



## **Community Legislative Advocacy Packet**

Earlier this month, Governor Newsom's May Revision to the state budget included a 10% reduction to California public school funding caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The safety of students, families, and school staff will continue to be the highest priority of school leaders as we work to determine the safest methods to reintegrate back into classes on school campuses. However, educators are deeply concerned that these budget cuts will result in inadequate funding to safely reopen our campuses in the Fall.

The Governor's proposed 10% reduction is equivalent to losing \$1,230 per student. These financial losses will strip districts of the resources needed to re-open schools. The Governor's proposal also makes reductions to critical school services, such as Career and Technical Education programs, Adult Education, food services, child care providers' ability to offer subsidized care, and additional cuts to early childhood, health and child welfare.

School leaders and School Board members throughout Santa Cruz County are working diligently to help advocate for the protection of education funding and necessary changes to school attendance and instructional regulations by passing resolutions in support of state and federal financial assistance for schools and communicating directly with the offices of our California and U.S. representatives.

Now more than ever, we need to stand with our students by advocating for the investment in public education. Parents and community members can join in this effort by calling, emailing, and writing letters to our state representatives to call on their support. Below, you will find helpful resources for how to reach our legislative representatives to help you advocate for the protection of education funding throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

- [Contact Information of State and U.S. Legislative Representatives](#)
- [Key Talking Points](#)
- [Telephone Scripts](#)
- [State Advocacy Letter Template](#)
- [Federal Advocacy Letter Template](#)



400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 ♦ Tel (831) 466-5600 ♦ Fax (831) 466-5607 ♦ [www.santacruzcoe.org](http://www.santacruzcoe.org)

**Contact Information of State and U.S. Legislative Representatives**

**State Representatives**

<p><b>Senator Bill Monning</b> 701 Ocean Street, Ste. 318A Santa Cruz CA 95060 Phone: (831) 425-0401 <a href="#">Email Senator Monning</a></p>
<p><b>Assemblymember Robert Rivas</b> 60 West Market Street, Ste. 110 Salinas, CA 93901 Phone: (831) 759-8676 <a href="#">Email Assemblymember Rivas</a></p>
<p><b>Assemblymember Mark Stone</b> 701 Ocean Street, Ste. 318 B Santa Cruz, CA 95060 Phone: (831) 425-1503 <a href="#">Email Assemblymember Stone</a></p>

**Federal Representatives**

<p><b>Congressman Jimmy Panetta</b> 701 Ocean Street, Room 318C Santa Cruz, CA 95060 Phone: 831-429-1976 <a href="#">Email Congressman Panetta</a></p>	<p><b>Congresswoman Anna Eshoo</b> 698 Emerson Street Palo Alto, California 94301 Phone: (408) 245-2339 <a href="#">Email Congresswoman Eshoo</a></p>
<p><b>Senator Feinstein, Dianne</b> 331 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510 Phone: (202) 224-3841 <a href="#">Email Senator Feinstein</a></p>	<p><b>Senator Harris, Kamala D.</b> 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510 Phone: (202) 224-3553 <a href="#">Email Senator Harris</a></p>



## **Key Talking Points for Funding Advocacy Through the COVID-19 Pandemic**

- 1. Schools provide vital essential services and are key to reopening the economy.** California schools have used every existing resource possible to help ensure students and families are provided access to distance learning opportunities, free or affordable internet access at home, online teaching training for teachers, and free meal services. It is imperative that schools continue to have adequate resources in order to continue supporting families with the accommodations necessary until the reopening of schools, especially should social distancing requirements continue to be needed through next fall.
- 2. It is crucial that school funding remains a priority throughout and after the COVID-19 pandemic.** Schools and school districts will incur unprecedented operating costs should schools need to make necessary accommodations required by public health authorities to comply with safe social distancing practices. Increased cleaning materials, safety equipment such as cough guards and electrolyzed sanitation misters, increased cleaning schedules at school sites, continued meal programs, and personal protective equipment for families and staff are only a few examples of costs schools will need to pay to keep students, families, and school personnel safe.
- 3. Public education was already underfunded, even before the COVID-19 pandemic.** Schools have been facing serious funding challenges even prior to the onset of the pandemic. Those funding challenges remain, and are now at risk of even more cuts and losses now and in years to come. Schools are depending on state and federal funding for emergency appropriations for both the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years to be as unrestricted and flexible as possible.
- 4. Schools will require flexibility with attendance accounting and instructional time requirements.** Current education law does not allow schools to receive funding from a combination of classroom-based and distance-learning environments, which we anticipate will be a necessary instructional delivery model for some time. Further, schools would need to be granted a hold harmless agreement so that they are not penalized for fluctuations in funding as a result of the pandemic.



**SANTA CRUZ**  
COUNTY OFFICE OF  
**EDUCATION**  
DE. SARA SARRIN - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Ms. Jane Royer Barr  
Ms. Rose Filicetti  
Ms. Sandra Nichols  
Ms. Sue Roth  
Mr. Dana M. Sales  
Mr. Abel Sanchez  
Mr. Bruce Van Allen

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## State Telephone Script

Hello, My name is **NAME**, and I would like to leave a message for **SENATOR/ASSEMBLYMEMBER NAME** because I am concerned my local schools are currently in need of adequate financial resources to make sure our children and school personnel have the resources they need to continue providing high-quality education and safely-reopen schools later this year as we continue to navigate the challenges our community is facing caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

My school district has made a tremendous effort to ensure all students can continue learning online at home, but more needs to be done, and I would like to urge **SENATOR/ASSEMBLYMEMBER NAME** to advocate that all Santa Cruz County learners have the technology they need to maintain their academic progress. More than ever, our students need the support of the mental health specialists that can help them through these challenging times. Families need the support of their teachers, special education teachers, and aides to succeed in online learning right now from home. When they go back to campus, schools need to ensure that they have done all they can to mitigate the risk COVID-19 transmission on campus.

Schools will also require flexibility with attendance accounting and instructional time requirements. Current education law does not allow schools to receive funding from a combination of classroom-based and distance-learning environments, which schools anticipate will be a necessary instructional delivery model for some time. Further, schools would need to be granted a hold harmless agreement so that they are not penalized for fluctuations in funding as a result of the pandemic. I urge you to please help advocate for these important changes as well.

The challenge schools are facing now to make the changes needed to keep students, families, and school personnel safe with significantly reduced funding and inadequate flexibility with attendance accounting is deeply concerning. I am hopeful that **SENATOR/ASSEMBLYMEMBER NAME** will support our community by supporting our schools and protecting California education funding as they consider the 2020–21 state budget. Thank you for your time, good-bye.



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DE. VITO SANCHEZ - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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## Federal Telephone Script

Hello, my name is **NAME**, and I would like to leave a comment for **SENATOR/CONGRESSMAN/WOMAN NAME** because I am concerned that my local schools do not currently have the financial resources to make sure our children have all that they need to succeed — especially now with the challenges caused by COVID-19.

My school district in Santa Cruz County California has done all it can to make sure students can continue learning online at home, but more needs to be done, and I am urging **SENATOR/CONGRESSMAN/WOMAN NAME** to advocate that next federal stimulus package ensures increased funding for education. I greatly appreciate the funding that has already been provided for schools, but the unprecedented crisis my community is facing will necessitate even more support as schools move to reopen their campuses later this year.

More than 50% of families in my county are low-income status, many of which are now experiencing severe financial hardship due to the COVID-19 crisis. Now more than ever, the students in my county need assistance to obtain internet access and devices at home so that they can maintain their academic progress and access support services. They need the online support of peers and mental health resources to help them persevere through these challenging times. They need the support of their teachers and their special education teachers and aides to help them stay on track with their learning. And when they go back to campus, families will need to know that schools did all they could to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools.

Making changes to school operations required by public health authorities will be challenging, if not impossible, with the limited resources they have now. I am hopeful that **SENATOR/CONGRESSMAN/WOMAN NAME** will support our community by supporting our schools as they craft the next federal stimulus package. Thank you for your time, good-bye.