

Superintendent's Message: August 2, 2010

As we begin this school year, and another year of diminished financial resources, it is important to remember that our *true* resources are the children, staff, and communities of Rancho Cordova and Folsom. Amidst all of the budget cuts, our mission remains clear and focused. Our employees invest countless hours in our students, providing them with comprehensive and engaging instruction, counseling, health services, and other important support functions. Our dedicated staff helps to determine the success of individual students and the next generation.

We must acknowledge last year as the most difficult in the history of our District. Closing two elementary schools in Rancho Cordova was heart-breaking for the families and staff at Cordova Lane and Riverview Elementary Schools. However, the welcoming attitudes of the neighboring schools and communities are a testament of Rancho Cordova's rich tradition of pulling together and taking care of its own.

Education funding in California has dipped to 49th out of 50 states. As the fifth largest economy in the world, California should make education a higher priority. The lack of sufficient funding has created an untenable burden on our schools and it will impact the future of our students, our state, and our nation. We will lose our competitive edge in technology, agriculture, tourism, research, and aerospace manufacturing if there is not a conscious decision to make education a priority in this state.

Our students deserve a better future. The Folsom Cordova Unified School District has joined with eight other schools districts, the California Parent Teacher Association (PTA), the California School Boards Association (CSBA), the association of California School Administrators Association (ACSA), and over 60 individual families in filing a lawsuit against the State of California.

The lawsuit, named [Robles-Wong v. California](#), contends that:

"The unsound, unstable and insufficient school finance system is neither aligned with required state educational programs nor with student needs. The amount of funding provided to

education is not enough to deliver the state required programs to all students so that they meet the state's educational goals. The funding system causes unequal learning opportunities. The lawsuit asserts that the state has a constitutional obligation to provide every student with the opportunity to be proficient. However, due to the state's broken finance system, districts are denied the ability to provide students with the very programs that ensure student success. This lawsuit seeks to guarantee that all students have the opportunity to have the education that will enable them to become informed citizens and productive members of society."

The Folsom Cordova Unified School District will continue to build on our success in student achievement; even as we wait for the state economy to recover and for education to be funded at a level that matches our expectations.