



MYRNA MELGAR

DATE: April 14, 2025

TO: Mr. Elliott Duchon, California Department of Education's Fiscal Advisor to SFUSD

FROM: Supervisor Myrna Melgar, Joint Select City and School District Committee *MM*

RE: Questions Regarding California Department of Education's Impact on the Student Success Fund

Dear Mr. Duchon,

While the California Department of Education (CDE) does not have direct oversight on the Student Success Fund, established by voters, there are questions about how the State's role impacts implementation.

On behalf of the Joint Select City and School District Committee, we would like to request responses to the following questions to provide clarification for the members of this body and the general public prior to the hearing on Thursday, April 17, 2025:

- Is there an understanding from the State that the Student Success Fund is a partnership agreement between the City and the School District to improve student outcomes with a dedicated funding source that was determined by the voters, which provides consistent funds for 15 years and can be renewed?
- What are specific requirements and parameters that SFUSD needs to ensure Student Success Funds will be used to their original and full extent in the 25-26 school year and beyond?
- We recognize that as CDE's Fiscal Advisors to SFUSD that you have stay-and-rescind authority. Can you clarify what that entails? Can you please describe how that relates to the oversight of City funds dedicated to SFUSD, specifically the Student Success Fund, if applicable.
- Does the CDE have authority over how the School District disburses local, earmarked funds such as the Student Success Fund?
- Did you require SFUSD to implement a hiring freeze that prevented schools from hiring budgeted positions under the Student Success Fund?
- What are the specific requirements and parameters that SFUSD needs to meet to lift the hiring freeze, if it has not already been lifted?
- What commitments can you make to assure that the Student Success Fund monies will be used as the voters intended, and that positions under review by the California Department of Education that are associated with a Student Success Fund grant will be approved?

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.