

District Responses to Negative Factor Questions - Group 5		
District	Scenario 1 - Buydown NF - How would your district spend money if the Legislature invested \$200M back into the Negative Factor?	Scenario 2 - No buy down - Would your district have to make budget cuts? If so, what do you think you would do?
Cotopaxi	<p>This year we will dip into our fund balance to the tune of \$36,000. If we keep doing that we go broke. We would not have to go into our fund balance with the restored buy-down. Our bus fleet is an average of 15 years old with our newest bus over six years old, all of which have over 200,000 miles on them. We could put money toward a new bus. Over the last five years Cotopaxi has cut the Art program, half time Music teacher, the only librarian, one cook, one custodian, two secretaries, and we went to a para for Title One which was a full-time teacher. That is six and a half positions in a school that has less than 45 total employees. I would love to restore just a couple of these. We have textbooks that are 15 years old and have not bought any for 4 years, we would put money in this line item. We would put money in technology so that we could adequately test our students on the new mandated computer tests. I need 40 sets of headphones right now to administer this years tests at \$15.00 a pair, I hope I have enough donations to cover them.</p> <p>We have facility issues that have to be addressed. 25 year old carpet, bad pipes, cracked cement, leaky roofs, and floor tiles that have to be replaced.</p> <p>One of the biggest concerns I have is the cost of propane to heat our buildings. Our school is totally fueled by propane, it cost us \$1.41 a gallon this year as per our contract, right now if I had to get propane without the current contract it would be well over \$3.50 a gallon. I suppose we will fund this line item before all others.</p>	<p>We will continue without an Art program and part-time music. We will cut in other areas like one cook, one Para, part-time custodian, and continue to ask students to bring copy paper to run our copiers. There will not be any raises for our staff. We will not buy textbooks for another year. We will put off buying that bus we so desperately need. We don't need the money with strings attached, it will not help us. We have no ELL students and very few Read Act students. We already fund Full-Day Kindergarten, so it won't help there either. We could talk about cutting Kindergarten to a half day but that would mean I would have to transport them home in the middle of the day which would cost us more. Plus some of my parents would move them to a school that does have full-time Kindergarten and we would really lose.</p> <p>With all this being said, we provide a great education for students and our community because we have learned to do more with less. It is at the breaking point, however!</p>

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Deer Trail 26J	We would raise the base salary, update science textbooks as most of our textbooks are 8 – 10 years old, hire a full time teacher who can teach part time special education and either help out in the secondary in language arts or in the elementary as an interventionist, hire a principal, and purchase a new route bus. We have several maintenance issues that need to be addressed on our aging facilities (carpet, water fountains, heating/air conditioning units, ceiling tiles, etc.	Freeze the current steps on the salary scale and no one would receive a raise, look at closing our swimming pool, changing from a full time pre-school to a half time program possibly, we would not replace two heating/air conditioning units next year as planned, and we would have to look at possibly not having a Title I teacher part time, and instead utilize a para professional because we currently use the general fund to pick up the benefits and remaining salary for our Title I teacher that is not supplied by federal dollars. Deer Trail has cut certified staff positions for the past four years (six positions have been eliminated). We cut the principal position four years ago and have one administrator who serves the dual role. Our bus routes were cut from three routes to two, and we haven't purchased a route bus in several years. We have cut coaching stipends, athletic expenditures, and stipends in general for extra duties. We were able to raise our base salary and unfreeze steps last year (they had been frozen for three years), but that is because we made cuts in other parts of the budget to be able to do this.
Dolores	Attract and Retain High-Qualified Teachers! We are loosing them to other professions to support their families. We plan to honor their "steps" and possibly a COLI. Technology! We have antiquated tech equipment and need to purchase more laptops for the online State assessments. Maintenance: We are behind on purchasing busses and repairing our buildings. We have cut way back in these areas during the recession and now have a lot of catching up to do.	We would have to cut into the classrooms even more. This will increase class sizes and discourage more teachers from staying in the profession.

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East Grand	<p>Proposed to our BOE: Our share is approximately: \$298K. Add back four -.5 certified FTE (or equivalent): \$88,000 Benefits on above - insurance/medicare/pera: \$29,000 Add back contracted counselor: \$13,468 Add back Paraprofessional 7 days of training: \$18,567 Benefits on above - medicare/pera: \$2,744 Add back CASE Convention: \$2,000 Add back partial Extra Duty / Committee Pay: \$15,000 Add back Summer School 2015: \$17,500 Add back 1 day on certified contracts: \$27,930 Benefits on above - insurance/medicare/pera: \$5,307 Add back 10% classroom and other general supplies: \$53,464 Will not need to increase Student Fee / Technology Fee by \$5.00: \$6,000</p>	<p>Yes, see Scenario 1 column - Proposed to our BOE: these will be our budget cuts if no additional money comes from the State.</p>
Elizabeth	<p>First Priority: Reduce the use of spending our limited reserves and fill the funding hole created by unfunded mandates. Second priority: Any remaining dollars would be used to help reverse our falling test scores by adding intervention support in the classroom, maintain class sizes and finally unfreeze salary movements to help reduce our 30% attrition rate with a minimal addition to salary schedules.</p>	<p>Yes, the Elizabeth School District would need to make further budget reductions that will negatively impact our students. Some of the options our district is considering is: increasing class sizes, further consolidation of bus routes, eliminate preschool, eliminate instructional coaches and the elimination of middle school extracurricular activities.</p>
Kim		<p>Our district would not need to make budget cuts this year, but we probably would next year. We are very small and can use some of our reserve; however, school districts that are even a little larger than ours will have to make significant cuts.</p>
Meeker	<p>We are still looking at having to make cuts even with the \$200M restored Negative Factor.</p>	<p>We would need to continue to dip into our ending fund balance, get creative on cost saving mechanisms, reduce building and department budgets.</p>

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Montezuma - Cortez	Strategically replace positions cut over the past 5 years, especially in the areas: Rtl positions for tier II and tier III instruction (right now, teachers classroom instruction (tier I) is being impacted by the lack of tier II and III supports being dramatically reduced; replace critical counselling positions to meet the social/emotional needs of our students; replace specials/elective teachers for all levels; increase budget for maintaining our 60+ year old buildings and facilities; and stop spending down our Reserve, which is at an all time low (and getting lower).	This would put our district in a position where we wouldn't be able to make the strategic staffing decision we need to support increased student achievement. We would also have to consider a RIF and/or dramatically increasing staff contributions to the self-insurance fund. We would be forced to continue spending down our reserve, but this is a very, very short term solution since our reserve is already at bare bones.
Park County RE 2	If the Negative Factor went down and our district received more funding, these could be used to reinstate some of the many programs that have been cut, or we could bring the staff salaries up to date after the years of salary freezes, furlough days and no changes to the base.	If the Negative Factor stays the same or goes up, we could be looking at more cuts in staff or programs. We have been unable to pay our employees the salary that is needed to retain/recruit quality staff for at least 4 years now.
Peetz	At Peetz we would use the funding to help pay for the technology updates we need in our building so that we are ready for the PARCC and CMAS required by CDE. We also have an expensive roof repair that must be taken care of soon.	We will postpone updating curriculum and look at what web based interventions we can do without. Eliminate one of our Para educator positions as well as consolidating classrooms as staff retire.