

State Schools Chief Tom Torlakson Sworn in for Second Term

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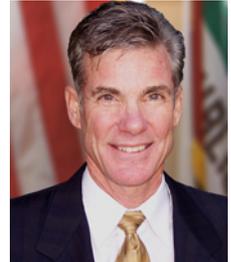
State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson outlined his ambitious "Agenda for Excellence" for the next four years as he was sworn in for his second term as chief of California's public school system and leader of the California Department of Education. The swearing in ceremony took place at the California Department of Education in Sacramento.

"During my first term, we have begun transforming education in California by providing a world-class education for all students from early childhood to adulthood," said Torlakson. "But more work needs to be done. For my second term, I want to transform our system to one known far and wide for its excellence."

Torlakson, California's 27th state schools chief, said that schools have made significant progress during his first term, including achieving a record high school graduation rate of 80 percent.

Torlakson outlined his plans to work together with teachers, parents, administrators, classified employees, community leaders, and business leaders, to achieve excellence in California's educational system. He seeks to do this by:

- Continuing to exert independent and strong leadership;
- [Supporting teachers](#) to help them become the best educators they can be;
- Developing an accountability system based on broad measures;
- Implementing the [Local Control Funding Formula](#) that brings spending decisions to local communities, and rigorous new English, mathematics, and science standards;
- Updating his [A Blueprint For Great Schools](#) initiative to guide the pursuit of education excellence in the next four years;
- Continuing to meet the needs of all children, including nutritional, health, and mental health needs.
- Expanding [career education programs](#) that bring together high schools, community colleges, and businesses together to prepare students for college and careers; and
- Maintaining and increasing investment in our schools, including allowing voters to decide whether to continue Proposition 30 or a similar measure, and providing more funds for school facilities.



State Superintendent
of Public Instruction,
Tom Torlakson