

Superintendent's Message – January 9, 2008

Effect of State Budget Cuts on Education

Over the past few months, the news has been filled with stories on California's deteriorating budget. A report by California's Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) states that "the 2007-08 budget situation has deteriorated by almost \$6 billion." The LAO forecasts that California would end the current fiscal year with a \$1.9 billion deficit without corrective action. Additionally, the LAO projects that the state will face an \$8 billion operating shortfall in 2008-09. This has a direct effect on education.

The governor has directed all state departments to work up spending plans that are 10 percent less than current spending. This could reduce K-12 education spending by \$5 billion or more for the 2008-2009 fiscal year, beginning in July. It could also cause the state to suspend Proposition 98, which guarantees schools a share of state revenue, according to *The Sacramento Bee*, November 7, 2007.

Brian Lewis, executive director of the California Association of School Business Officials, said, "Despite the economy, we need to say we're going to serve our children."

Moreland's administrative team strongly believes in supporting our students and delivering a first-class educational program. We are closely following the information provided by respected agencies and plan to attend the Governor's Budget Workshop by School Services of California, in January. This workshop will help us to project revenues for the balance of 2007-08 and the 2008-09 school year.

The district's goal continues to be to provide the best educational experience possible for all students. I will provide more information on the effect of state budget cuts on Moreland in the future.

Glen Ishiwata