

## **AB 263 Public College Preparatory Boarding School Talking Points**

1. AB 263 proposes to establish two state, federal and (temporarily) privately funded public college preparatory boarding schools (PCPBS) for disadvantaged children in grades 6 through 12. The purpose for this legislation is to deter the proliferation of a welfare-dependent populace by placing "at-risk" children in a monitored environment conducive to academic achievement and appropriate preparation for independent living.
2. The government's job is to *support* the parents' education of their children, not do it for them. If a child is failing in school, it is the responsibility of the parent(s) to correct them, not the government. AB 263 is stripping the parents of their rightful responsibility to their children and allowing the government to assume a role they ought not to have.
3. There are, unfortunately, some instances where parents are not meeting the physical and emotional needs of a child. Even in this instance, it is not necessary that the child be placed in a government-run institution. There are reputable privately-run organizations that are capable of providing the support needed to ensure the child's healthy physical and emotional development.
4. Among the scholastic indicators for a child to be eligible for a state boarding school is "living with a family in which the head of the household does not have a diploma of graduation from high school, or in which no parent or legal guardian has a college degree, or both." A parent's lack of a high school or college degree is hardly sufficient cause for their child to be removed from their care. Knowledge does not necessarily confer wisdom, and while the former is certainly desirable and a goal worthy of earnest pursuit, it is the latter that takes children and raises them into responsible, independent adults. A parent's lack of a formal degree does not make him or her incapable of providing assistance with academics and loving encouragement to his or her child.