



Fremont Unified School District Leaders Unite for Full and Fair Funding for Public Education

Press Release, January 11, 2019

Fremont Unified School District (FUSD) has a longstanding and well-earned reputation for extraordinary public schools. We've received numerous state and national recognitions and our students are regularly sought out for esteemed college and career opportunities. To achieve such heights, they rely on us, their educators, staff, and supporters, to come together and ensure that their futures are secure. Right now, we are facing financially challenging times in FUSD and need your help to change that reality.

Did you know that despite California having what is purported to be the fifth largest economy in the *world*, our schools are funded in the bottom five of all fifty states? Though the media has been touting that public education is now "fully funded", it is misleading in that it really means we have been restored to the 2008 funding level--which is nowhere near enough to meet the needs of our schools and community in 2019 and beyond. In addition, the State continues to add financial responsibilities to school districts without providing the necessary funding to support these mandates. Compounded by the high cost of living in the Bay Area, many districts find it increasingly difficult to keep pace with providing a living wage for those who serve our families.


Fremont Unified School District has had unparalleled success in the Bay Area due to the quality and commitment of our employees. Our human resources are the most critical resources we have in providing the best education for our students. However, we are reliant on the State of California's insecure and insufficient funding model, which fluctuates based on market conditions and variable taxes. We believe that public education dollars instead must be *guaranteed*; our future depends on it.


Several professional organizations that our educators, administrators, and Board members belong to have joined together to appeal to the legislature to raise California school funding to the national average by 2020 and to the average of the top ten states by 2025. Don't our 35,000 students in Fremont along with the other 6.2 million in the rest of the state deserve at least to be "average" among their peers in other states? Of course, we all know that average is a far cry from the superior education we strive to be able to continue to provide here in FUSD.

As the Golden State Warriors always say, "Strength in Numbers". That is why we've united together to share this message and call to action. It takes all of us focused on improving the state's funding model to meet the needs of our diverse and inspiring next generation. We have to do better for them. It's why we became educators. And it's why we will fight for what's right for our children. Thank you for joining us in our efforts.



How can you help? Contact your local and state elected officials to support the passage of key legislation to improve our public education funding model. Visit our website at: <https://www.fremont.k12.ca.us> for more information.


Fremont Unified Unified Teachers' Association
(FUDTA) President, Victoria Birbeck-Herrera


Board of Education President, Michele Berke


Fremont School Management Association
(FSMA) President, Brian Benevides


Superintendent, Kim Wallace