

**ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Board Of Education**

**Resolution No. 26-08-09: Solving the Budget Crisis**

**WHEREAS**, California's more than six million students deserve the highest quality education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature and Governor already imposed \$2.8 billion in education cuts in September 2008, resulting in significant reduction of essential programs and services to students that are integral to their success, and

**WHEREAS**, California schools have endured severe and chronic underfunding that has persisted for decades; and

**WHEREAS**, These cuts have resulted in teacher layoffs and increased class sizes statewide, not to mention a further erosion of the support system for students provided by thousands of classified and paraprofessional staff that have also been laid off; and

**WHEREAS**, The Legislature and the Governor propose to cut schools even further in the middle of the current school year, compounded by deep cuts in 2009-10, resulting in districts having \$1,500 less per student than they need to maintain programs and services for students of two years ago; and

**WHEREAS**, Very broad fiscal flexibility is essential for maximum local decision-making and would allow districts to prioritize during the budget crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, The Governor's budget plan also illegally manipulates Proposition 98, the state's minimum school funding law, to permanently cut at least \$7 billion from California's students, in violation of the California Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, Further budget reductions to education are fundamentally inconsistent with the state's goal of improving student achievement, at a time when our students are making progress toward meeting rigorous state and federal education standards; and

**WHEREAS**, The budget problem was not created by our students and fixing it should not come at the expense of their educational progress and success;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Orange Unified School District adamantly opposes further cuts to education funding and urges the Legislature and Governor to immediately solve the budget crisis with a balanced approach; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Orange Unified School District supports broad local budget flexibility to help school districts prioritize the resources they have to best serve the needs of their students.

**IN WITNESS OF THE ABOVE-STATED ACTION**, I have hereunto set my hand this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2009.

  
Rick Ledesma  
Board President