

Superintendent's State of the District Budget - FAQ



DATE: March 18, 2009

As a result of the State of California's fiscal crisis, school districts in California have been forced to make severe budget cuts. In an attempt to keep all stakeholders informed in as timely a manner as possible, we have been posting on the District web site updated budget information as it has become available. I encourage you to read the budget reports contained therein. The following information is being provided in an attempt to address some Frequently Asked Questions. Please understand that the details regarding the state budget may change and that if the propositions on the May 19, 2009 special election ballot are not passed, it is believed that there will be more cuts made to K-12 education.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How much does CUSD have to cut?

For the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years, it is anticipated that we must reduce our budget by \$3.7 million. As a result of sound financial planning, the cut to our educational programs for these two years is \$2.7 million as we are able to utilize unspent reserve funds to cover the additional \$1 million reduction.

I thought CUSD was in good financial shape, why can't the District survive this reduction in revenue?

CUSD is in better shape than many school districts. Our cuts for these two years are partially offset by savings we have been able to use to cover a portion of the reduction in revenue. However, if the state does not restore funding in the 2010-11 school year, additional cuts will be necessary in order to accommodate the permanent reduction in revenues noted in the previous answer.

What is happening to class sizes in our schools?

We will continue to have small class sizes in grades K-3. Classes will be between 20-24 students in grades K-3. There will be no increase in class sizes in grades 4-12.

Why was staff laid off?

In order to reach the \$3.7 million reduction in revenue, class sizes in grades K-3 were increased from a maximum of 20 to a range of 20-24. As a result, fewer teachers are needed at each school. Additionally, many administrators, district wide employees and other support staff have had their jobs eliminated or have been laid off.

What programs have been eliminated?

No educational programs have been eliminated at this time. If the State of California does not further reduce revenues for school districts, CUSD will not be forced to cut educational programs.

What other cuts may occur?

It is hard to anticipate what may happen in the future because the State of California's budget is unpredictable. Recently, the Legislative Analyst Office indicated that there is a potential for an additional \$8 billion gap between the adopted budget's expenditures and revenues. If the deficit continues to grow, it is anticipated that more cuts may be made to K-12 education.

Does the proposed budget include any money from the Federal Stimulus Package?

The proposed budget in CUSD does not include any of these funds. There is little information regarding when or how much of this money CUSD may receive. In addition, it remains unclear as to what specific restrictions may be tied to these funds.

How can I help?

If you are financially able to help, please contribute to the Claremont Educational Foundation. This incredible group of volunteers raises money each year to support art, music, technology and transportation for field trips. Please contact your school's Parent Faculty Association and give of your time as well. All children benefit when they see caring adults in their schools. It is also important for legislators and the governor to hear from us that children are important. School districts need more local control with flexibility and education needs to be made a top priority.



**David Cash, Ed.D.
Superintendent**