

# California Public K-12 School Bureaucracy (Simplified) as of September 30, 2005

Just as throughout the United States, California's public schools are governed by four interlocking layers of dysfunctional bureaucracies at the federal, state, county, and local levels. This governance is not a hierarchy, but rather four distinct bureaucracies governed by independently elected officials. This bizarre system ensures that horrendous amounts of our educational tax dollars are soaked up by bureaucrats who never see a child; that the bureaucracies use our tax dollars to fight among themselves; that the mandates governing our schools are contradictory; and that the system is utterly unaccountable.

## Special Interest Groups

California school employees' unions and their national parent organizations are a shadow government of a our public schools, and a fifth level of bureaucracy unto themselves. Among the most politically influential of all the nation's special interest groups, they protect the tenure rules that make public school teaching a government job guaranteed for life. Here in California, they are normally major political donors to candidates for Governor, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, a majority of both the State Senate and the Assembly, and a majority of the school board members of all the state's largest public school districts.

## Federal Level

