



DURÓN'S DIGEST

UPDATE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ROBERT J. DURÓN

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Facing the New Year with urgency

A new calendar year also signals the start of a new school semester and it is with renewed enthusiasm and a sense of urgency that we greet our work for the coming year. Chief among our goals is our steadfast commitment to ensuring that all students graduate. Each of us, whether or not we work directly with students, has a role to make it possible for every student to attain that high school diploma with the preparation to succeed in higher education. Achieving this high expectation will propel our organization so that each one of our campuses attains at least *Recognized* status

Equally important is balancing our District budget and containing costs. Our neighboring school districts also are facing similar financial challenges. Funding from the state is based on student enrollment. In our case, the major concern is a decline in student population, which affects the bottom line. That said, SAISD has made major reductions over the last two years and this has resulted in significant savings. The savings of \$15.6 million this past year was netted largely through school consolidations and closures. Yet, we still must continue in a cost-savings mode. Some of the ways we can do this are by limiting travel, reducing overtime and delay hiring of non-teaching positions.

I remain hopeful that the state legislature, now in session, will adjust the per-student allocation provided to school districts. We have met with our legislators and we appreciate the dialog about school finance and other priorities for our district. We believe they want to help provide some type of relief while also addressing other issues facing our state. The legislative priorities for SAISD can be found on the Web at http://www.saisd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=322&Itemid=131

By working together we can navigate through this difficult time. I am open to hearing your ideas on other ways our District can contain costs.

Stimulus Plan

This week we learned \$77 million is proposed for SAISD in the economic stimulus package now being considered by Congress. This is in the proposal stage and still needs the approval by the House and Senate. These monies would be targeted for renovation projects, Special Education needs and to improve on programs already in place. Our list of needs is deep so I would be extremely pleased for any additional money we could see from Washington D.C.

Sincerely,