



The Superintendent of Public Instruction

leads the California Department of Education, which oversees the work done in schools, colleges and universities throughout the state. The SPI plays a number of roles in advocating for students and educators. *Here are just a few:*

As influencer

The SPI influences on policy decisions that impact our schools and colleges every day, from school funding and standard, to textbooks and school safety.

As representative

The SPI represents educators' and students' interest:

- as secretary of the State Board of Education, the SPI executes the policies of the State Board and also drafts regulations and academic standards;
- as an ex officio member of CalSTRS;
- on the UC Regents and the CSU Board of Trustees;
- as a voting member of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing; and
- a member of the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence.

As advocate

The SPI takes positions on bills and draws attention to issues like funding and standardized testing. Most recently, the SPI also supported legislation that eliminated standardized testing as *the* measurement of student performance.

As implementor

The SPI develops programs to address critical matters like the severe teacher shortage in California and promoting biliteracy in our schools and colleges.

As cheerleader

Throughout the year, **the SPI recognizes exemplary educators** for their commitment and achievements that make our schools better for all students.

California needs a leader that values public education, educators and our diverse student population. **TONY THURMOND IS THIS LEADER!** He understands what's at stake and will stand up to those seeking to privatize our schools and hamper our right To collectively bargain better working and learning conditions.

Learn more about Tony and other friends of public education at cta.org/campaign.



Education background:

Thurmond is a graduate and former student body president of Temple University. He did his graduate work at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, where he received dual master's degrees in law and social policy and social work.

Family:

Born in Monterey, California, Thurmond lives in Richmond and is the proud parent of two daughters in the public schools. They're a constant inspiration, he says, and a reminder about the promise of our neighborhood schools to provide the strong future that every child deserves.