GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER HAS SIGNED INTO LAW HISTORIC REFORMS THAT WILL TRANSFER FUNDING CONTROL AWAY FROM THE BUREAUCRACY IN SACRAMENTO AND INCREASE FLEXIBILITY FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES. AB 825 SHIFTS SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS FROM THE STATE LEVEL TO THE LOCAL LEVEL BY THE CONSOLIDATION OF 26 EXISTING CATEGORICAL PROGRAMS, INTO 6 BLOCK GRANTS, WHICH REDUCES THE BUREAUCRATIC RED TAPE IN FUNDING FOR A TOTAL OF \$1.8 BILLION. EACH COMMUNITY BECOMES EMPOWERED TO ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF THEIR CHILDREN WITHOUT BUREAUCRATIC IMPEDIMENT. EDUCATION SECRETARY RICHARD RIORDAN DESCRIBED IT AS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION FUNDING REFORMS IN RECENT HISTORY.