



September 25, 2009

Dear Key Communicators:

Recently, we placed a budget process presentation and stakeholder survey on the district website. The purpose of this presentation was to make our stakeholders aware of the process we are implementing to develop the budget for the 2010-2011 school year. Although we have just started the 2009 - 2010 year, we need to develop the budget for next school year by February or March of 2010 in order to accomplish our goal.

The new funding system for public education, HB 3646, inadequately meets the financial needs of CFISD. Since we did not know the financial impact of HB 3646 until after it was passed by the legislature on June 1st 2009, we were forced to identify \$14 million in reductions in our budget in a very short time period –between June 2nd and June 25th. Our fiscal year, unlike some other districts in the state of Texas begins on July 1st and ends on June 30th. Therefore, by law, we had to have a budget adopted for this school year prior to July 1, 2009.

The 2010-2011 school year is the second year of the legislature's biennium and so the funding system will stay the same. We know what our revenues will be for the next year, because the formula provides a designated amount per WADA (weighted average daily attendance). The only real variable is the number of students that will enroll in our district.

However, we have consistently projected student growth in enrollment accurately. This being said, we are confident that our state and local revenue estimates are on target for next year. The only other aspect in the development of the budget is determining what expenditures are required or needed.

This brings us to the process that we have implemented to develop the 2010-2011 budget. We are asking stakeholders to watch the video presentation that is posted on our district website and participate in a survey that is also posted online. We must reduce the budget by \$10 million and to do so, we face a daunting task of identifying programs and services to eliminate. This will be a challenge because we will do this on the heels of two consecutive years with budget reductions that total \$41 million.

As a stakeholder in our schools, you have an important perspective. This is why we want your input. Please go to the website at www.cfisd.net to submit your input.

Sincerely,
David Anthony, Ed.D.