



San Diego Unified School District

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

Terry B. Grier, Ed.D.
Superintendent

May 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians:

My first month here has been rewarding, busy *and* challenging. I've had the pleasure and privilege of visiting about 20 schools so far, and have many more to visit in the weeks ahead.

I've met with dozens of students from all over San Diego and am impressed with their insights and expectations for their futures. Our students want to continue to be challenged and provided with more educational options. The high school students tell me they want to see more Advanced Placement (AP) courses and more options for foreign language and internships. Their feedback is essential in setting the priorities for our high schools next year.

As parents, you've told me you want these same options for your students and, I promise you, we are listening.

We're also listening to your concerns about the budget and you've answered the call about "what can I do?" You've written letters to elected officials, made phone calls, marched, and rallied. You're making your voices heard, and that's extremely important. The time to influence the budget process in Sacramento is now.

What else can you do? You can make sure your child comes to school every day, when healthy. When students miss school, we all miss out. Regular attendance is shown to have a strong and direct connection to a student's academic performance.

There is also a funding connection. The state of California uses Average Daily Attendance (ADA) to fund our schools. For each day a child misses school, a school loses about \$50. If a school has 25 students absent every day over the course of the school year (180 days), it results in a loss of more than \$225,000 in funding. That can mean the loss of valuable instructional programs and needed supplies, and more importantly, teachers and staff – the very people you count on to provide a quality educational experience for your child.

Thank you for what you do at home each day to support your child's success in school. It does make a difference. And thank you for your ongoing support of our schools as we work through these challenging times....together.

Sincerely,

Terry B. Grier, Ed.D.
Superintendent
