



MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
JAMES W. DENT EDUCATION CENTER  
1936 Carlotta Drive  
Concord, California 94519-1358  
(925) 682-8000, ext. 4000

OFFICE OF  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

## D R A F T

April 22, 2019

Dear Mt. Diablo Unified School District Community,

As advocates for public education, we are compelled to communicate with you about a dire funding crisis for our schools. You may be aware that California public education funding is determined by what we know as Proposition 98, which requires that a defined percentage of the state budget be committed to education. Unfortunately, funding to that threshold has California ranking among the lowest twenty percent of states in per pupil funding. As a result most districts in California are struggling to keep their budgets balanced while also providing quality education for all students.

Over the past several years, Mt. Diablo Unified was able to expand services, add positions, and improve student to staff ratios as the State budget finally included paying school districts money owed under Proposition 98 from previous years and to finally meet the required threshold last year. You may have heard that schools are now “fully funded” under Proposition 98. However this year’s funding is the equivalent of what was received in 2008-2009, with no mechanism or assurances for increased funding going forward. It is pretty simple math – as costs go up each year, we lose ground. While we strive to provide the range of resources and supports we know students need, it is evident that we are confronted with a structural problem that cannot be solved at the local level. The Proposition 98 requirement should be seen as a ‘floor’ not a ‘ceiling.’ California being 41<sup>st</sup> in the nation on how much we spend per pupil just does not make sense!

While each of the education stakeholder groups clearly articulate and advocate for what they believe are the most critical uses of local funds in our district to support student learning and outcomes, we all understand that the ultimate solution is for the State of California to prioritize public education and bring California to the level it should be in per pupil funding. While policy makers in Sacramento hear from our various professional organizations about the fiscal crisis, they need to hear from more constituents to truly understand its seriousness.

Our ask is quite simple – please write, email or call your state representatives to let them know the painful reality of the fiscal constraints and reductions occurring in Mt. Diablo Unified School District and districts across the State. Let them know that it is time to move California to the top in the nation in per pupil funding. We believe that a quantity of letters, emails and calls can truly help them understand that our communities do value their local schools.

***California students deserve it! The future of California depends on it!***

This website has many great resources for understanding the funding crisis facing our California public schools:<http://www.fullandfairfunding.org>

Here are our representatives' addresses and phone numbers. You can also go to their websites (Googling works) and use their online form for sending an email.

Senate District 7: parts of Concord and Walnut Creek

Senator Steve Glazer  
State Capitol Room 5108  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 651-4007

Senator Steve Glazer  
51 Moraga Way Suite 2  
Orinda, CA 94563  
(925) 258-1176

Senate District 3: Martinez, Pleasant Hill

Senator Bill Dodd  
State Capitol Room 4032  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 651-4003

Senator Bill Dodd  
2721 Napa Valley Corporate Drive  
Napa, CA 94558  
(707) 224-1990

Senate District 14: Martinez, Concord, Pleasant Hill, Clayton, parts of Walnut Creek

Assemblymember Tim Grayson  
State Capitol Room 4164  
P.O. Box 942845  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0014  
(916) 319-2014

Assemblymember Tim Grayson  
2151 Salvio Street Suite P  
Concord, CA 94520  
(925) 521-1511

Senate District 16: Parts of Walnut Creek

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan  
State Capitol Room 2130  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0016

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan  
2440 Camino Ramon Suite 345  
San Ramon, CA 94583  
(925) 328-1515

Thank you for your interest in and commitment to public education!

***On behalf of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District Board of Education,***

Joanne Durkee, Board President