



San Diego Unified School District

EUGENE BRUCKER EDUCATION CENTER
4100 Normal Street, San Diego, CA 92103-2682

William A. Kowba
Interim Superintendent

February 7, 2008

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As we begin developing the budget for the 2008-09 school year, we face a challenging road ahead. Budget decisions will need to involve all of us – parents, staff, board members and the community – so we continue to do what’s best for our children and our schools.

Many of you have seen the headlines about the ‘fiscal emergency’ evolving in California. Governor Schwarzenegger’s proposed budget calls for dramatic reductions in state services and programs, including hundreds of millions of dollars of cuts in education *this year*, and a \$4.4 billion decrease for *next year*. We join school districts throughout California in looking for ways to remain fiscally responsible with minimal impact on classrooms and students.

The pressures on our 2008-09 budget will be tied to several factors including:

- Anticipated impact of the Governor’s proposed cuts,
- Decreases in Title I funding and other federal grants,
- Reductions in the state’s funding for specific "categorical" programs,
- New “rules” for distributing "categorical" funds,
- Rising costs in many areas of school operations,
- Maintenance of employee salary schedules, and
- Increasing costs of health and welfare benefits.

Preliminary projections indicate that we may have to reduce spending by approximately \$70 million. We have already made changes at the central office to reduce or curb spending this year. Additionally, every central office department has been asked to develop scenarios for 10-15% cuts across the board. We are also looking at ways to trim centrally-funded programs with the least amount of impact on our students.

The magnitude of the potential reductions will likely go beyond the central office. We are asking employees and you, our parents, to offer ideas for reducing costs and increasing revenues. All ideas are welcome and all will be considered. To learn more, please visit www.sandi.net/budget . This webpage includes information about how school district budgets are developed, the timeline involved, and a place where you can submit your ideas online.

We appreciate and need your continued support in carefully managing the resources available to support the ongoing success of our students and teachers. I will continue to keep you informed about our budget planning efforts while adjusting to new information from the state.

Thank you again for your efforts in making a difference in the lives of children.

Sincerely,

William A. Kowba
Interim Superintendent