



San Diego Unified School District

EUGENE BRUCKER EDUCATION CENTER
4100 Normal Street, San Diego, CA 92103-2682

Terry B. Grier, Ed.D.
Superintendent

April 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians:

March 24th marked my first day as Superintendent of San Diego Unified School District. I am so pleased to be here in San Diego. As I spend time visiting schools - meeting with students, teachers, and principals - I look forward to meeting many of you as well.

In the course of my career, I have worked as a high school teacher, a coach, an assistant principal, principal and an associate superintendent. Most recently, I was Superintendent for Guilford County in North Carolina, a position I've held since 2000. I am honored to now serve as your superintendent.

I spent many weekends in San Diego prior to March 24 getting to know the community and helping to deal with one of the most challenging budget crises in recent history. The current proposed cuts to education in California would be devastating to our children. Many of you feel the same way. Your calls, letters and emails to legislators in support of our schools are appreciated. We will soon be hosting a series of informational meetings about the budget situation. I encourage you to attend a meeting to listen, learn and speak out on behalf of all of our children.

You can help with the budget situation right now by making sure your child attends school every day when healthy. Our schools depend on Average Daily Attendance (ADA) revenues and lose about \$50 per day for each student who is absent. Try to plan vacations and time off when school is not in session. This helps our schools and your child. Research shows a clear connection between attendance in school and academic success. You can learn more at <http://www.sandi.net/programs/everydaycounts>.

Being in school is even more important right now as students continue with spring testing. Test results provide parents with important information about their child's progress, help teachers to focus on a student's areas of need, and enable the district to determine which programs are most effective in helping all students meet grade level standards. State and federal policymakers use test results for accountability -- to help measure the effectiveness of programs and schools.

I look forward to working with you. Thank you for your ongoing support of your child - and all others - both at home and at school. Parent involvement in the educational process has always been essential to a student's success, and never more so than right now.

Sincerely,

Terry B. Grier, Ed.D.
Superintendent