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As we emerge from an extremely challenging period of financial uncertainty in our school district, we recognize that Berkeley's unwavering commitment to public education has kept our schools strong. Academic achievement continues to improve for all students. The arts are still an essential part of our educational program, and class sizes have been maintained. We are thankful to have avoided the drastic actions that created instability in other school districts, such as furlough days, massive layoffs, and school closures.

We owe you, our community, a big THANK YOU. You renewed support for the Berkeley Schools Excellence Program (BSEP) in 2006, voted for the school maintenance tax and a new facilities bond in 2010, and you helped prevent more cuts to our schools with the passage of Proposition 30 this past November. While it did not restore lost state revenue or increase current funding levels, Prop. 30 did pave the way for greater stability in state education funding.

Inside this report are two charts to help explain the financial picture for Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) by showing General Fund revenues from 2007 to the present. To address reductions in state funding, we worked with the Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee over several years to make \$9 million in strategic cuts. At the same time, one-time federal stimulus funds, revenue generated from increased student attendance and growing numbers of elementary school students, as well as modest growth in local revenue, allowed us to minimize the impact on our schools.

We now eagerly await the legislature's decision on a new local control funding formula that could give us the flexibility to reinvest in our most important priorities. We are studying the impact that cuts have had on our programs and services over the past several years. As funding levels are restored, we want to ensure that our resource allocations align with our goals. However, until a vote is taken in Sacramento and the details emerge, we are unable to predict reliably the amount of new revenue that will be generated for Berkeley.

Soon we will welcome a new Superintendent of Schools to Berkeley, and we are committed to work together in pursuit of our mission of excellence,

