



FISCAL CRISIS & MANAGEMENT
ASSISTANCE TEAM

Via Email

July 15, 2025

JoDee Johnson, Board President, Plumas Unified School District (jread@pcoe.k12.ca.us)
Chelsea Harrison, Board Clerk, Plumas Unified School District (charrison@pcoe.k12.ca.us)
Jolene Cline, Board Member, Plumas Unified School District (jcline@pcoe.k12.ca.us)
Cindy Crim, Board Member, Plumas Unified School District (ccrim@pcoe.k12.ca.us)
50 Church Street
Quincy, CA 95971

Dear Ms. Johnson, Ms. Harrison, Ms. Cline and Ms. Crim:

Pursuant to the request made through your adoption of Resolution 1678 on April 28, 2025, the State of California initiated the process to provide the Plumas Unified School District (district) with up to \$20 million in an emergency apportionment. To accomplish this, the state included the necessary findings, provisions and authorities in Section 98 of the Education Omnibus Budget Trailer Bill ([Assembly Bill 121](#) [AB121]) which was passed by the California Legislature, and then signed by the Governor on June 27, 2025.

The effective date of the district's receivership was June 27, 2025, and pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 98, the Plumas County Superintendent of Schools shall assume all legal rights, duties, and powers of the governing board of the district, and shall appoint an administrator.

Furthermore, subparagraph (B) of paragraph (4) of subdivision (c) provides that, "The authority of the county superintendent of schools in exercising their duties pursuant to this section shall be independent of the county board of education. The county board of education shall not hinder or interfere with the county superintendent of school's authority and actions to carry out their responsibilities pursuant to this section or Article 2 (commencing with Section 41320) of, or Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 41325) of, Chapter 3 of Part 24 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Education Code, as applicable."

As noted above, the county superintendent shall appoint an administrator (county administrator) to act on their behalf in carrying out the requirements of statute and AB 121. To this end, the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) has commenced the process to identify and vet candidates to serve as the county administrator. We anticipate the process of making an appointment to be completed in early September. In the meantime, it is appropriate that the county superintendent of schools assume the duties of the county administrator. This is also consistent with your own action on June 18, 2025, to appoint the county superintendent as interim district superintendent until July 31, 2025, or such time a county administrator is appointed.

Pursuant to subdivision (b) of Education Code Section 41326, the Plumas governing board "shall serve as an advisory body reporting to the county administrator, and has no rights, duties, or powers, and is not entitled to any stipend, benefits, or other compensation from the district." This provision does not affect your role as county board members.

There are many practical and statutory changes that will occur in the coming months as the district adjusts to a new normal concerning governance and organizational structure. The county administrator is tasked with initiating these changes but also ensuring that the changes are made in a transparent manner. The California Open Meetings Act (Brown Act) remains applicable, and we expect all governing meetings and processes to conform to such. FCMAT will work closely with the county superintendent of schools during this interim period to ensure appropriate processes are followed leading to the successful opening of the new school year, the readoption of the district's 2025-26 budget, staffing and other pressing matters ahead of the arrival of an appointed county administrator.

Again, the organization and the joint governance of the county office of education by the county superintendent of schools and the county board of education is not impacted by the implementation of the statutes and provisions described above.

I remain committed to ensuring the Plumas Unified School District successfully implements and transitions through the receivership process. I also remain available to each of you for any questions or guidance I can offer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael H. Fine". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "M" and a cursive "Fine".

Michael H. Fine

Chief Executive Officer

Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team

Members of the Board, Plumas Unified School District

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- c: Andrea White, Plumas County Superintendent of Schools
 Brooks Allen, Executive Director, State Board of Education
 Jessica Holmes, Program Budget Manager, Education, Department of Finance
 Amber Alexander, Assistant Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance
 Lina Maloney, Principal Program Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
 Patrick Rochelle, Finance Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
 Abel Guillen, Deputy Superintendent, Operations and Administration Branch, CDE
 John Miles, Interim Director, School Fiscal Services Division, CDE
 Yong Salas, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
 Erin Gabel, Principal Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
 Stephanie Shatto, Interim Chief Business Official, Plumas County Office of Education
 Robert Shimwell, Fiscal Advisor, California Department of Education
 Tami Montero, Chief Analyst, FCMAT