



fresno county office of education

Larry L. Powell
Superintendent

September 8, 2009

The Honorable Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny
State Capitol
Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Ducheny:

While the state's financial situation demands difficult cuts, I find one cut to be particularly troubling due to its long-term impact on the quality of California's education. I'm speaking specifically of the elimination of \$705,000 from the Department of Education, halting all work on instructional materials adoptions and curriculum framework revisions until the 2013-14 school year.

I am especially concerned because of the relationship between the development of the curriculum frameworks and the adoption of instructional materials. The Curriculum Frameworks play a critical role in guiding high quality instruction for implementing California's world-class standards and they are essential resources in the development of new instructional materials and other initiatives to improve the quality of teaching. There is a two year lag between the revision of a framework and the adoption of new textbooks. For example, the last science textbooks were adopted in 2006, the science framework revision was due for completion in 2010, with new textbooks scheduled for adoption in 2012 – a six year cycle. If adoption of the science framework is delayed until 2014, the earliest adoption of textbooks would be 2016. By eliminating the revision of the frameworks, we are making the statement that science instructional materials we have now will be relevant for the ten years. That is not the standard of excellence for which California is known.

I hope that this budget item will be recognized for its long-term importance in providing quality and timely content to our state's children and that consideration will be given to restoring this funding.

Sincerely,

Larry Powell, Superintendent
Fresno County Office of Education