



AMADOR COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent, Amy L. Slavensky, Ph.D.

217 Rex Avenue, Jackson, CA 95642 | (209) 257-5353 | Fax (209) 257-5360 | www.amadorcoe.org

PREPARE, SUPPORT, INSPIRE!

June 5, 2020

Dear Amador County Public Schools Families & Staff,

I'm reaching out with an update about the State Budget and plans for reopening schools in August. I understand there is a feeling in the community that the District has already made a decision about what this will look like. This is not the case. What is true is that we are planning for the worst and hoping for the best. Scenario planning is essential because we do not yet have all the information we need to make these critical decisions. Specifically, we are waiting to know what the enacted State Budget will be and we are waiting to learn more about how pandemic related health and safety orders may affect decisions for August. Yes, this is frustrating and makes planning very difficult for everyone; however, we want to make sure we are making the very best decisions in support of all students.

2020-2021 State Budget Update You have heard that severe budget cuts are coming to public schools in California. The Governor's Budget includes a 10% reduction in revenue for all school districts in the state. If this budget is enacted by the State Legislature, we would have to cut approximately \$4.5 million from our budget. Breaking news Wednesday night, June 3, was that the State Senate and Assembly reached an agreement on the State Budget to close the projected budget shortfall of \$54 billion by anticipating \$14 billion in additional federal fund support with triggered reductions in the event funds do not materialize, and utilizing \$11.8 billion in state reserves. This plan rejects the Governor's May Budget proposals to reduce Proposition 98 public school funding by \$8.1 billion, which consists of the 10% reduction to the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and loss of the cost of living adjustment (CLOA). Instead the Legislature's plan proposes to fully fund the LCFF with a 2.31% COLA.

So what does all of this mean? Because the State Budget has not yet been finalized, this means we are still planning for the worst and hoping for the best. This includes spending and hiring freezes, maintaining the recent reduction of five management positions, a management furlough, a possible teacher furlough, and classified employee layoff notifications (pending Board approval). Our goal, as always, is to open school in our school buildings, rescind layoff notifications, and return to business as usual in support of all students and staff. Hoping for the best, we strongly desire for the budget and pandemic outlooks to improve during June and July.

School Reopening Update As we plan for the first day of school on August 12, we are keeping two focus areas in the forefront: cultural competence and multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) to support educational equity and access for all students. A stakeholder committee to explore options for reopening our schools is convening next week. The committee consists of teachers, classified employees, principals, and other staff. The committee will be charged to examine the information we receive from the recent family/staff survey, study feasible scenarios, and make recommendations. Our goal is to share more information with you by the end of June.

Please watch for updates through June and July. You can also stay current with school news through the Amador County Public Schools website at www.amadorcoe.org and our social media posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. I hope this message finds you and your family in good health. Thank you for your continued support during this unprecedented time in our history.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amy Slavensky, ACUSD Superintendent of Schools