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# Revenues and Revenue Limits

## A Guide to School Finance in California—2009 Edition

By the School Services Team

### About the Book

Billions of dollars, intriguing lawsuits, lost riches—the plot of this year’s holiday blockbuster? Or the story of California school finance exclusively told in the 2009 edition of *Revenue and Revenue Limits*?

Since 1981, School Services of California’s books on school finance have helped tens of thousands of people understand everything from the basics to the intricacies of California’s unique school finance system. Like previous editions, the 29<sup>th</sup> edition is detailed enough to be of use to the most experienced readers, yet clear enough for newcomers to the field. By helping readers make the most of 2008-09 and plan for the future—including forecasts for weathering the state’s fiscal downturn—the 2009 edition of *Revenue and Revenue Limits* will be of value to everyone interested in California school finance, including:

- Superintendents
- Chief Financial Officers
- Special Education Directors
- Administrators
- Auditors
- Public Relations Officials
- Categorical Program Administrators
- Business Managers
- School Board Members
- Transportation Directors
- Negotiators
- Attorneys
- School Finance Advocates
- Bargaining Unit Representatives

The information included in *Revenue and Revenue Limits* is especially helpful as a reference to understand how options to address the current state fiscal crisis are constrained or influenced by past funding decisions. In addition, with history as our window to the future, you can gather ideas for ways to ensure revenue is maximized in times such as they are now.

**\$59.95 per copy, plus local sales tax and \$5 postage and handling per book.**

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### Why This Year’s Edition is a “Must Read”

**Proposition 98** more than ever is at the heart of school funding. The 2009 Edition discusses the ups and downs of Proposition 98 funding for 2008-09, along with a recent forecast for the future showing a potential conflict between higher funding required under Proposition 98 but huge state budget shortfalls.

**Charter Schools** are a growing segment of public education. New in this year’s edition is a comprehensive description of the laws and funding available for charter schools. As a growing number of districts and county offices of education are in a position to sponsor charter schools, it’s important to understand how they came to be and the way funding works.

**Special Education Funding** was again a major disappointment in 2008-09, since it received less than the full statutory COLA under the recent bifurcation of COLA and growth funding. The Special Education chapter explains what happened and why this problem will continue in future years unless correcting legislation is enacted. This chapter also has new recommendations for multi-agency SELPAs on how to deal with the COLA and growth funding shortfalls, plus other suggestions for implementing a fair allocation model.

**Managing Categorical Programs** remains important even in a year without a COLA. Accountability requirements continue to draw focus to student achievement. Learn about how school finance has been influenced by No Child Left Behind and the Public School Accountability Act. In addition, we offer tips to effectively manage resources in light of the standards for student achievement.

# 2009 Edition of *Revenues and Revenue Limits: A Guide to School Finance in California*



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