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BayBio: More math, science teachers needed

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California's future as a biotech hub may be at risk without a statewide strategy to attract and retain math and science teachers.

Finding a solution to that problem is part of biotech industry trade group [w BayBio](#)'s call for legislative action this year.

In its annual "BayBio: Impact" report, the organization also calls on the state to continue funding employment training panel programs, enact a manufacturing policy that includes fast-track permitting, and support the [w University of California](#), [w California State University](#) and community college systems

The report comes as state government wrestles with a \$20 billion to \$21 billion budget deficit, resulting in cuts to education, transportation, social and a host of other programs. It also is on the heels of a successful legislative year for the biotech industry, namely a new way to figure [corporate tax liability](#) and repelled a challenge to revoke that measure.

In press materials, BayBio did not say how much the initiative would cost or how they could be funded.

"BayBio challenges California's leadership to pledge support for the life sciences community through legislation, regulation and support for state-level investment, particularly policies which support science education," BayBio acting CEO Gail Maderis said in a press release.

"Promoting investment in the biotech innovation economy is rightfully a main concern, but it's a shame to lose the fruits of that research just as the industry matures into an economic beacon of growth," Maderis said.

California's life sciences industry has helped turn out 1,754 products, according to BayBio with another 233 pending treatment, technologies and cures. Those in-progress products equate to more than \$50 billion in investments in jobs, facilities and equipment in the "immediate future," according to BayBio's report.

Northern California life sciences employment reached nearly 130,000 in 2008, according to BayBio, up from about 110,000 in 2003.

