



City of Manhattan Beach

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April 17, 2013

Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Funding for all school districts

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the Manhattan Beach City Council, I am writing to urge you to prioritize education and increase the base funding for all California school districts.

Almost all California school districts, including our community's, have been devastated by state budget cuts over the past five years. Class sizes have increased, teachers and staff have been laid off and/or furloughed, and programs have been eliminated. Manhattan Beach Unified School District has had to cut its budget year after year since 2007. These cuts, combined with the fact that California is 49th in the nation in per pupil spending, underscore the reality that all districts are hurting.

I understand that students with the greatest needs require additional educational support. However, the proposal to drastically revamp California's K-12 financing fails to recognize the harsh fiscal realities facing all California public school districts, including those in suburban communities like Manhattan Beach. As a starting point, I ask that you restore state funds that have been cut from our school district's budget since 2007 before you act to redistribute state funds to other districts.

Thank you for your support of public education.

Sincerely,

David J. Lesser
Mayor