



CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

**TOM TORLAKSON**

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

April 6, 2016

Dear County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:

### **THE GREAT CALIFORNIA SHAKEOUT**

I encourage you to meet your school or district earthquake drill requirements by participating in this year's Great California ShakeOut on October 20, 2016. (Drills can be held on another day if necessary.) The first step is to renew or register your school or district today on the Great California ShakeOut Web page at <http://www.shakeout.org/california>.

The ShakeOut is designed to provide a sense of urgency about earthquakes and to encourage people, organizations, schools, and communities to get prepared, to practice what to do to be safe, and to learn how to enhance existing plans. The ShakeOut began in California in 2008 and has become a global event, with 43.9 million participants worldwide in 2015.

Last year, more than 10.5 million Californians practiced "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" and other safety procedures as part of the ShakeOut drill. Students and staff in more than 480 districts, 390 charter schools, and 490 private schools accounted for 6.4 million of these participants. Broad school participation inspires businesses, organizations, government agencies, and individuals throughout the state to participate.

Registered participants will be given detailed information for their drills. The California Department of Education (CDE) has worked with many partners to create age-appropriate resources for planning drills, promoting participation, teaching about earthquakes and preparedness, and educating families. You can find these resources on the ShakeOut "How Schools Can Participate" Web page at <http://www.shakeout.org/california/schools>.

The ShakeOut is organized by the Earthquake Country Alliance. Members include the CDE, Southern California Earthquake Center, U.S. Geological Survey, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, American Red Cross, California Earthquake Authority, California Institute of Technology, University of Southern California, county offices of education, and many others.

If you have any questions regarding the Great California ShakeOut, please contact Mark Benthien, Executive Director, Earthquake Country Alliance, by phone at 213-740-3262 or by e-mail at [info@shakeout.org](mailto:info@shakeout.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Torlakson".

Tom Torlakson

TT:nz  
2016-02338