



With this petition, we express our united opposition to the recent state budget actions eliminating funding in the 2020-21 budget for new students in growing public schools. The highest enrollment growth in public schools is in high poverty communities of color and areas of the state where families can find affordable housing.

Every individual student has a fundamental constitutional right to an equal opportunity for a quality public school education. However, the newly adopted 2020-21 state budget prohibits growing schools from receiving any new state education funding for tens of thousands of children becoming school aged, and families dislocated because of COVID-19 and trying to find a safe school setting, a job and affordable housing.

Every school is facing challenges to reopen, keep kids safe and address COVID-19 learning loss. Funding new enrollment is a learning and public health issue. Without funding for new students, over one-third of school districts across the state will be at a significant disadvantage in addressing COVID-19 learning loss, widening achievement gaps, and health and safety issues related to the pandemic.

If students return to campus this fall, growing schools without resources for new enrollment will face inequitable health and safety challenges with state-required social distancing and other requirements. As a result of flawed state policy, continuing new students and teachers will be knowingly disproportionately affected with increased class sizes and deeper program cuts to provide a basic education program and maintain minimum health and safety.

Accordingly, we call on Governor Newsom and the legislature to immediately provide equitable state funding for every new student in every public school for the 2020-21 school year.