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EdVoice Statement on Governor Newsom's 2020-21 May Revision

Sacramento, CA – EdVoice President Bill Lucia today released the following statement in response to the Governor's May Revision to the January 2020-21 State Budget proposal:

"The May Revision sets forth a detailed plan for the Legislature to follow a path to a balanced budget recognizing the grim fiscal consequences of the COVID-19 Recession. California is experiencing an unprecedented decline in employment, personal income and revenues to the state General Fund. Moving forward will clearly require shared sacrifice as the state and communities work to put people safely back to work and students back in school. We understand no state or local budget will escape serious downward adjustment and belt tightening in the near-term.

"The Governor's plan recognizes state constitutional provisions on K-14 education accounts must not be ignored when deferring allocations of the proceeds of revenues from one fiscal year to the next. We appreciate the acknowledgement of the need to address the cumulative effect of deferrals on the Proposition 98 guarantee going forward, and the critical need for deferral exemptions. To that end, as indicated in our [letter](#), EdVoice encourages the administration and the legislature to recognize equity issues and minimize the necessary documentation of hardship in a streamlined process rather than creating a new burden or new bureaucracy.

"Prior to, during and after the Great Recession inter-year cash deferrals violated the California Constitution by holding back more money per pupil from school districts with low property wealth, resulting in deeper teacher and classified employee layoffs, fewer library hours, larger cuts to career technology programs, and elimination of music, arts, sports, and after school programs in the state's poorest neighborhoods, while other communities had more fiscal tools and local property tax receipts to manage delays in on-time cash apportionments."

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EdVoice is a nonprofit grassroots network of parents, community leaders, educators, and education philanthropists, working together to give children and their parents a voice in the decision making process in Sacramento and throughout California. EdVoice works to improve measurable student achievement and eliminate educational inequality in California.