

Michael Hinojosa, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



October 13, 2008

Dear Parent/Guardian,

By ensuring that all students have access to a rigorous and relevant education in a safe and welcoming environment, significant strides have been made during the past few years to improve academic achievement for Dallas ISD students. Specifically, more than 103 schools have received the state's top two ratings of recognized or exemplary. Even though we have seen academic improvements, our district is currently facing a severe budget shortfall. Dallas ISD may experience a budget shortfall of as much as \$84 million if immediate action is not taken to reduce expenditures.

In response to our budget shortfall, the Dallas ISD Board of Trustees approved a declaration of financial exigency and a reduction in force (RIF) to address the district's critical financial crisis. The entire organization has been examined to identify areas for potential cuts to reduce the deficit. Additionally, we will continue to work in conjunction with external partners to restructure the district's financial processes and create a system of checks and balances that fortifies our financial structure.

Although there has been great concern over the budget deficit and the impact on our schools, be assured that the current financial crisis the district is facing will not impact the educational standards of service for campus staffing. The standards of service that we are committed to providing your children are attached for your information. However, in accordance with the board-approved reduction in force process to level staffing formulas based on student enrollment, we anticipate the movement of some teachers and campus-based personnel.

Unfortunately, layoffs of excess campus-based personnel and central office personnel and other related cost-savings have to be implemented. As of September 29 the first layoffs affected central staff positions. Layoffs of excess campus-based support staff began on October 9, and will be followed by excess teachers on October 16. Dallas ISD is committed to providing assistance and support in finding new employment for all employees who become displaced in the process. Their service to our students and the district will not be taken for granted.

Please be assured, your child's learning continues to be the focus of every teacher, principal, and support employee throughout this period of transition. We are grateful for your patience and continued support, as it is a difficult time for everyone. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact your school principal and/or refer to the Dallas ISD Web site at <http://www.dallasisd.org/finances/>

Respectfully,



Michael Hinojosa, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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