

BUDGET BULLETIN NO. 3

01.31.08

The Governor's Budget for 2008-09 includes a proposal to cut public education funding.

To keep our parents and community informed regarding the status of the state budget and its potential impact to our District, we will be issuing regular Budget Bulletins.

How Everyday Counts

Did you know that Ocean View's state funding is based on student attendance and not enrollment? Known as Average Daily Attendance (ADA), this calculation adjusts the revenue funded per student based on the average number of days students are in class. In 1998-99, California law changed regarding how ADA is reported, removing allowances for excused absences for reasons such as illness or a doctor's appointment. The new law requires districts to report only the total number of days students are actually in class, with the only exception allowed via an Independent Study Contract for more than five days.

When a student is absent, Ocean View still has to pay utility bills for the school the student is enrolled, run school buses to the student's bus stop, pay for materials for the day's activities the student will miss, as well as pay for the principal, teachers and support staff needed to run the school that day. As you can see, attendance is vitally important to our ability to fund our core program.

Obviously, there are times when students are sick and certainly should stay home from school. However, there are also times when students are out of school for other reasons such as family vacations and doctor's appointments – absences which, if scheduled during school holidays or after school, would increase student learning as well as school funding.

Ocean View has always had high attendance rates (averaging 96.26% in 2006-07), but there is still room for improvement. During the second month of school this year, the District lost \$41,571 in attendance funding due to student absences. Did you know that if every Ocean View student attended school just one more day during the year, our funding would increase by almost \$287,195?

The bottom line is if students aren't here, they don't learn, and we're not funded.