

## Memo



**To: All Pleasant Hill Elementary Parents**

**From: Pleasant Hill Elementary PTO Board**

**Subject: State Education Funding Cuts**

As you've probably heard in the news, Governor Culver and our legislators have proposed a **\$33 million budget reduction in education funding.**

These budget cuts mean that the district will be forced to eliminate 450 FTE full time teaching positions in our district schools, including **300** teachers from our already over populated classrooms.

**How will this affect our school?** Positions will have to be cut. Class sizes will increase. Extra support and opportunities currently offered to your student will be eliminated. At risk are our PE, Art, Music and Band programs as well as reading programs.

**What do we need to do?** We urge you to contact your legislators and tell them that you do not support their decision to reduce funding to our schools. We need our legislators to ask: how can we make sure we're investing properly in our future, not what can we afford to cut right now?

**Parents, your students need for you to take action now!**

The PTO Board has provided some key points to help make this easy for you. We've also provided a sample email and letter. Phone calls work too!! The more we oppose these cuts, the better chance we have to help protect our children's education.

### KEY POINTS TO COMMUNICATE

- This budget flunks the basic test of good government: It hurts our children. Our children did not create this financial crisis and they should not have to pay for it.
- A budget is a reflection of our community values. This budget does not value the education, health, or welfare of our children and the future of Iowa
- I know how important it is to have small class sizes and enough textbooks for all children. And I know how important it is to close the achievement gap.
- I want to make sure my children and all the children in Iowa have everything they need to succeed.
- All the politicians say we have to work together to find strategies to close the achievement gap. Any cut to education— much less a \$ 33 million dollar cut – is not a good strategy.
- Cuts in early intervention programming allow students to slip through the cracks.
- Investing in public education is also one of the most important ways to ensure the long-term growth and health of our state's economy. Today's students are tomorrow's well-educated and highly skilled citizens who will fill more high paying jobs, create more new businesses, and cost the state less in other social services – if we support them now.

## SAMPLE EMAIL OR FAX OR LETTER:

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I reside in \_\_\_\_\_. As a parent of a child(ren) at Pleasant Hill Elementary I ask that \_\_ (Your elected official) \_\_ strongly **OPPOSE** the proposed budget cuts to education. This budget flunks the basic test of good government: It hurts our children. Our children did not create this financial crisis and they should not have to pay for it. Please do the right thing for our children. **OPPOSE** any cuts to education and children's programs in the budget.

## SAMPLE EMAIL OR FAX OR LETTER

Date  
Your Address

My Legislator  
State Capital  
Des Moines, Iowa

Dear Senator or Assembly member \_\_\_\_\_:

As a parent of a child at Pleasant Hill Elementary, I ask that you strongly **OPPOSE** Governor's proposed budget.

- The parents of Pleasant Hill Elementary oppose any cuts to education and children's programs in the state budget.
- This budget flunks the basic test of good government: It hurts our children.
- Our children did not create this financial crisis and they should not have to pay for it.

Please do the right thing for Iowa's children. **OPPOSE** the any cuts education and children's programs in the budget.

Thank you.  
Sincerely,

Your Name  
Your Phone number

Representative Leonard Boswell  
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Des Moines Office:  
300 East Locust, Suite 320  
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Senator Charles Grassley (Republican)  
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