



CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

**TOM TORLAKSON**

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

February 29, 2016

Dear County and District Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, and Principals:

**CALIFORNIA EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT OPPORTUNITY  
FOR YOUR PARENTS AND TEACHERS**

I am excited to let you know about a statewide campaign I am sponsoring with other state leaders to help 600,000 families across the state of California. CalEITC4Me is a statewide campaign to spread awareness of the first-ever state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to benefit California's working families, increase use of the federal EITC, increase the availability of free tax preparation services locally, and ensure that the credit winds up in the hands of those who worked hard to earn it.

As you know firsthand, many families across the state struggle to earn enough to support the rising costs of housing, health care, and childcare needs; this in turn affects each child's opportunity for success inside and outside the classroom. My hope is that by supporting this campaign we can help our neediest families thrive and support the millions of school children who currently face poverty. By reaching into your communities and schools, you can be an important resource for families that may not be aware of the California EITC.

We know that the more people who talk about the EITC, the more likely we are to reach eligible filers who can claim it! As an important point of contact for families and communities, there is a huge role for you to play. Here's how you can help:

- Connect your community to the CalEITC4Me Web site at <http://caleitc4me.org/get-it/> for valuable information about the EITC, including online tools for helping determine eligibility and guidance regarding where people can file their taxes for free. Send a letter to your list-serves to help connect families to local Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites and reminding them they could qualify for free service.
- Include the CalEITC4Me Web site, <http://caleitc4me.org/get-it/>, when distributing your communication materials, newsletters, social media, and annual training programs on child abuse identification and reporting procedures.

If you have any questions please contact Briana Mullen, Special Assistant to the State Superintendent, by phone at 916-319-0617 or by e-mail at [bmullen@cde.ca.gov](mailto:bmullen@cde.ca.gov).

Thank you for joining me in committing to help lift up California's families.

Sincerely,

Tom Torlakson

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