

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

1025 Second Avenue, Suite 320
Oakland, CA 94606-2212
510.879.8199 w • 510.879.8000 f • 510.879.8739 TTY / TDD
www.ousd.k12.ca.us
e-mail: boe@ousd.k12.ca.us



**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Students

BOARD OF EDUCATION 2011

Gary Yee Ed.D., President, District 4
Gary.Yee@ousd.k12.ca.us

Jody London, Vice President, District 1
Jody.London@ousd.k12.ca.us

David Kakishiba, District 2
David.Kakishiba@ousd.k12.ca.us

Jumoke Hodge, District 3
Jumoke.Hodge@ousd.k12.ca.us

Noel Gallo, District 5
Noel.Gallo@ousd.k12.ca.us

Christopher Dobbins, District 6
Christopher.Dobbins@ousd.k12.ca.us

Alice Spearman, District 7
Alice.Spearman@ousd.k12.ca.us

STAFF

Jacqueline Minor
General Counsel
Jacqueline.Minor@ousd.k12.ca.us

Tony Smith Ph.D.
Superintendent
Tony.Smith@ousd.k12.ca.us

Edgar Rakestraw, Jr.
Secretary & Executive Officer, Board of Education
Edgar.Rakestraw@ousd.k12.ca.us



August 10, 2011

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 114: State Education Budget (Trailer Bill)

Dear Governor Brown:

The Oakland Unified School Board of Education writes to express its concern with many provisions of the 2011-12 State Budget and related implementing legislation. While we, as a Board, value budget provisions that may prevent deeper cuts to K-12 public schools, we are concerned that the implementing language sends conflicting messages to local education agencies and undermines our ability to produce balanced, responsible budgets.

In the future, we urge you and the Legislature to develop the budget in an open, transparent manner and to include local education agencies in the process. This will help to prevent additional state budgets that fail to account for our local needs or undermine regional mechanisms to provide critical fiscal oversight and guidance for school districts.

The 2011-12 State Budget omits deeper cuts to K-12 education funding *if* state revenues materialize as forecasted by you and the Legislature. We understand that a final assessment of state receipts will be provided by the Department of Finance on December 15th, and that a cut of up to \$1.5 billion may be made to K-12 revenue limits if state funds come up short. In order to plan responsibly, education agencies need to know up front that their funding will be protected for the school year, not face the looming threat of further significant reductions during the school year.

The state budget also includes provisions that are intended to prohibit local education agencies from planning responsible budgets that account for potential fiscal realities. This makes district budgets more precarious—not less. We caution against enforcing hastily-drafted provisions of the budget that attempt to require districts to project for

2011-12 the same level of revenue limit funding as was received in 2010-11 and maintain staffing and program levels commensurate with this funding level. We also understand that the Governor’s signing message for education budget trailer bill AB 114 clarifies that “school districts should take all reasonable steps to balance their budgets and maintain positive cash balances,” and we support efforts to make AB 114 and the State Budget consistent with the Governor’s message.

We look forward to working with you in developing future state budgets that include input from local education agencies and are drafted with ample time for careful consideration of provisions that impact our work.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Gary Yee, Ed.D.
President

cc: Honorable Darrell Steinberg, President pro Tempore, California Senate
Honorable John A. Perez, Speaker, California Assembly
Honorable Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Honorable Sheila Jordan, Alameda County Superintendent of Schools
Michael Kirst, Ph.D., President, State Board of Education
Sue Burr, Executive Director, State Board of Education
Carlene Naylor, State Trustee, Oakland Unified School District
Anthony Smith, Ph.D.
Jacqueline Minor
Edgar Rakestraw, Jr.