ALLIES

1. Partner with PTA, other parent and community groups to thank educators.
2. Make this a day or week of "Positive Action." Work with other groups to coordinate blood drives, statewide organ donor signups, etc.
3. One day of every teacher (and parents) posting on Facebook or Tweet 30 times a day with a viral message. Flood the social networks with our message.
4. Set-up an "Honor Tent" and invite students, faculty to give recognition to a faculty or staff member who made a positive life-changing difference in their lives by signing cards, videotaping messages, taking a flower to present to the individual on campus.
5. Have public employees line the main streets of community to show the pivotal role public employees play in communities.
6. Empty chairs outside a school with photos of laid-off teachers.
7. Meet with Local Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, etc. to talk about the impact of cuts on schools and communities.
8. Wear red and distribute YouTube video of teacher appreciation online.
9. Have one-on-one meetings with college students to bring in a younger demographic and get them involved.
10. Connect with service organizations, religious organizations, etc.

Promote the Need for REVENUE for schools and other essential public services: Tax Fairness

1. Ask each district to come up with "worst case scenario" based on state budget and share this with everyone
2. Have "math lessons" at district offices. Have math teachers doing simple math to show the consequences of budget ISSUES
3. Educate members about the need for Tax Fairness. Utilize all resources on the CTA website
4. Focus on how much money has gone to bail out Wall Street and big corporations
5. Ask voters to contact legislators asking them to extend taxes to keep more cuts from hurting our schools, colleges and state.

It's *NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL*. Declare a STATE OF EMERGENCY

1. Every educator brings at least one friend to a rally
2. Have celebrities involved in the demonstrations
3. Include voter registration drives at rallies
4. Have a week of breakfast with different individuals to highlight different topics related to education
5. Encourage mass participation of all college students at CTA rallies local to them. Wear gray and educate public about the death of higher education by sharing stories and them
6. Caravan to regional rallies
7. Regional rallies will be held to call on legislators to "free the occupants" by passing tax extensions and protecting public education and other essential public services. Regional rallies are in Sacramento, SF Bay Area, Los Angeles, Fresno/Bakersfield, Inland Empire and San Diego.
8. Have volunteers sit in the State Capitol May 9-13 to demonstrate the need for immediate action as the state budget cuts are destroying our schools and communities.
9. "Hands across the state" with educators linking together in a chain

Miscellaneous Ideas and Actions for Before or During State of Emergency Week

1. Speak at service organization meetings (even during state of emergency week)
2. Billboards, radio ads and viral videos to promote the week
3. Use Tax Day – April 18 to pass out flyers before/after school about funding cuts, tax fairness and impact of RIF'd teachers
4. "Flash Mobs" at strategic community locations
5. Informational picket lines before or after school and on college campuses
6. Freeway Signs on overpasses or put chairs with pink slips alongside main thoroughfares
7. CTA Service Centers throughout the state coordinate media events leading up to the week of action and invite CTA officers and Board members
8. Highlight different teachers every week
9. Set up 2 classrooms: 1 with that is the size of this year's class; the other that is the size of next year's class
10. Protest at an MLB game. Everyone wears a matching shirt and sits in one section. Have scoreboard acknowledge their presence (i.e., "pink-slipped teachers seated in section ___")