

# The State Emergency Spending Plan cuts are unprecedented. The threat to the quality education of our children is very real.

## WHAT CAN BE DONE NOW?

Over the past five years, the state budget crisis has forced the Mt. Diablo Unified School District to cut close to **\$30 million dollars** from its budget, **\$8 million** this year...and there is more to come. The Emergency Spending Plan signed by the Governor in February 2009 will require reductions of **another \$8.1 million more through 2011** from our local classrooms before March 15, 2009. It may get worse. The failure of any one of five ballot items on the May 19<sup>th</sup> statewide election and the subsequent May Revise budget adjustments (delayed to May 26<sup>th</sup>) for 2009-2010 year will require even more reductions.

We know many of you already make a major difference by volunteering your time or contributing to fundraisers at your local schools, but we believe that more will be needed long term to ensure that our children continue to receive an excellent education in our community.

### Local Funding Measure Would Support High-Quality Instruction and Student Success

In order to maintain and improve the high-quality education in our local schools and prevent further budget cuts that will affect programs and teachers, the Mt. Diablo Unified School District Board of Education has placed an education funding measure before voters that would:

- Maintain and restore existing district programs and services to ensure all students continue to receive a quality education including reading, writing, math and science.
- Attract and retain high-quality teachers and staff
- Maintain vital college and workforce preparation programs to prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Support after school programs to help students with reading, writing, math and other activities
- Enhance classroom technology
- Provide a well-rounded curriculum including arts and music
- Provide additional training to staff, including K-12 teachers and paraprofessionals;
- Expand and enhance the Teacher Support Program and increase teacher support and accountability;
- Maintain reduced class sizes for kindergarten through third grade and 9<sup>th</sup> grade; and
- Maintain school librarians

The local education funding measure would assure we could continue to provide our children a well-rounded curriculum that is essential to building a strong academic foundation. The Board has approved a \$99 per year parcel—that is \$8.25 per month. This measure would provide a stable source of funding for our local schools during this time of budgetary turmoil.

### Accountable to Taxpayers

All funds from the proposed ballot measure would be used here in our local elementary, middle and high schools to support student achievement and build a strong academic foundation for our children. The state could not take a single dime.

- Independent citizen oversight and mandatory annual audits would ensure funds are spent as promised
- No funds could be spent on central office administrator salaries
- The measure would expire in 5 years and could not be renewed without voter approval
- An exemption would be available for seniors

The Measure will be voted on at the Special State Election on May 19<sup>th</sup>. If the Measure passes, the funds will be available to the school district for the 2009-10 school year.