

We have work to do!

MBUSD is not alone. All California school districts face serious challenges having lost approximately \$1400/student over the last two years. Like MBUSD, most school districts have not yet adjusted their budget to reflect the mid-year cuts made by the legislature in July 2009 (this cut to MBUSD was \$3 million). We are all trying to continue services with one-time funds. Like MBUSD, most districts have to face huge cuts for 2010-11. Many districts are considering options such as removing all “extras”, increasing class sizes, shortening the school year (furlough days), freezing step & column raises (raises for years of services and education), implementing salary cuts, and transferring more health benefit costs to employees.

What can you do to help?

Donate to MBEF. NOW! Thank you very much to all parents who have already made your donations. **THIS FUNDING IS CRITICAL – WE AREN’T TALKING ABOUT EXTRAS ANYMORE.** There is only one appeal this year, and it ends on January 31, 2010. You can pledge now and pay by June 1, 2010. Please consider making the choice to donate to your child’s education. Why not make the commitment to eat out one less time per month, skip getting coffee once a week, forgo one extra outfit, or skip wine with dinner once a week in order to make a difference to our students? We need everyone to donate the amount for which they feel comfortable. Go to MBEF.org to donate on-line.

Continue to advocate for education. Here is our activity for January. Do it now! There is strength in numbers so everyone’s actions count.

Subject line: (replace “children, JT and Kate” with appropriate words for your child(ren))

Education cuts went too deep - let my children, JT and Kate, make a difference to CA!

Body of the email:

**** Cut and paste this section into your own email. ****

Cuts to Education Undermine California’s Future Work Force

Public education creates California’s human infrastructure. Skills required of our future work force are not those of the 1990s. Our students need to be able to think, research, organize, analyze, innovate, create and solve problems. Cuts to education have already compromised necessary training for California’s successful future. Imagine our state’s future budget problems if our students cannot fill the work force demands of California’s industries! The decisions you make now with respect to education will have far-reaching consequences.

**Your Cuts from July 2009 Already Went Too Deep!
Stop Cuts to Education!
Give Us Full Flexibility!
We Need A Fighting Chance to Succeed!**

**** Optional personalization ****

Legislators are MUCH more likely to read personalized emails. We suggest that you include a personalized section after the text above. Have your student comment on their future career aspirations. Then you can comment on the importance to California of your student's aspirations and also on the educational foundation required for your student to achieve their goal. Your story will show them a specific example of why funding education now helps California's future. It doesn't have to take much time. Even a few sentences will help.

**** Your identification info – they ignore emails with incomplete id info ****

Name

Address including zip code

Phone number

**** Email address groupings – you'll be cutting and pasting into three emails ****

California State Senate Education Committee:

Senator.Romero@senate.ca.gov, Senator.Huff@senate.ca.gov, Senator.Alquist@senate.ca.gov,
Senator.Hancock@senate.ca.gov, Senator.Liu@senate.ca.gov,
Senator.Maldonado@senate.ca.gov, Senator.Price@senate.ca.gov,
Senator.Simitian@senate.ca.gov, Senator.Wyland@senate.ca.gov,

California State Assembly Education Committee:

Assemblymember.Brownley@assembly.ca.gov, Assemblymember.Nestande@assembly.ca.gov,
Assemblymember.Ammiano@assembly.ca.gov,
Assemblymember.Arambula@assembly.ca.gov, Assemblymember.Buchanan@assembly.ca.gov,
Assemblymember.Carter@assembly.ca.gov, Assemblymember.Eng@assembly.ca.gov,
Assemblymember.Garrick@assembly.ca.gov, Assemblymember.Miller@assembly.ca.gov,
Assemblymember.Solorio@assembly.ca.gov, Assemblymember.Torlakson@assembly.ca.gov,

Other Important Decision-Makers:

Senator.Oropeza@senate.ca.gov, Assemblymember.Lieu@assembly.ca.gov,
Glen.Thomas@ose.ca.gov, superintendent@cde.ca.gov,
Assemblymember.Chesbro@assembly.ca.gov, Assemblymember.Fuller@assembly.ca.gov,
Assemblymember.Swanson@assembly.ca.gov, Senator.Wright@senate.ca.gov,
Senator.Steinberg@senate.ca.gov, Senator.Hollingsworth@senate.ca.gov,
Assemblymember.Bass@assembly.ca.gov, Assemblymember.Blakeslee@assembly.ca.gov,

You will likely receive some responses to your emails indicating that legislators only respond to their constituents. No problem. We don't need a response; we need them to stop voting for cuts to education. We need them to enact full flexibility.

If you'd like to do more to help, email ediebabbe@aol.com putting "MBUSD advocacy" in the subject line. Thanks!