



# Alameda County Office of Education

Shella 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

December 10, 2002

Honorable Gray Davis  
Governor of California  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Message from Superintendents for Consideration in Special Session

Dear Governor Davis:

I am writing on behalf of the district superintendents in Alameda County concerned about proposed cuts in education. We urge legislators to take a serious look at tax legislation that raises revenues and reduces the severity of cuts to education.

If the cuts go too deep, we not only lose the progress we have made, but we destabilize and impede our ability to maintain safe learning environments. Furthermore, it will be extremely difficult for school districts to implement additional budget reductions when approximately 85% of our district budgets are in annually contracted salaries and benefits.

Finally, we ask that during these extraordinary times, legislation reflects our need for flexibility in the K-12 education budget. The following are budget adjustments Governor Davis and the legislature should consider:

- Flexibility in all categorical funding, except Special Education. Place all categorical funds into a block grant and let local districts determine the best use of these funds; i.e. SIP, Miller-Unruh, Morgan-Hart, instructional materials, library, etc.
- Federal Special Ed funds should be rebated to local districts.
- Delay implementation of any new initiatives (new mandates with reduced funding are overwhelming).
- Provide flexibility in mandatory reserve requirements.
- Waive or eliminate the deferred maintenance match.
- Provide flexibility in class-size within the Class Size Reduction Program.

2003-04  
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- Reduce the amount of required standardized testing (which is labor intensive and expensive).

We appreciate your hard work in these very difficult times. We will continue to work with you to resolve these complex issues.

Sincerely,

Sheila Jordan, County Superintendent  
On Behalf of District Superintendents in Alameda County

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