



Santa Barbara County Education Office

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June 26, 2009

Jack O'Connell
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education
1430 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Superintendent,

This letter is written to request your action to support continued funding for three State Operations funded program positions for the Cal-SAFE (California School Age Families Education) Program.

Currently these three positions are at risk due to the placement of the Cal-SAFE Program in Categorical Tier 3 funding. There is a misperception that due to program flexibility these three positions are not necessary. This perception is not accurate. Currently 138 agencies have committed with State support, to continue their Cal-SAFE programs in 570 high schools, and 250 child development centers serving teen parents and their children, infants, toddlers and preschoolers, by maintaining the program statutes and regulations.

It is critical to the continued operation of these successful, fully integrated Cal-SAFE Programs and to the quality of services they deliver to the most at-risk students and their children that these State Operation staff be present and available to provide much needed quality guidance, technical assistance, consultation and oversight to monitor achievement of, and successful adherence to program best practices.

The Cal-SAFE agencies are committed to the on going proven success of the Program and respectfully request your action to ensure that a minimum of three FTE program staff positions continue to provide their expertise, knowledge, and support of the Cal-SAFE programs.

If you have questions or need additional information, the Cal-SAFE State Advisory Work Group is here to assist you.

Sincerely,

Trudy Adair-Verbais
Cal-SAFE State Advisory Work Group

cc Camille Maben, Child Development Division Director