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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

June 26, 2020

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

Good news, everyone!

We learned Monday that our state budget will not include cuts to our 2020-21 school year funding. I'm delighted and relieved. This is great news for our immediate needs.

Twin Rivers was preparing for the possibility of a 10% decrease to our funding, a loss of nearly \$28 million. However, it seems that the Legislature and Governor Newsom were able to reach an agreement that does not require any cuts be made to the next school year. State Education Budget (AB 77) is about 342 pages in length, and since it will be approved June 26, we are still studying the details. But at this early stage, we can see that cuts to personnel or layoffs will not be required to balance our budget in the 2020-21 school year.

The Legislature will hear the budget bill this Friday, and then send it to the Governor for signature, which is due by or before next Tuesday, June 30.

The voices that gathered to advocate for student learning were heard, *and we are grateful*. Now that we can collectively wipe our brow in relief over no deep funding cuts in the short-term, we can turn our full attention to continue preparations for the 2020-21 school year.

To the point of planning for next year, I want to take this opportunity to thank both our District and TRUE leadership teams for their tremendous efforts to collaborate to build an education plan that has a safe learning environment as a foundation. The plan also allows us options and flexibility given the current and expected continuation of this COVID-19 environment. Our responsibility to provide a safe learning environment led to a three-phase educational program with each phase being implemented based on the safety guidance from our county and state health departments. The three phases consist of: (1) pure virtual (instruction online) learning; (2) combination of in-class/in-person and virtual (instruction online) learning; (3) traditional in-class/in-person learning.

This phased approach provides class sizes and structures that will allow us to honor physical distancing guidelines when required. Additionally, if health officials once again feel they must require a shelter-in-place in order to protect the public's health, our online offerings will ensure that our talented teachers can deliver instruction in essential standards online.

Finally, when we are cleared and it is safe to do so, we will return to our traditional in-person educational program. We are also planning for a pure distance learning model to accommodate families who prefer this model, if permitted by law to provide this option.

As we plan and prepare to deliver education differently next year, news of a state budget that will require no deep budget cuts allows us to continue collaborating on that topic that excites and motivates us most—our students.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Martinez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Steve Martinez, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Twin Rivers Unified