



Alameda County Office of Education

Sheila Jordan
Superintendent

R. Michael Lenahan
Associate Superintendent
Business Services

Rick Minnis
Chief Human Resources Officer

Bobbie Brooks
Assistant Superintendent
Educational Services

John Flores
Assistant Superintendent
Student Programs and Services

July 25, 2003

The Honorable John Burton
President Pro Tempore
California State Senate
P.O. Box 942848
Sacramento, CA 94248-0001

RE: Budget Item # 6440-001-001-22

Dear Senator Burton:

I understand that the legislature is considering eliminating \$6.6 million from the budget of the Digital California Project (DCP). The DCP has already taken a 33% cut over the last two years and will not be able to absorb this cut. The reliability, speed and capacity of the DCP network is extremely helpful to K-12 schools, districts and county offices of education. Therefore, I am writing to urge you to oppose this budget reduction and fund the DCP at its current level.

Since its original appropriation in the 2000-01 state budget, the DCP network has made great strides. Fifty-six of California's fifty-eight counties are already connected to the DCP. Over 71 % of California's schools, serving over 4 million students, and 82 percent of the district offices are connected. Now that the network is largely in place, K-12 teachers, students and administrative staff are starting to benefit from the access to new learning resources. For example, efforts are underway to launch online professional development programs for teachers to save time and travel, and to provide teachers with flexibility regarding when they access such resources. These types of services enabled by the network will help educators adjust to the budget reductions in many areas.

Senator, even in difficult budget years, DCP is a sound investment that makes sense. Without DCP, education would be on the wrong side of the Digital Divide (now known as the "Opportunity Divide"). The ability to access, use and adapt to the tools of our time is now a necessary skill set for academic and career success. This was behind the vision of the creation of the DCP. Please continue to enable this vision by supporting its full funding in the upcoming state budget. This expenditure represents a small investment with countless dividends for California's future.

Sincerely,

Sheila Jordan
Alameda County Superintendent of Schools

SJ/DP/scm

2003-04
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Enrique Palacios
President

Yvonne Cerrato
Vice-President

Ernest Avellar
Member

Gay Pleir Cobb
Member

Felix Elizalde
Member

Gail Jones
Member

Jacki Fox Ruby
Member

313 W. Winton Ave.
Hayward, California
94544-1198

(510) 887-0152

www.acoe.k12.ca.us

