



Alameda Unified School District
Excellence & Equity For All Students

Superintendent's Office
Ardella Dailey, Superintendent
2200 Central Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501
Ph: 510.337.7060
Fax: 510.522.6926

February 15, 2008

Dear Neighbor,

As you have no doubt heard, the State is currently struggling to fill a \$14.5 billion budget deficit.

As a result, the Governor is proposing significant cuts to education – in excess of \$400 million this year, and another \$4.4 billion next year.

The Alameda Unified School District relies on state funding for over 80% of our revenue. Thus, the state budget crisis will have a significant and real impact on our neighborhood elementary schools, middle schools and high schools.

The Board of Education and Superintendent have a responsibility to balance the District's budget and keep our schools fiscally solvent. Our estimates show that we will face a \$4.5 million reduction in state funding for the 2007-2008 school year. We must act now to make significant cuts or find a new source of revenue for our schools.

Over the last seven years, the District has already cut \$7.7 million from the budget – over \$1.4 million just in the last year. We have cut back administrators and non-teaching staff to the bare minimum. We did this to minimize the impact of cuts on classroom instruction.

Combined, these cuts represent a 14% reduction in the District's budget.

Unless we are able to generate additional revenue, we have no choice but to begin making cuts that *will* impact classroom instruction. This will mean teacher layoffs, larger class sizes and reductions in valued educational programs. In addition, we may have to consolidate and close school sites, eliminate school sports, music and art education. This would roll our schools back to the minimum academic functions required by law. This would have a devastating impact on the quality of our schools and the quality of life in Alameda.

Our local Board of Education is currently looking at a series of proposed cuts and options for bringing additional funds to the District. One option is to ask local voters to approve an emergency parcel tax that would allow us to retain teachers and support staff and preserve essential educational programs.

I will be writing to you again soon with an update on the District's budget options. In the meantime, if you have any comments or suggestions, please write to me at the District Office or e-mail me at superintendent@alameda.k12.ca.us.

Thank you for your continued support of our teachers and students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ardella Dailey'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature, the name 'Ardella Dailey' and the title 'Superintendent' are printed in a standard black font.

Ardella Dailey
Superintendent