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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**BRIAN DAHLE**  
FIRST SENATE DISTRICT



MEMBER  
AGRICULTURE  
BANKING AND  
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
BUDGET AND  
FISCAL REVIEW  
SUBCOMMITTEE #2  
ENERGY, UTILITIES  
AND COMMUNICATIONS  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
TRANSPORTATION  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON  
FAIRS, ALLOCATION  
AND CLASSIFICATION

August 6, 2020

Senator Holly Mitchell  
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review  
California State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Mitchell,

I am writing to voice my concern over the public school funding approved within the 2020-2021 budget. As you well know the budget included a freeze on funding for schools at their 2019-2020 levels. While this may have been meant to detour people from transferring schools during a pandemic, the reality is much different.

Schools, as well as families, begin their planning for the next school year many months in advance. This year most schools had an idea of what their enrollment was going to look like next year in February or March. Students and families transfer from one school to another for many reasons, including relocations due to jobs, programs that better fit their child, transportation issues, etc. As schools plan, they determine the staff level they need and begin to hire teachers to accommodate their student load. Many schools in my district are seeing increases in their enrollments and have already hired the appropriate staff to respond to these increases. Now as they look forward to the school year starting in a couple of weeks, they have the uncertainty of whether or not their plans will be funded.

When SB 98 was approved this past June, the Governor noted *"While maintaining school funding at current levels allows for stability in the public education system, it does not take into account schools that had planned expansions. By not funding those expansions, families enrolled in those schools may be displaced, with impacts exacerbated by the uncertainties caused by COVID-19. I urge members of the Legislature to pursue targeted solutions to these potential disruptions, and will work with you in the coming weeks to enact them."*

I urge legislators to take the Governor up on his commitment to fix this issue in our budget. During this time, our state should be stepping up to support our most important population – our children. These children are guaranteed in our California Constitution a free and equitable public education. This funding disruption puts this at risk as families are already struggling with the effects of COVID-19. Do we really need to add one more thing for them to worry about? We need to do the right thing and call a budget hearing to address this issue before we find ourselves at the end of session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Dahle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" and last name "Dahle" clearly distinguishable.

**BRIAN DAHLE**  
Senator, 1<sup>st</sup> District

cc: Governor Gavin Newsom  
Senator Shannon Grove  
Senator Jim Nielsen