



For Immediate Release

Contact:
Adrienne Hall
(916) 275-9540
ahall@sthope.org

SACRAMENTO CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL HIT BY STATE BUDGET CRISIS

School Officials Announced Anticipated Layoffs Today to Faculty and Staff

Sacramento, CA (May 9, 2008)—Following a state-wide trend in California schools, Sacramento High School announced plans today to layoff teachers and staff, effective early June 2008. Faculty, teachers and staff were notified of the decisions during individual meetings with the principals.

The layoffs are a result of January's California State budget cuts to public education by 10%, a substantial 4.4 billion dollar decrease.

"With the proposed reduction to California's education budget, we need to maximize each dollar we have for our students, just like every other school is doing right now," said PK Diffenbaugh, Principal at Sacramento High School. "It's unfortunate that we're forced to make this decision at such a great time of academic success at Sac High but we will remain firm in our commitment to maintain these high achievements even during this unexpected staffing change."

Sacramento High School released data in late April indicating that 83% of their seniors are on track to fulfilling the A-G college entrance requirements, the standard for acceptance by California public universities. That number is up from just 38% when St. HOPE Public Schools began operating Sacramento High as a public charter. Even more impressive— more than 75% of Sac High's seniors are already accepted into at least one four-year college, including MIT, University of California at Berkeley, Stanford, and UCLA.

"We are incredibly proud of our students, teachers, and parents who've worked tirelessly to make Sacramento High School an institution of the highest caliber," Diffenbaugh added. "We are proactively restructuring our operations to continue to provide top-notch education and safety for our students, resulting in well-rounded young adults who are prepared to succeed in college and beyond."

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While some of Sacramento High School's teachers and staff will not be returning for the next school year, we are still committed to providing an academic environment that prepares students to succeed in college and beyond.

The following structure and programs will remain the same:

- Students will have the choice of four small schools:
 - School of the Arts
 - School of Business & Communications
 - School of Law & Public Service
 - School of Math Engineering & Health Sciences

- Every student on campus will be assigned to a positive role model on campus for advisory sessions. During their weekly meetings, students will be held accountable for weekly assignments, attendance, GPA and community service hours.

- A longer school day will still be in place.

- Although class sizes will likely increase, Sacramento High School will continue to offer a lower student to teacher ratio than other public schools in the area.

- College counselors will still be assigned to each student with a focus on professional development and teacher collaboration.

- A strong athletics program will still be offered.

- Sac High will still have the same high standards for discipline and order on campus, continuing to institute strict policies on tardiness, attendance, detention and Saturday school. Sac High will remain as one of the safest high schools in the district.