



San Diego County Office of Education Main Campus  
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May 19, 2020

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
Senate President Pro Tempore  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations  
Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Tasha Boerner  
Horvath  
California State Assembly Member  
State Capitol, Room 4130  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Patricia Bates  
California State Senator  
State Capitol, Room 3048  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Shirley Weber  
California State Assembly  
Member  
State Capitol, Room 3123  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Marie Waldron  
California State Assembly Member  
State Capitol, Room 3104  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Brian Jones  
California State Senator  
State Capitol, Room 4088  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Todd Gloria  
California State Assembly  
Member  
State Capitol, Room 2176  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Randy Voepel  
California State Assembly Member  
State Capitol, Room 4009  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Ben Hueso  
California State Senator  
State Capitol, Room 4035  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Brian  
Maienschein  
California State Assembly  
Member  
State Capitol, Room 2170  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Response to the Governor's 2020-21 May Revise**

San Diego County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paul Gothold

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San Diego County Board of Education  
Paulette Donnellon    Guadalupe González    Alicia Muñoz    Mark Powell    Rick Shea

Dear Senators and Assembly Members,

Over two months ago, schools across California quickly closed campuses and shifted learning to an online environment in response to the coronavirus pandemic. We undertook this shift to protect the health and safety of our students, staff, and the communities we serve and to contribute to the flattening of the curve. In the same way, we urge that the health and safety of our students, staff, and communities remain a top priority. Reopening our schools for in-classroom instruction will require more – **not less** – resources to ensure and sustain proper implementation of public health guidance. We are asking the Legislature to consider the long-lasting impacts of deep cuts in education to the future of our children, our communities, and the economy. We must stand together in the effort to prompt action from our nation's leaders in Washington, DC to address the catastrophic economic impacts of COVID-19 for states and schools, but we must also have a plan to protect the most crucial variable for economic recovery – the viability of our public schools. We urge the Legislature to focus carefully on finding alternatives to the deepest cuts to public education we have ever seen in a single year. The cuts outlined in the Governor's May Revision will completely undermine the ability we have to reopen schools regardless of prospective state approvals and clearance from local public health officials.

We have a moral obligation to our students and the community to open our schools only if we can provide meaningful educational opportunities in a safe environment. While there are important bright spots in this budget that deserve to be acknowledged, they are overshadowed by the most profound cuts our schools have ever seen. Since closing, our school districts have experienced increased costs and fiscal pressures in a variety of areas including:

- New costs related to the shift to online distance learning
- New costs to address learning loss with summer learning and an early reopening
- Cuts to school districts that hamper our ability to sustain our operations

The challenge of reopening and the proposed budget have now become linked because financial resources are essential to our capacity to make it all work. We think you would agree that as much as we all want to reopen, we cannot risk the health and safety of our students and staff by returning prematurely and without sufficient resources from the state and federal governments to accommodate their physical needs. Since the start of the coronavirus crisis, schools have responded heroically to the needs of our communities. All of these things require districts to incur new and significant expenses.

The idea that schools can continue to operate safely in the fall with a budget that has been slashed by the state simply does not reflect the current reality. Our schools are shouldering new responsibilities which we do not take lightly but require the full support and funding to guarantee the health and safety of our students.

Among the additional costs that in-classroom instruction schools will face are the following:

- Social distancing requirements that could result in severely reduced class sizes at a ratio of 12:1 versus current class sizes that can well exceed 30:1
- Need for additional classrooms and the teachers to staff them
- Added nurses to be able to monitor student and staff health
- Added counselors to help students recover from the trauma of the current crisis
- Personal protective equipment to allow staff to work safely
- Increased cleaning costs to allow for complete disinfection of school sites
- Increased transportation costs due to the need for social distancing on school busses
- Increased school nutrition and meal costs

This is the time to find a way to do the extraordinary things necessary to deliver on the promise of a great education for every child enrolled in a public school. Moving forward in this pandemic will require partnership and collaboration to reopen the economy in a way that ensures the health and safety of California's students.

Sincerely,



Dr. Paul Gothold  
San Diego County Superintendent of Schools



Jodee Brentlinger  
Solana Beach School District



Erica Balakian  
Lemon Grove School District



Mark Burroughs  
San Pasqual Union School District



Kristin Baranski  
Santee School District



Liz Bystedt  
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Dr. Leighangela Brady  
National School District



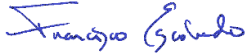
Dr. Benjamin Churchill  
Carlsbad Unified School District



Dr. Matt Doyle  
Vista Unified School District



Dr. Robert Haley  
San Dieguito Union High School District



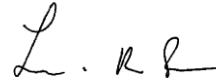
Dr. Francisco Escobedo  
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Julian Union High School District



David Feliciano  
La Mesa-Spring Valley School District



Dr. Luis Ibarra  
Escondido Union School District



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San Marcos Unified School District



Dr. Karen Janney  
Sweetwater Union High School District



Ilsa Garza-Gonzalez  
Fallbrook Union High School District



Dr. Tim Glover  
Grossmont Union High School District



Dr. Andy Johnsen  
Lakeside Union School District



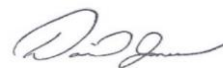
Theresa Grace  
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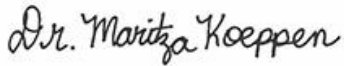


David Jones  
Bonsall Unified School District

Response to the Governor's 2020-21 May Revise  
May 19, 2020



Dr. Marian Kim-Phelps  
Poway Unified School District



Dr. Maritza Koeppen  
Vallecitos School District



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Warner Unified School District



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Karl Mueller  
Coronado Unified School District



Dr. Richard Newman  
Alpine Union School District



Dr. Gina Potter  
San Ysidro School District



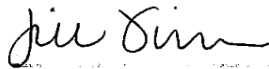
Dr. Candace Singh  
Fallbrook Union Elementary School District



Dr. Anne Staffieri  
Escondido Union High School District

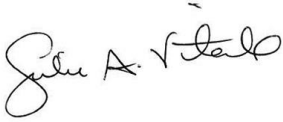


Donna Tripi  
Rancho Santa Fe School District



Jill Vinson  
Cardiff School District

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May 19, 2020



Dr. Julie Vitale  
Oceanside Unified School District



Julie Weaver  
Spencer Valley School District

CC: Honorable Tony Thurmond, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Linda Darling-Hammond, President, State Board of Education  
Karen Stapf Walters, Executive Director, State Board of Education  
Ben Chida, Chief Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Governor's Office  
Keely Martin Bosler, Director of Finance  
Jeff Bell, Education Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance  
Jessica Holmes, Assistant Education Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance  
Jennifer Johnson, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office  
Stephanie Gregson, Chief Deputy Superintendent, California Department of Education  
Lisa Constancio, Deputy Superintendent, California Department of Education