



Preparing every student to thrive in a global society.

August 8, 2015

Dear Friends of East Side Union High School District,

Welcome back to the 2015/16 school year! As I enter my fourth year as Superintendent, I'm more energized than ever before because of the momentum that we have developed as a school district and the plethora of accomplishments these past three years. For four straight years, we have increased our graduation rate, decreased our drop out rate and increased our a-g completion rate. We have had the opportunity in the past year to celebrate many great accomplishments at our schools, including, but not limited to:

- Andrew Hill Robotics Team earned sixth place in the World Championships in St. Louis
- Silver Creek Japan Bowl Team earned fourth place in the National Japan Bowl Competition and received an invitation to visit Tokyo, Japan, this year
- Independence Space & Engineering Academy placed 10 students in internships and established pathways into STEM careers with Fortune 500 Bay Area companies
- Outstanding year in athletics with more than thirty League Championships
- Finally, we continue to be proud of all of our students who are attending Santa Clara, Stanford, Cal, UCLA, Harvard, MIT, Yale and Columbia this fall. These are just a few of the prestigious colleges and universities that our students will be attending.

The new school year always brings forward a sense of renewal, hope and challenges that we must face together. Fortunately, in the past two years, the new Local Control Funding Formula has generated revenues for the District that we have not seen since 2007. We have taken a very balanced and proactive approach to our spending. We eliminated the five furlough days, provided our employees a well-deserved salary increase of 1.95% in 2013/14 and 5% in 2014/15, and maintained 100% of family health benefits. We currently have an offer of a 3% salary increase on the table for the 2015/16 school year. Over the next two years, we are addressing the plus 3 in class size by eliminating the plus 2 this year, and getting back to the pre-recession class size for the 2016/17 school year.

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We have been very aggressive the past two years with our hiring to restore what was lost during the recession, as well as creating new positions to support the social and emotional needs of our students, improving parent engagement and supporting the professional development of our teachers. We have hired 204 employees to help us improve our educational environment and the educational outcomes for all students.

- 119.70 Certificated employees, includes 56 Teachers, 27 Counselors, 17 Social Workers, 10 Instructional Coaches
- 72.13 Classified employees, includes 12 Parent & Community Involvement Specialists, 7.63 Custodians, 12 Support Services Technicians
- 6 Classified Management positions, includes Director of Marketing & Public Engagement, Manager of Classified Personnel
- 6 Certificated Administrators, includes Director of Student Services, Director of Career Services, Director of Research & Accountability

The Common Core State Standards are another opportunity for our organization to make sweeping changes in how we teach and how our students demonstrate learning. All of our schools are working to transition to the Common Core State Standards. The main changes that students and parents will see is the type of work that students will be asked to complete to demonstrate their learning, as well as the type of assessments that are required in Common Core. These assessments will be computer generated and will be adaptive to the student's learning progression.

Our Measures E, G and I Bond construction work continues to transform our schools with major renovation of the U building and theater at Oak Grove High School, theater renovation at Independence High School, stadium lighting at Santa Teresa High School and installation of state of the art security cameras district wide. Additional work will begin this year on the renovation of seven of our swimming pools, as well as the new Student Unions at Yerba Buena, James Lick and Oak Grove High Schools, including the quad renovation at Andrew Hill High School. These are just a few of the projects scheduled to begin this school year.

Finally, we have sold the first series of our Measure I Ed Tech Bond. I'm excited to say that it has been a busy summer in technology! We had 340 teachers receive training, more than 90 took training towards becoming a certificated Google Trainer, 25 have taken an advanced course and 8 teachers have already begun taking (and passing!) the exams. Our campus wireless installation has completed Phase A and B, which provides wireless access in each classroom and at a speed that, is 10 times greater than that of the previous network. Our Internet connection has increased from 1GB to 10GB at the District Office and from 1GB to 2 and 3GB at our sites. Phase C has begun and will provide wireless access from border to border at each campus. This fall, we will begin our project to expand wireless into our community. By the second week of September, we will have more than 22,000 computers available for student use. Our staff and student training programs will really hit

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their stride in November when our Trainer's Guild begins offering regular training opportunities for staff and students and eventually expanding to interested community members.

It will be an exciting new year! We, as an organization, are working hard to transform how we educate our children and serve our community. Thank you in advance for your continued support for East Side Union High School District.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CDF', is positioned below the 'Best Wishes,' text.

Chris D. Funk  
Superintendent