



Office of the Mayor

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VIA EMAIL: ExternalAffairs@gov.ca.gov

Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Proposed funding cuts to public education

Dear Governor Newsom:

As we prepare our City for a safe and gradual economic reopening, I am repeatedly being asked by Moreno Valley residents if their children will be back in school this fall. They are concerned about the quality of their children's education, and also about their own freedom to go back to work knowing their children are safe. The budget cuts to Pre-K-12 education proposed in the May Revision, I believe, would make it much less likely that children will be able to return to school anytime soon, thus also jeopardizing our City's economic recovery.

The currently unstoppable spread of coronavirus – and the as-yet not fully understood short- and long-term effects of the virus on children's health – has unavoidably increased the cost of public education.

During my many years as a teacher, I experienced firsthand the benefits of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). Targeting funds to the students most in need of intervention and additional help is an important part of the reason Val Verde Unified School District (VVUSD), which serves part of Moreno Valley, has so improved student academic achievement and its graduation rate. In the current situation, which requires educators to completely reexamine the way education can and should be provided, sustaining those impressive academic gains, let alone continuing to build upon them, will require a greater state investment in our public schools for the long term. As it stands, if Pre-K-12 budget cuts are enacted as proposed, VVUSD projects a loss of approximately \$21 million. This would hurt students.

As evidenced by the fact that investment in education accounts for more than 50 percent of the current state budget, it is clearly understood that education is crucial to California's successful future. The pandemic has now made it critical to our state's economic recovery. I urge you to reconsider such drastic funding cuts to education and Val Verde Unified School District.

Respectfully,



Dr. Yxstian Gutierrez
Mayor
City of Moreno Valley

c: Senator Richard D. Roth, Tyler.Madary@sen.ca.gov
Assemblymember Jose Medina, Rita.medina@asm.ca.gov
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