



UESF

United Educators of San Francisco
AFT/CFT, AFL-CIO ■ NEA/CTA

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February 2010

Dear SFUSD Parent,

The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) is facing a \$113 million budget deficit over the next two school years. The budget crisis is not the fault of the SFUSD. Lawmakers in Sacramento have failed our students by cutting over \$17 billion from our schools since 2008.

Parents, students, and teachers must stand together and defend our children and their classrooms from any further cuts. This means bringing more revenues to support our schools, and making sure that any necessary cuts here in San Francisco are made as far away from the students as possible. Please join us in our campaign to defend our classrooms by doing the following:

Tell the Governor and the state legislators that our schools need more, not less...

California already ranks near the bottom for spending on schools, and now the Governor wants billions more in cuts. Simply put, there is nothing more to cut that won't directly hurt our students. Stand with us and call for more revenue from the state by demanding common sense tax and budget reform – close corporate tax loopholes, rescind tax-cuts for corporations and the wealthy, institute an oil severance tax, and end the undemocratic rules that require 2/3 of the legislature to pass a budget and raise revenues. This is money that will go to lower class sizes, restore lost programs, rehire teachers and paraprofessionals, close the achievement gap, and maintain vital public services.

Tell SFUSD to make cuts as far away from the classroom as possible...

We call on the Board of Education and the Superintendent to do everything they can to make cuts as far away from our students and the classroom as possible. The classroom and the front-line educators must come first. Before any class sizes are raised, teachers and paraprofessionals are laid off, and vital programs eliminated, the SFUSD should demonstrate in detail that there are no other choices, no consultants, no 'favorite programs'.

Tell SFUSD to make all decisions with complete honesty and transparency...

We also call on the SFUSD to be completely transparent with this process. The more upfront and honest the district is with teachers and parents, the more we can trust that every effort has been made to prioritize the classroom. The SFUSD is a public agency that is responsible to the voters, parents, and the educators who work every day for our students. We deserve nothing less than a full and honest accounting of the budget.

Join teachers, paras, students, and parents in the SFUSD to Defend The Classroom!

We must all stand together at our schools sites, in our city, and throughout our state to *Defend The Classroom* from any future cuts! Talk to your student's teacher to see how you can get involved at your school. Go to www.uesf.org/defend for steps you can take today, including writing to the Board of Education and our state legislators. You can also email ask-uesf@uesf.org to share your ideas. Together we can do it!

MARCH 4TH

**SAN FRANCISCO
CIVIC CENTER**

5:00 P.M.

Rally for California's Future!

UESF Rally @ 4:00 p.m.

**State PUC Building
(McAllister & Van Ness)**

Facing a \$21 billion shortfall, Governor Schwarzenegger is calling for another cuts-only approach to the state budget crisis. **Enough is Enough!** Our students, our schools, and our state deserve better.

Stand together with Pre-K to Higher Education educators, parents, and students throughout the state to send a message to Sacramento – We will stand up to defend our classrooms and the public sector!

Educators and students from throughout the Bay Area will gather at Civic Center Plaza in San Francisco at 5:00 p.m. UESF will host a rally before the main event at the State PUC building on the Corner of McAllister & Van Ness at 4:00 p.m. For more information send an email to ask-uesf@uesf.org.

The Civic Center and the State PUC building are both easily accessible by public transportation, including BART and muni.

Sponsoring Organizations (partial list):

United Educators of San Francisco, CFT/AFT# 61 – CTA/NEA, California Faculty Association, San Francisco and East Bay, Peralta Federation of Teachers, CFT/AFT 1603, NoEdCuts Coalition – Againstcuts.org, City College of San Francisco Federation of Teachers, AFT 2121, City College of San Francisco Associated Students, City College of San Francisco, San Francisco Labor Council, San Francisco Unified School District, Chabot Las Positas Community College District, SEIU 1021, Chabot Las Positas Community College District Faculty Association

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**Join Us on The Statewide Day of Action
for Public Education & Services**