



GILROY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Superintendent

7810 Arroyo Circle, Gilroy, California 95020
Tel. 669-205-4000 fax: 408-847-4717
www.gilroyunified.org

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Deborah A. Flores, Ph.D.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Enrique Diaz ♦ B.C. Doyle ♦ Tuyen Fiack ♦ Mark Good
Anisha Munshi ♦ James E. Pace ♦ Linda Piceno

Dear Parents, Staff, Students, and Community Members,

I would like to share information with you regarding the current enrollment challenges Gilroy Unified School District is facing, as well as some steps the Board of Education and I are considering to address the changing environment facing our District.

For many years, the Gilroy Unified School District's enrollment steadily increased, but that has changed. In 2016, at the peak of enrollment, there were 11,509 students in Gilroy Unified schools. By the fall of 2018, [enrollment had declined](#) to 11,101 students. This downward trend exists throughout the County; 25 of 31 school districts are affected. In Gilroy Unified School District, enrollment in our eight elementary schools has shown the greatest decline.

The [birth rates](#) in California, Santa Clara County, and Gilroy have decreased over the last decade. Lower birth rates lead to smaller *cohorts*, or total number of students in a grade level in the District. The average cohort size is decreasing: the current senior cohort is 972 students, and the current kindergarten cohort is 708 students.

Regardless of the reasons for the decline, the loss of 400 students over two years represents almost \$3.7 million in lost revenue. Decreased revenue, along with rising costs, makes it necessary to reduce expenditures for the 2019-20 school year by \$3 million. Because of this, at several recent school board meetings, budget reductions have been proposed. As part of this proposal, stakeholders were surveyed to gather input about their priorities and the budget. The list of [proposed reductions](#) for the 2019-20 school year, as well as reductions already implemented this school year, has been presented to the Board of Education.

Recently, an advisory committee was created to consider the possible need to close an elementary school. The Superintendent's Advisory Committee is following the [California Department of Education's guidelines](#) for this process. The committee is comprised of a wide range of representatives, including our three employee bargaining units, parent groups, administration, members of the Board of Education, a retired principal, and a community member. Meetings are held monthly, and by this June the Committee will update the Board about its progress and preliminary recommendations.

The Board will consider the Committee's advisory recommendations in August 2019 and make a decision by the fall of 2019. If a school is to be closed, the closure would occur in August 2020, a year after a decision is made. As of today, *no decision* has been made on whether to close a school, and no school has been singled out for closure.

I want to assure you that we are working tirelessly to provide the best educational opportunities for all of our students as we work through this process.

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Flores, Ph.D
Superintendent