



FULLERTON JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Office of the Superintendent

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March 28, 2024

Dear FJUHS D Students, Staff, Parents and Community,

We hope everyone is doing well and is refreshed and rejuvenated following our recent spring recess. As we prepare for the final nine weeks of the school year, we would like to provide an update pertaining to recent developments in the fiscal landscape within California, and its potential implications to the Fullerton Joint Union High School District (FJUHS D).

In our ongoing commitment to transparency and informed discourse, it is important to address the reports surrounding the projected budget shortfall in California for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Historically, the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) issues a preliminary forecast in the fall to the state assembly and senate, and the Governor uses the Department of Finance projections as the foundation for the Governor's budget proposal in January. This cycle informs the potential expansion or contraction of state-funded initiatives, including public education. Recent projections from both the LAO and the Governor's office indicate a projected multi-billion-dollar shortfall, which understandably raises concerns about funding for K-12 education.

The ramifications of these projections and the ongoing deliberations in Sacramento have led to some local discussions about the possibility of potential staffing and programmatic adjustments in various school districts. During our recent School Board meeting in March, our Board of Trustees and our community received an update on the overall state of our budget from our Assistant Superintendent Business Services, Mr. Ruben Hernandez. We are pleased to share the District continues its long-standing tradition of a strong financial position, a testament to the strategic foresight over the years of our Board of Trustees, effective partnerships with our certificated and classified associations, and support from our community.

Consequently, we want to assure everyone FJUHS D is well-positioned financially. The current projected state-level fiscal challenges will not necessitate lay-offs of our workforce, reduction of programs, nor cause significant budgetary constraints for the 2024-25 school year. Our commitment remains steadfast in fostering a learning environment with robust safety measures, comprehensive mental health and academic support services, continuous professional development opportunities to enrich student learning experiences, and the pursuit of innovative strategies to promote the success of ALL students.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our Board of Trustees for their visionary leadership, our dedicated staff across all sectors for their unwavering commitment to our students' welfare, and to our families and community partners for their invaluable contributions. Together, our collective efforts continue to distinguish FJUHS D as a beacon of educational excellence, showing just why FJUHS D is the Place to Be!

Thank you for taking the time to read this important message. We wish all of our students success in the final stretch of the school year and look forward to celebrating our Senior Class of 2024 during our upcoming graduation ceremonies.

Sincerely,

Steve McLaughlin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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