



SAN JOSE UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Don Iglesias,  
Superintendent of Schools

*"Imagine: Make Happen What You Believe"*

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As many of you know, our school district is facing a budget deficit in the next two years and beyond. The projected deficit is \$9-11 million for the 2005-06 school year and \$11-13 million in 2006-07. Declining enrollment, a decrease in state funding support, and continued increases in cost of living and operational expenses fuels the budget crisis. The Board has proactively solicited the support of the community to provide assistance in addressing these issues through a parcel tax initiative, community budget meetings, public forums and regular Board of Education public hearings.

We desperately need your support as we move forward in these difficult times. School consolidation, elimination of transportation, the middle school six period day, and K,1,2 class size reduction are under consideration to close the budget gap over the next two years. In the 2005-06 school year the District is obligated to close 2 elementary schools and 1 middle school. Elementary schools being considered for consolidation are Allen, Almaden, Bachrodt, Carson, Cory, Hacienda, Lowell, Randol and Trace. Middle schools considered for closure are Castellero, John Muir, and Steinbeck. Declining enrollment in identified elementary and middle school boundary attendance areas is the primary factor governing the decision for school closure. For middle schools under consideration, declining enrollment projections indicate that the student population for all three middle school attendance boundaries can be accommodated within any two of the listed middle schools. A 14 member Ad Hoc Consolidation Advisory Committee composed of parents, principals, teachers, and classified staff has been formed to develop school consolidation recommendations based on school consolidation scenarios. Criteria for consolidation are based on facility requirements, transportation and safety, demographics, and financial impact. The Ad Hoc Committee will submit recommendations to the District Staff for evaluation on November 8, 2004 for middle schools and November 15, 2004 for elementary schools.

Over the past 3 years, San José Unified has cut more than \$30 million. We know that the state budget crisis is long term and we will continue to need to tighten our belt. Working together to get through these difficult times will help us to ensure that the high standards set by our Board of Education for each student are preserved to the best of our ability.

In order to give the Ad Hoc School Consolidation Committee adequate time to review the criteria, we have extended and revised the school consolidation timeline. As only one middle school will be recommended for closure, the middle school consolidation process will consist of one public forum followed by two public hearings. Following the committee recommendations for the consolidation of two elementary schools, there will be two public forums and two public hearings. We encourage you to attend these Public Forums and hearings, which will be held at the District Office (855 Lenzen Ave.). The Board of Education will take final action on the consolidation of the middle school at the December 9th meeting and at the Board of Education Meeting on February 10th for the elementary school consolidation. Please refer to the Revised School Consolidation Timeline on the back of this letter. We will continue to keep you updated on our website, [www.sjUSD.org](http://www.sjUSD.org)

We need your support and look forward to your input at these important meetings. I can attest to the fact that nothing is more critical to the future of our school district.

Sincerely,

Don Iglesias  
Superintendent of Schools