



David W. Gordon
Superintendent

May 15, 2020

Board of Education

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The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Doris Matsui
U.S. House of Representatives
2311 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kamala Harris
U.S. Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ami Bera
U.S. House of Representatives
1727 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the House “Heroes Act”

Dear Senator Feinstein, Senator Harris, Congresswoman Matsui, and Congressman Bera:

I would like to thank you for all you are doing to support our schools and community during this crisis, specifically for the \$13 billion in aid provided in the CARES Act. This money will help with emergency relief for our students, but we must now request that you work with your colleagues in Congress to provide a second, substantially larger package of critically needed aid for our public schools.

On behalf of the 13 School Districts and 240,000 students in Sacramento County, I strongly urge you to support the House “HEROES ACT,” which would provide nearly \$1 trillion to state, local governments, and school districts. We, of course, are not wedded to every aspect of this proposal, and are open to alternatives that provide similar amounts of aid for the purposes mentioned below.

California schools will face billions of dollars of cuts over the next few years, while also incurring additional expenses related to reopening schools with new safety protocols. At a time of enormous educational, social, and economic disruption for our students and their families, we will be budgeting for cuts of at least many hundreds of dollars per student (tens of thousands of dollars per classroom). We will continue to feed and educate our students no matter what the challenge, and will continue to take extraordinary measures to clean facilities and provide PPE for our staff. But now, more than ever, we need help from Congress.

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Kamala Harris
The Honorable Doris Matsui
The Honorable Ami Bera
May 15, 2020
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Therefore, we respectfully request your support for a fifth coronavirus response package that provides the following:

- **Directing \$500 billion in vitally needed resources for State Fiscal Relief, and \$375 billion for Local Fiscal Relief.** These funds will take pressure off school budgets and help states, cities, and counties with the fiscal impacts from the public health emergency caused by the coronavirus.
- **An additional \$175 billion in federal relief funds for distribution directly to local school systems in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.** This relief would reduce, not eliminate, cuts to teachers and other staff, cuts to educational programs, and cuts to supports for students. The Heroes Act currently includes about \$100 billion for schools.
- **Provide an additional \$13 billion for the increased costs of serving special education students with IEPs during the COVID-19 crisis.** As a separate matter, Congress should direct the Secretary of Education to temporarily waive IDEA regulations and requirements that have little impact on the delivery of services but add significant administrative burdens.
- **Create a \$2 billion fund within the E-Rate program to reimburse schools for increased costs related to connectivity and devices necessary for new learning environments.**
- **Provide \$3 billion in emergency relief funding to ensure that schools are reimbursed for all meals distributed to students and their families during this crisis.** Schools are acting in good faith to make sure students and families in need have access to food, and may not be able to strictly comply with all pre-COVID-19 meal eligibility rules.

Thank you for your consideration and support. These unprecedented times call for decisive action by our leaders at all levels of government. The reality is that reopening our schools for in-classroom instruction will require more – **not less** – resources to ensure and sustain proper implementation of public health guidance. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or want to learn more about how your local schools are serving students and families every day.

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Kamala Harris
The Honorable Doris Matsui
The Honorable Ami Bera
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David W. Gordon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David W. Gordon
Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools

DWG/cjm

cc: Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy
Troy Miller, Superintendent, AUSD
Scott A. Loehr, Superintendent, CJUSD
Christopher R. Hoffman, Superintendent, EGUSD
Dr. Michael D. Borgaard, Superintendent, EJSD
Dr. Sarah Koligian, Superintendent, FCUSD
Dr. Karen Schauer, Superintendent, GJUESD
William Spalding, Superintendent, GJUHSD
Chris Evans, Superintendent, NUSD
Katherine Wright, Superintendent, RDUSD
Ruben Reyes, Superintendent, RSD
Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent, SCUSD
Kent Kern, Superintendent, SJUSD
Dr. Steve Martinez, Superintendent, TRUSD