



# San Diego Unified School District

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## Government Relations

### The Governor's Budget Cuts – Impact on San Diego Unified School District

San Diego Unified School District has a strong record of student achievement. In 2007, we were the only urban school district in California to achieve all of our Adequate Yearly Progress targets under No Child Left Behind. This year, we are striving to achieve even higher targets under NCLB.

The Governor's proposed budget would require San Diego Unified School District to slash almost \$80 million from our budget. California's schools are already among the lowest funded in the nation. The governor's proposal to suspend Proposition 98 would cripple our efforts to provide all of our students with a quality education and reduce the achievement gap. We believe that all options should be considered to avoid these draconian cuts. Among the options that were presented by district staff to the SDUSD Board of Trustees to achieve the Governor's \$80 million in reductions to SDUSD:

- Cut the district's central office by 20%. Among the hundreds of personnel impacted by these proposed cuts are managers, custodians and landscapers. Under these proposals, the cleaning and landscaping of schools would occur on a reduced basis.
- Proposed program and school-level cuts would result in over 1500 layoff notices to certificated school staff, including principals, vice principals, teachers, counselors and librarians. Hundreds of elementary school teachers are included in these proposed reductions in staffing. A disproportionate number of impacted teachers are in their first three years of teaching. Specific proposals include:
  - Placing principals in charge of two sites
  - Dramatically reducing the number of vice principals
  - Eliminating class-size reduction at third grade
  - Increasing class sizes in grades 4-12
  - Increasing Gifted and Talented Program (GATE) classroom sizes
  - Reducing the numbers of teachers allocated to middle and high schools
  - Reducing the number of librarians and school nurses
  - Reducing the number of counselors at the elementary, middle and high school levels
  - Cutting the number of special education teachers, counselors and paraprofessionals
- In total, over 1000 certificated and 1000 classified positions in SDUSD could potentially be impacted by the Governor's budget.

These proposed cuts are clearly unsustainable. They would result in the irrevocable loss of talented administrators, teachers and staff and dramatically impact the quality of educational programs in our schools. We are strongly opposed to the suspension of Proposition 98 and believe that the Governor and the legislature should work together to ensure that funding for public education is protected. We also stress the need for an early solution rather than a budget battle that lasts into the late summer and fall. Young, energetic teachers are a resource California cannot afford to lose.