

EL DORADO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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August 2011

To EDUHSD Community:

Welcome back! It's hard to believe summer has passed and we have kicked off the 2011–12 school year. I hope each of you found time to visit with family and were able to get some well-deserved rest. I was able to get away for a few long weekends to spend time with family and friends. The slower pace of summer was welcomed, and I am ready to get back to our normal, hectic pace. One of the advantages of the slower pace, however, is the opportunity to reflect and plan. I took some time to do both.

The purpose of this communication is threefold:

1. To welcome you back for the 2011–12 school year
2. To give you an update on the adopted budget, and
3. To share a little information about my reflections from this summer

2011–12 promises to be an exciting year. Early indicators from the California Department of Education show our students continuing to perform at high levels across a wide range of measures. We will soon have detailed data reports for the District as well as each site. Look for our District press release to be issued on Friday, August 26th. It is important to analyze such data to determine the effectiveness of strategies already implemented and to inform future decisions.

Over the summer, the California legislature passed an on-time budget for the first time in several years. Though the Governor was unable to convince the Legislature to approve the tax extensions he proposed, revenues did come in higher than expected. As a result, education was “flat” funded for 2011–12. Flat funding is a significant improvement over the cuts that many thought schools would receive. There is a caveat to this, however. The funding model is based upon the continued increase in the collection of revenues at the state level. A plan was built into the budget to deal with the possibility that revenues will fall short of projections. Depending on the severity of the short fall, education can avoid mid-year cuts or could face significant cuts. The budget plan requires the legislature to closely monitor revenues through December 15th and, based on updated projections at that time, a decision will be made whether or not to implement the mid-year cuts. In short, the adopted budget is better than first predicted, but there is still some uncertainty. The link below will take you to a site that spells out the specifics of the budget plan with regard to possible mid-year cuts. As additional information becomes available, we will keep you informed.

<http://blogs.sacbee.com/capitolalertlatest/2011/06/full-details-on-the-trigger-me.html>.

With the budget deal done on time, I actually had some time to sit down and reflect upon my core beliefs about educating kids. I looked back to the first presentation I made as a new principal, several years ago. I was focused on the concept of “All” kids and really saw my role as the advocate for those students who did not have a full array of support systems in place. I worked hard to make sure all kids had access and were provided the resources and necessary support to be successful. It was interesting to see that after nearly 15 years of site and district administrative experience, my core beliefs haven't changed dramatically. I guess that is what makes them “core.”

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Upon reflection, I made a subtle change in my beliefs about educating kids. I now look at educating kids through the lense of "each" student. The line that resonates with me is "*Each Kid, Every Day.*" "Each Kid" is more focused for me when I compare it to "All." I shared this concept in July with our district Principals, Management, and with the entire staff during the first week of August. I appreciate the feedback I received so far, and I look forward to discussing this perspective with staff and community members throughout the year. I believe our focus on supporting "Each" student to meet our high expectations will result in better learning for all of our students.

I sincerely wish each of you the best year ever. A year filled with students learning at high levels, with staff feeling empowered to make a difference in the lives of "Each" student they encounter, and with a community proud of the education we provide our students. Again, welcome back, and thanks for all you do to support student learning.



Chris Hoffman, Superintendent
"Each Kid, Every Day"