



FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

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Williams v. the State of California

The class action suit known as Williams v. the State of California was first filed in May 2000 and alleged that the State had failed to properly ensure students in all schools received access to an “adequate education.” The class action suit focused around claims that the State failed to provide thousands of public school students, particularly those in low-income, diverse communities, with the minimum necessities required for an education, such as textbooks, trained teachers, and safe and clean facilities. In August 2004 the case was settled. The State agreed to enact legislation that holds all school districts accountable to provide sufficient instructional materials, well-maintained schools and qualified teachers. Along with the new requirements for low-performing schools, the State has promised nearly \$1 billion to schools performing in the lowest deciles to address problems in facilities and instructional supplies. For Fresno Unified we would receive additional funding for our decile 1, 2 & 3 schools.

Fresno Unified is committed to providing our students with well-maintained facilities and sufficient instructional materials for all our students to succeed. Each site has the Williams Complaint form for students, parents, and staff to submit their concerns/complaints. Notification of the Williams case is posted in every classroom. Each site has submitted an inventory of their instructional textbooks to examine the sufficiency of instructional materials for all students.

The Board will hold a public hearing and adopt a resolution on the sufficiency of instructional materials on Wednesday, February 23 at 5 p.m.

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