

January 16, 2013

Board of Education
Dr. David Cash, Superintendent
Santa Barbara Unified School District
720 Santa Barbara St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Enrollment Trends in South Coast Schools and School District

Dear Members of the Board and Dr. Cash:

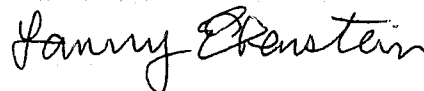
In the fall, the California Center for Public Policy received a grant to write a report on enrollment trends in south coast schools and school districts, emphasizing the Santa Barbara Unified School District, which enrolls about two-thirds of public school students on the south coast. The report is attached. I look forward to making a presentation on it and answering any questions you may have at your meeting this Tuesday.

Essentially, enrollment will remain about stable in the coming years, with a decline in enrollment, following a recent decline in births (since about 2009), starting modestly in the 2016-2018 period first at the elementary level. Santa Barbara Unified School District elementary schools will remain the largest on the south coast.

There has been great change in the distribution of students within the community in recent decades. A significantly greater portion of children and families of all children and families on the south coast now reside within the boundaries of the Hope, old Santa Barbara Elementary, and Montecito school districts than was once the case. Goleta and Carpinteria have proportionately and actually lost students. The socioeconomic diversity of schools on the south coast over time is also discussed.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing you Tuesday.

Yours sincerely,



LANNY EBENSTEIN, Ph.D.
President

Enclosure