Date

Senator/Assemblymember NAME

State of California

State Capitol

Sacramento, CA 95814

Your Name

Address

City, CA ZIP code

Dear Senator/Assemblymember LAST NAME,

I am a parent in the San Marcos Unified School District, and I am writing to urge you to prioritize funding for public education in the 2020–21 budget as we continue to battle this pandemic. Reopening our schools is key to reopening our economy, but California’s schools will not be able to provide a safe and successful learning environment for every student without the necessary funding.

Gov. Gavin Newsom’s May Revision of the state budget proposal reflects California’s $54 billion budget deficit, resulting in a 10 percent cut to the Local Control Funding Formula, a $19 billion decline in Proposition 98 and other reductions in education spending that make it difficult, if not impossible, to reopen schools safely and effectively for the 2020–21 school year. It is imperative that preservation of funding for schools (including appropriations in the current year and those appropriated in 2020–21) be a top priority for the Legislature and the Administration, and that this funding be as unrestricted and as flexible as possible.

Specifically, we are respectfully advocating for the following.

* An increase in state funding to the Local Control Funding Formula which will assist us in maintaining the great programs at San Marcos Unified School District.
* A reallocation of the proposed $4.4 billion CARES Act funding to benefit all students in California and allow the funding to be used for current programs and operations, rather than new State mandates and requirements.
* Rejection of the Governor's proposed cuts to career-technical education (CTE) funding.
* Support the Governor's proposal regarding STRS/PERS relief.

In addition, we support the education funding proposed by the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee. We implore the Assembly Budget Committee to follow the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee by placing a high emphasis on education funding in the 2020-21 state budget.

Schools remain an essential service as we fight COVID-19, and every existing resource we have is being devoted to serving our students in distance learning, meal distribution and other services. Increased academic, social-emotional, and physical supports for students, educators and families will be needed for the 2020-21 school year. Additional funding is crucial as these services all come with significant costs.

Our schools are eager to get back to the work of educating our students, and we must do this in a way that positions our students for success and respects the health and safety of our students, staff and community.

Thank you for your leadership and for making public education a top priority as we fight COVID-19 and look to reopen our state.

Sincerely,

Your name