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MEDIA RELEASE

Fresno Unified Ensures Financial Stability Amid Funding Challenges

As the state fiscal year came to an end on June 30, Fresno Unified is being proactive to ensure the financial future of our district for both teachers and students.

Fresno is the third largest school district in the state, following Los Angeles and San Diego. For context, we have a much more solid standing for fiscal year 25-26 by comparison, yet every district is considering cutting the budget.

The challenges experienced this year were lower enrollment and no additional state funding for education with a low cost of living adjustment. Additionally, Fresno Unified loses \$30 million a year to absenteeism. This is a topic we watch with great interest. A change of 1% can affect us by \$10,000,000.

The state budget creates an additional challenge by deferring 2/3s of our funding for school year 25/26. While the funding will eventually come, it will arrive later than anticipated.

However, that same formula allows us to be flexible with our state funds because 90% of our students are defined as low income. Because we can shift our resources even with the stated challenges, fiscal year budget 25-26 will be balanced.

In all, the district cut \$61.9 million in 24/25 and 25/26 from the budget by making reductions at the central office, negotiating elimination of Designated Schools, utilization of grants, eliminating vacant positions and moving special assignment teachers back to the classroom. Most importantly, no teachers were laid off.

In fact, teachers have received raises over three years, been given one-hundred percent coverage on health care and classroom caps.

The three-year cycle gave raises to teachers:

2023 – 2024 8.5% raise

2024 – 2025 3% raise and a longevity increase of \$10,000 for teachers with more than 25 years of service, making Fresno Unified the highest paid teachers in the area.

2025 – 2026 5.5% raise

See accompanying graphic [here](#).

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