

Colorado School Finance Project

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2012-13 Trends of District-Reported Budget Cuts – DRAFT

2012-13 District-Reported Budget Cut Discussions as of April 15, 2012:

- 1) As cuts continue for 3rd and 4th years, more districts are depleting reserves (one-time money) – reducing or eliminating savings with no way to build back up. Reductions continue to capital (building) – pent up demand, concern for safety. Concerns continue around curriculum requirements for new State Standards adopted by districts in December 2011.
- 2) Staffing impact continues:
 - a) Reduction in administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, maintenance, etc. No replacements for attrition, retirement and/or staff reduction.
 - b) Freeze salaries (often extending 2, 3, 4, 5 years of cuts), no adjustment for cost of living, employees pay for benefit increase – dependent upon district.
 - c) Furlough days (school closed – students do not attend, staff does not come to work, no one is paid) instituted in 2010-11 or 2011-12 expected to continue in most districts. Additional districts contemplating furlough days.
- 3) Classroom Impact continues in 2012-13 (in addition to cuts in 2010-11, 2011-12):
 - a) Increases in class size (ranging from 1 to 6). Lowered graduation requirements
 - b) Programs cuts/reductions in addition to cuts from 2010-11, 2011-12 include: Discussions underway in districts, music, business, looking at all electives programs and electives, library, title, high school math, graduation requirement support, extracurricular.
 - c) Districts increasing number of classes taught by teachers at high school, middle school.
- 4) District Wide Cuts, Freezes, Increases (fee to participate) continue:
 - a) Transportation: fewer bus runs, eliminate field trips, contract out or charge.
 - b) Decreasing school/department budgets, reduce professional development
 - c) Freeze or cut technology and textbook/curriculum purchases, defer maintenance or replacement to technology, cut instructional supplies, cut capital reserve budgets.
 - d) Fees (new or increase) for sports, arts, drama, student council, reduce school/activity budgets.
 - e) Cut or defer building maintenance
- 5) Services Outsourced: Districts continue outsourcing and also reviewing possibilities. Smaller communities have limited or no outsourcing opportunities.
- 6) Reduce Facilities/Close Schools: Looking at closing/combining schools, reducing square footage.
- 7) Using Reserves to Balance Budget continues: reserves (one-time money) to balance the 2012-13 budget, some for 2nd and 3rd year.
- 8) Districts that passed Mill Override in 2011 or 2012 finding that override often can't cover the 10-11, 11-12, 12-13 cuts. Some districts contemplating Mill Levy Override in 2013.
- 9) Budget Cuts possible from reporting districts as of 3/2/2012: \$30.3M to \$37.9M. About 60% of K-12 public education students are in the reporting districts.

Note: Trends for 2010-11 and 2011-12 district budget cuts are available on our website, www.cosfp.org, click on the District Budget Cuts tab.

Source: As reported by school districts to the Colorado School Finance Project, February-April 15, 2012