



Sustain Our Schools



Help Build the Foundation For Our Future

January, 2012

Dear Eureka Union School District Parents:

This letter is intended to give our parent community a brief overview of the state of our school district and the continuing funding crisis that our district faces. The Eureka Schools Foundation (ESF) is preparing to kick-off this year's Annual Giving Campaign. This is a once a year fundraising campaign and this year the participation from ALL district families is critical. After reading this letter, you will realize how vitally important your household's decision to contribute to this year's Annual Giving Campaign will be for your child's education.

Last year, ESF gave \$554,000 to our school district. This was possible through donations made by district families as well as local businesses in our community. This was a tremendous gift and every member of the EUSD staff is grateful, as are the kids in our district. This allowed us to **MAINTAIN** the enrichment programs that your child accesses everyday at school, including libraries (we kept them opened and staffed at all school sites), computer technology in the classroom, music, choir, jr. high athletics, Spanish and the Summer Training Institute for our teachers.

Here are the numbers:

In our school district, the state budget crisis has translated into hard budget cuts. Each fiscal year, our district, as all districts in the state, are at the mercy of state lawmakers and the budget passed in Sacramento. Fiscally responsible districts are then forced to take action. In 2009, \$1.3 million was cut from our budget. In 2010, over \$1.5 million was cut and in 2011 we were faced with \$1.6 million in cuts. **In 2012, to meet district financial targets, we are facing \$1.5-1.75 million in additional cuts.** These cuts will impact your child and your child's teacher. As many of you are aware, during these difficult times, EUSD has taken several actions including a school closure, loss of valuable and trusted teachers each year through lay-offs and early retirement offerings, losses of instructional aides in the classrooms, severe cuts to instructional supplies and increases in class size.

In 2010, 33% of families/households participated in the Annual Giving Campaign. In 2011, that number climbed to over 50% participation. Of the \$554,000 that ESF gave in 2011, almost half of that total contribution, \$277,000, came from the Annual Giving Campaign. The average household contribution amount in 2011 was \$194.

If I give, where does my money go?

Your donation goes directly to the Eureka Union School District. From there, the district uses the funds for the enrichment programs mentioned above (libraries, computer technology, etc.) Want more specifics? Visit www.eurekaschoolsfoundation.org and click on the "Where Does My Money Go?" button. You will see a complete breakdown of every dollar spent over the last several years. And you will see how the contributions benefit your child and your child's teacher. Your contribution is tax deductible. It's simple. Write a check or make a donation on-line at www.eurekaschoolsfoundation.org.

Can I target my donation to specific programs that are important to my family?

Yes. ESF offers a directed giving option. If you prefer, you can indicate exactly where your donation goes at the program level. For example, if you want your donation to go to band and libraries only, you can designate your funds for those specific programs. Simply mark the appropriate boxes on the

donation envelope or website. As in the past, if you don't designate specific programs, your donation will be applied equally towards each program that ESF supports.

I pay my taxes each year. Why should I give privately to support my child's school?

Did you know that as a taxpayer, your child is not entitled to library services at school? Your tax dollars also do not provide computer/technology education or equipment for your child. Your tax dollars do not provide funding for any enrichment programs and they do not guarantee 20 to 1 class sizes at any grade level. These are just some of the reasons that private funding is critically important to your child's education.

How will the coming state and local district budget cuts impact my child?

Our district will consider all options, many of which have already taken place in most neighboring districts including:

- Larger class sizes in 2012/2013 at the K-3 level
- Additional school closure
- Libraries closed
- Computer technology learning in your child's classroom cut
- Core enrichment programs cut (Jr. High Athletics, music, choir, Spanish)
- Lay-offs of valuable teachers
- Teacher furlough days
- Shortened school year

What can we do as a community to stop the state budget crisis from impacting our children?

- Private funding for your child's school. The Eureka Schools Foundation is the only private funding organization that exists solely to fundraise for your child's education.
- If parents want their children to continue to receive the outstanding education that our district is known for and our test scores reflect, **we urge every household to consider making a donation to the Annual Giving Campaign this year in any amount that your household budget can accommodate.**
- Encourage friends, neighbors, family members, business owners and others who have an interest in maintaining excellent public schools to make a tax deductible donation.
- Find out more about the budget crisis. This letter is a summary. Please plan to attend one of the "State of the District" meetings taking place at several school sites in our district. Watch for communication on specific dates, times and meeting locations.

The Annual Giving Campaign will kick-off Friday, February 3 at ESF's Art Auction Event. Parents will receive more details in the coming weeks. In 2012, we hope you will make the decision to donate privately, locally, and directly to benefit your child's education.



Warren Holt, ESF President



Lyn Kleinbach, Annual Giving Campaign Chair



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