

August 16, 2018

The Honorable Marc Berman  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0024

**Re: AB 2639 – Pupil Suicide Prevention Policies: Reviews: Updates      Position: Support**

Dear Assemblymember Berman:

On behalf of the Davis Joint Unified School District thank you for authoring Assembly Bill 2639 above, which will significantly address the improvement of mental health services for students. We understand this bill must pass before the legislature adjourns on August 31, 2018.

We concur with State Superintendent of Instruction Tom Torlakson who stated, "Students need to have good mental health to succeed in the classroom and in life. Schools can help by creating a caring and supportive environment and by working to help identify mental health problems early so students can receive the treatment they need."

AB 2639 requires schools that serve students in grades 7 through 12 to review policies on pupil suicide prevention every five years and update the policy, if necessary. AB 2639 also permits Local Educational Agencies to update the policy more frequently.

This Bill is well-aligned to the commitment made by the Davis Joint Unified School District to support the mental health of our students. We believe the changes proposed in this Bill would assist every school agency, including ours, to help us meet the mental health needs of our students. Therefore, we strongly support AB 2639.

Sincerely,

John A. Bowes, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

cc:    The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor of California  
      Senator Anthony J. Portantino, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair

August 16, 2018

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 3086  
Sacramento, CA 96814

**Re: SB 972 – Pupil and Student Health: Identification Cards: Suicide Prevention Hotline Telephone Numbers**

**Position: Support**

Dear Senator Portantino:

On behalf of the Davis Joint Unified School District thank you for authoring Senate Bill 972 above, which will significantly address the improvement of mental health services for students. We understand this bill must pass before the legislature adjourns on August 31, 2018.

We concur with State Superintendent of Instruction Tom Torlakson who stated, “Students need to have good mental health to succeed in the classroom and in life. Schools can help by creating a caring and supportive environment and by working to help identify mental health problems early so students can receive the treatment they need.”

SB 972 requires public schools, private schools, and public and private institutions of higher education that issue pupil identification cards to include the telephone number for a suicide prevention hotline or the Crisis Text Line.

This Bill is well-aligned to the commitment made by the Davis Joint Unified School District to support the mental health of our students. We believe the changes proposed in this Bill would assist every school agency, including ours, to help us meet the mental health needs of our students. Therefore, we strongly support SB 972.

Sincerely,

John A. Bowes, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

cc: The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor of California  
State Assembly

August 16, 2018

The Honorable Jim Beall  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 2081  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 1019 – Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Service Position: Support**

Dear Senator Beall:

On behalf of the Davis Joint Unified School District thank you for authoring Senate Bill 1019 above, which will significantly address the improvement of mental health services for students. We understand this bill must pass before the legislature adjourns on August 31, 2018.

We concur with State Superintendent of Instruction Tom Torlakson who stated, “Students need to have good mental health to succeed in the classroom and in life. Schools can help by creating a caring and supportive environment and by working to help identify mental health problems early so students can receive the treatment they need.”

SB 1019 requires the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission to consult with the Superintendent of Public Instruction and create a grant program for school district mental health partnerships.

This Bill is well-aligned to the commitment made by the Davis Joint Unified School District to support the mental health of our students. We believe the changes proposed in this Bill would assist every school agency, including ours, to help us meet the mental health needs of our students. Therefore, we strongly support SB 1019.

Sincerely,

John A. Bowes, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

cc: The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor of California  
Assemblymember Lorena S. Gonzalez-Fletcher, Committee on Appropriations Chair

August 16, 2018

The Honorable Marc Levine  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 5135  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1436 – Board of Behavioral Sciences: Licensees: Suicide Prevention Training**

**Position: Support**

Dear Assemblymember Levine:

On behalf of the Davis Joint Unified School District thank you for authoring Assembly Bill 1436 above, which will significantly address the improvement of mental health services for students. We understand this bill must pass before the legislature adjourns on August 31, 2018.

We concur with State Superintendent of Instruction Tom Torlakson who stated, "Students need to have good mental health to succeed in the classroom and in life. Schools can help by creating a caring and supportive environment and by working to help identify mental health problems early so students can receive the treatment they need."

AB 1436 requires an applicant for license as a marriage and family therapist, educational psychologist, clinical social worker, or professional clinical counselor to show that he or she has completed a minimum of six hours of coursework or applied experience in suicide risk assessment and intervention.

This Bill is well-aligned to the commitment made by the Davis Joint Unified School District to support the mental health of our students. We believe the changes proposed in this Bill would assist every school agency, including ours, to help us meet the mental health needs of our students. Therefore, we strongly support AB 1436.

Sincerely,

John A. Bowes, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

cc: The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor of California  
California State Senate

August 16, 2018

The Honorable Kansen Chu  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol – Room 3126  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0025

**Re: AB 2022 – Pupil Mental Health Services: School Notification**

**Position: Support**

Dear Assemblymember Chu:

On behalf of the Davis Joint Unified School District thank you for authoring Assembly Bill 2022 above, which will significantly address the improvement of mental health services for students. We understand this bill must pass before the legislature adjourns on August 31, 2018.

We concur with State Superintendent of Instruction Tom Torlakson who stated, “Students need to have good mental health to succeed in the classroom and in life. Schools can help by creating a caring and supportive environment and by working to help identify mental health problems early so students can receive the treatment they need.”

AB 2022 requires all schools to inform, at least twice a year, pupils and parents or guardians how to access available student mental health services on campus or in the community. The bill also allows counties to use funds from the Mental Health Services Act to provide grants to schools to develop and distribute the notifications.

This Bill is well-aligned to the commitment made by the Davis Joint Unified School District to support the mental health of our students. We believe the changes proposed in this Bill would assist every school agency, including ours, to help us meet the mental health needs of our students. Therefore, we strongly support AB 2022.

Sincerely,

John A. Bowes, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

cc: The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor of California  
Senator Anthony J. Portantino, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair