

February 12, 2008

Dear Fine Arts Parents,

We received a letter yesterday from Superintendent Walt Ruffles containing a survey regarding proposed education budget cuts. We are asking you to go online and give your input and recommendations, particularly in support of fine arts. The survey can be found at <http://ccsd.net/budgetSurvey.php?s=1>

This is a copy of the letter:

Dear Parents, Community Members, and Staff:

As you know, Nevada is facing some financially difficult times and the Governor is requesting reductions in spending from state-supported agencies, including education. As a result, Clark County School District is facing the loss of approximately \$66 million. Any reduction in district operating funds will necessarily have an impact on planned and/or existing programs, projects, or services.

The Board of School Trustees and district staff already have had significant public discussion on this matter, but are committed to providing community members, parents, and staff with additional opportunity to express their views on reductions in education spending. To that end, the following survey (<http://ccsd.net/budgetSurvey.php?s=1>) not only invites your input on specific areas that could be cut but also allows for other recommendations.

CCSD students have made noteworthy progress in recent years – we are the only district of the nation's 10 largest to have made AYP last year, despite being funded at the bottom of that list – and we are determined to maintain our momentum. We know that our success as a district is due to the dedication of parents, staff, and others in the community who support education. We value your opinions and constructive comments as we approach the difficult task of continuing to offer quality programs while imposing significant cuts.

Thank you for participating in this survey.

Sincerely,

Walt Ruffles
Superintendent of Schools
Clark County School District