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## **Press Release**

For Immediate Release

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# **San Francisco Schools Brace for More Cuts Superintendent Says Schools are Relying on the City's Rainy Day Fund**

**February 23, 2009 (San Francisco)** - San Francisco school superintendent Carlos Garcia announced today that the state budget cuts to education could be devastating to San Francisco public schools. Garcia reported that the district's initial analysis shows that up to \$51 million may be cut from the schools over the next two years.

"The state budget that just passed will reduce the budget for education by \$8.4 billion, and California already ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation in per pupil spending. We are letting the next generation down," said Garcia.

Funding for many important programs has been eliminated or reduced by the state's budget, including less support for struggling students, through cuts to summer school, teacher training, instructional materials and high school exit exam support.

The Superintendent said it is likely the district may need to consider increasing class sizes in kindergarten and secondary school physical education classes. "Our district has always believed in maintaining small class sizes, relative to many other California school districts. Unfortunately, these economic times may require us to change that."

In order to meet the state deadline for certificated layoff notification, the superintendent said he will be bringing a proposal to the Board of Education tomorrow asking them to approve sending preliminary layoff notices to 506 teachers and school administrators.

Last year in March, 535 layoff notices were issued due to a projected \$40 million cut from the state and by May the city's rainy day fund helped SFUSD avoid massive layoffs.

Garcia said that the stability of the San Francisco public schools hinges on the rainy day fund. The superintendent called on the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to continue to support the children of San Francisco even during these tough times.

“Because of our amazing teachers and the commitment of our elected officials, we are still managing to make gains every year for our kids. We must continue to put kids at the center. It’s the right thing to do, both morally and economically. By underfunding our children’s education, we’re shortchanging the future for all of us.”

Garcia said that if Mayor Newsom and the Board of Supervisors approve the full amount SFUSD is entitled to in the city’s current Rainy Day Fund reserve, the district can at least once again avoid hundreds of layoffs of teachers throughout San Francisco retain most of the people who keep the schools running every day.

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