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April 29, 2020

Dear Elk Grove Unified Parents, Guardians and Families,

The financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on state and federal funding for public education brings unclear and uncertain budget realities that I want to address as we continue our work on the budget development and multi-year budget projections. Given the current state of affairs amid COVID-19 and based on education finance expert predictions, we are certain that the District's budget will be dramatically affected by reductions in revenue from the state and federal governments. By taking action now to reduce expenditures, within mandated parameters, we can increase budget reserves and transition to a new normal.

For perspective, school districts are dependent on state and federal revenues, which are not within our control, and a one percent reduction to our budget equates to a loss of \$5.8 million. Furthermore, state estimates for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to the overall budget, not to be confused with a salary COLA, are anticipated to drop as low as zero, which would reduce the 2020-21 budget by \$12.8 million and 2021-22 budget by \$16.3 million. To reduce the impact of potential revenue reductions, we will adhere to our well-established guiding criteria where we (a) maintain fiscal solvency; (b) maintain and evaluate what we have built over the past few years; (c) remain competitive; (d) build upon what we have already started; (e) contemplate new programs or initiatives.

As we anxiously await the Governor's May Revision and final State Budget, we will work closely with our Partners in Education, a group comprised of leaders from our bargaining units, and stakeholders to develop more extensive and robust budgetary plans as necessitated by the State's budget. By taking the following immediate measures, we can prepare for potential negative budget impacts where more material actions could be required.

- Institute hiring restrictions
- Freeze spending on all non-critical purchases and capture remaining program balances
- Evaluate and reduce upcoming instructional material adoptions
- Evaluate and reduce professional development expenditures
- Evaluate 2020 summer school/expanded learning expenditures
- Work with state and federal leaders to seek flexibility and additional resources targeting education

Until we receive more definitive budget information, we will be advocating the state and federal governments to use one-time dollars to support school districts and the state of education for our school children. And, just like our pivot to distance learning, thanks to everyone's cooperation, patience and quick work to manage any challenges that come before us, your perseverance and grace make me very proud to be part of Elk Grove Unified. I am confident in our collective ability to ride out this storm.

Sincerely,

Christopher R. Hoffman  
Superintendent