

Superintendent's Proposal

**82-12Sp1 - SECURING THE VOTER-APPROVED MINIMUM SCHOOL FUNDING
LAW, PROPOSITION 98, AND ADVOCATING FOR A BUDGET THAT
SUPPORTS QUALITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR ALL**

WHEREAS: The state budget proposed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is a giant step backward for our students that would create chaos in our public schools with cuts of historic proportion that would derail the progress and threaten the education of millions of California students; and

WHEREAS: The potential reduction to San Francisco Unified School District budget is estimated to be as high as \$40 million and severely undermine our efforts to close the achievement gap and bridge opportunity gaps; and

WHEREAS: Against great odds, California's educators have witnessed how our students and schools, despite being constantly asked to do more with less, have been making progress, with overall reading scores up 25 percent and math scores increasing 17 percent in the last four years; and

WHEREAS: *Education Week* now ranks California 46th in the nation in per-pupil spending, at nearly \$1,900 below the national per-student average; and

WHEREAS: California's educators, school board members, administrators, superintendents, school employees and others are outraged that in the self-proclaimed "year of education," the Governor's proposed budget would slash \$4.8 billion from our public schools over the next 18 months – including devastating mid-year cuts of \$400 million – and would decimate the state's minimum school funding law, Proposition 98, which voters approved in 1988 and reaffirmed their support for in 2005; and

WHEREAS: Slashing the monumental sum of \$4.8 billion from our schools is the equivalent of laying off more than 107,000 teachers or 137,000 education support professionals; or gutting per-student funding by more than \$800; or cutting more than \$24,000 per classroom statewide; or increasing class sizes statewide by as much as 35 percent; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District calls on the Governor and the Legislature to put our students first, reject across-the-board cuts that would damage our public schools, and protect the voter-approved, minimum school funding law, Proposition 98; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District joins with the California School Boards Association, the Association of California School Administrators, and other public school supporters to advocate for protecting Proposition 98 and ensuring that all schools have the resources necessary to provide our students with the educational opportunities they deserve.