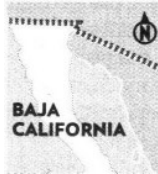


BAJA CALIFORNIA

Group urges state to fire non-teachers



Representatives of the Employers Federation of Mexico (Coparmex) in Baja California have asked for the immediate dismissal of 39,222 employees of Mexico's

public school system who are listed as teachers and paid a teacher's salary but don't work with students.

According to the recent Census of Schools, Teachers and Students in Basic Education, conducted by the National Statistics, Geography and Information Institute (Inegi), there are 978,188 teachers in Mexico's public and private schools. Of these, 39,222 do not work in classrooms and it's unknown what their job duties entail. Another 30,695 teachers have been commissioned for special projects or are on leave, 113,259 work outside of the classroom and 114,998 have retired or passed away but they or a family member still continue receiving their salary on top of their pension.

Gustavo Fernández de León, president of the Tijuana chapter of the Coparmex, said that no one connected with education receiving a teacher's salary should be outside the classroom, adding that unions should pay their employees themselves, instead of putting them on the government payroll.

Fernández de León said that while the government spends a lot on education, very little of it reaches the classroom because of the high number of teachers on the payroll who don't actually give any classes.

"The process is simple: Teachers who don't work in the classroom shouldn't be paid and we can use that as a starting point to clean up the system," he said. "I feel that many things are going to start coming up, and our appeal is that this is immediately done in Baja California... we need to do our duty and start paying teachers by electronic bank deposits, which would allow us to do away with these fake teachers."

THE NEWS

