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Jonathan P. Raymond, Superintendent

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March 31, 2011 (by email)

Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of Sacramento City Unified School District's 48,000 children and their families, I urge you to resume tax extension negotiations. A recent survey of 4,601 parents and staff in our community shows that 93 percent favor allowing voters to weigh in on this high-stakes matter. Please give them – and all of us in California – the right to decide the level of financial support our state gives its schools.

I have read in the news that negotiations with Republican legislators on your budget proposals have stalled. This is disappointing and distressing. In our district, an "all cuts" state budget would trigger the loss of more than 400 teaching and counseling jobs and the elimination of bus service, summer school, sports, cheerleading, drama, yearbook, marching band and speech and debate.

There is still time for the Legislature to act in the best interest of children. As this is Cesar Chavez Day, it is timely to remember his words: "We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community...Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."

It's time that the leaders of this great state put the interests of children before their own interests. The future of our state depends on it. This must be California's finest hour.

Sincerely,

Jonathan P. Raymond
Superintendent

Cc: Darrell Steinberg, California State Senate President pro Tempore
Bob Dutton, California Senate Minority Leader
David Sanchez, California Teachers Association (CTA)
Bob Wells, Association of California School Administrators (ACSA)
Jeffrey Vaca, California School Boards Association (CSBA)