



For Immediate Release

Livermore Schools Join Funding Awareness Week

January 31, 2020 - Livermore, CA - Livermore Schools are joining with other schools and districts in Alameda County and throughout California to participate in Fund Education Now Week (FENW), February 3 - 7, 2020. Educators and community members are raising awareness about the low level of funding for California schools and its impact on our students.

California is home to over six million K-12 students and is the fifth largest economy in the world. Yet over the past 40 years, the state has fallen from among the top 10 in school funding to the current rank of 40th in education spending, nearly \$10,000 per student behind the top-funded state in the nation. Since Proposition 13 went into effect, the State has controlled local school funding. Coordinated by the East Bay Coalition for Public Education, FENW provides a focused opportunity for residents to contact legislators and encourage them to prioritize educational funding.

Eleven districts in Alameda County have funding measures on the March 3, 2020 ballot, in an effort to help bridge the funding gap. “In places where the cost of living is high, such as the Bay Area, educational funding is stretched further, deepening inequities,” according to the Alameda County Office of Education. “California educates 1 in 8 children in America, more than any other state. As we’ve dropped in funding, homelessness and incarceration have risen. The time to change is now,” said Craig Bueno, President of the Board of Education for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD).

Livermore schools are fortunate to have community support for education through a voter-approved facilities bond and a local parcel tax that help supplement State funding. “I am grateful to our community and proud of the work done each day by the dedicated educators in our district,” said Kelly Bowers. “With adequate funding from the State, our students would benefit from additional resources and opportunities.”

“We all know that a quality public education is the cornerstone to a thriving community. So please join me and so many other concerned Californians and contact your State Senators and Assembly Members and request that our students be funded in the top 10% now. It is imperative that we invest in children.” said Bueno. Our future depends on it.

Additional Graphics/Video Link:

Attachment #1: Fund Education Now Logo (source: LVJUSD)

Attachment #2: California Funding Infographic (source: <http://www.fullandfairfunding.org/>)

Link to Video: [A Tale of California School Funding on Vimeo](https://vimeo.com/388065694), courtesy Alameda County Office of Education (<https://vimeo.com/388065694>)

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ABOUT LIVERMORE VALLEY JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

LVJUSD is an award-winning district that serves more than 13,900 students in transitional kindergarten through 12th grade at nine elementary campuses, two K-8 schools, three middle schools, two comprehensive high schools, and two alternative schools. The LVJUSD features International Baccalaureate Programmes and a STEM pathway, TK-12. The mission of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District is to ensure each student will graduate with the skills needed to contribute and thrive in a changing world. For more information about the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, please visit www.livermoreschools.org

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