

CAPITOL OFFICE
1021 O STREET
SUITE 7520
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4015

DISTRICT OFFICE
1155 MERIDIAN AVENUE
SUITE 100
SAN JOSE, CA 95125
TEL (408) 723-4154

California State Senate

SENATOR
DAVE CORTESE
FIFTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



CHAIR
TRANSPORTATION

COMMITTEES
EDUCATION
HOUSING
LABOR, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
& RETIREMENT
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS
PUBLIC SAFETY

March 26, 2026

José Magaña, jmagana@sjusd.org
Brian Wheatley, bwheatley@sjusd.org
Carla Collins, ccollins@sjusd.org
Teresa Castellanos, tcastellanos@sjusd.org
Nicole Gribstad, ngribstad@sjusd.org

**Board of Education Members
San José Unified School District
855 Lenzen Avenue
San José, CA 95126**

Dear Board of Education Members for San José Unified School District:

I am writing regarding the Schools of Tomorrow initiative and San Jose Unified School District's proposal to close five schools (Lowell, Empire Gardens, Terrell, Gardner, and Canoas) and relocate Hammer Montessori. I have received numerous parent and constituent concerns regarding SJUSD leadership's lack of transparency. I encourage you to examine constituent concerns as it pertains to this decision and SJUSD broader leadership practices, as to better foster community trust in our public-school systems.

As a public education advocate and former school board trustee, I take these concerns seriously. **I strongly urge you to pause any vote on school closures until the board has adequately engaged the community and sought guidance from the state.**

Unfortunately, neither the SJUSD Superintendent nor the Board of Trustees has yet contacted my office to discuss assistance from the state legislature. As your representative in the California State Senate, I am eager and willing to explore what options our collaboration may empower, should you choose to reach out.

Please do not hesitate to contact my staff at Meghan.Bedi@sen.ca.gov or our office at (408) 723-4154 should you need any further assistance or have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Cortese".

Senator Dave Cortese
California State Senator, 15th District
senator.cortese@sen.ca.gov