

2011-12 Trends of District-Reported Budget Cuts

2011-12 District-Reported Budget Cut Discussions as of June 30th, 2011:

- 1) As cuts continue, District concerns for the future: Cuts to professional development, textbook and technology budgets - how will districts implement new curriculum for Colorado's new state standards? Cuts to transportation – how to replace buses in future? Depleting reserves (one-time money) year after year – no savings to fall back on, no way to build back up. Cuts to capital (buildings) – pent up demand, concern for safety.
- 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 years of cuts), no adjustment for cost of living, employees pay for benefit increase – dependent upon district.
 - c) Furlough days instituted by districts in 2010-11 continued in most districts, additional districts implemented from 1-4 furlough days. Furlough day = school closed, students do not attend, staff does not come to work, no one is paid.
- 3) Classroom Impact continues in 2011-12 (in addition to cuts in 2010-11):
 - a) Increases in class size (ranging from 1 to 6). Lowered graduation requirements
 - b) Programs cuts/reductions include: Science, Art, Language Arts, Math, Foreign Language, Business Education, Music, Technology, Agriculture, Full Day Kindergarten, Secondary remedial reading, Athletics/PE, Alternative Programs, Special Education (SPED), Career and Technical Education, English Learners, Credit Recovery, Auto Mechanics, Industrial Arts, Dual Credit, Intervention, Library, High School Choir, High/Middle School sports, High/Middle School electives, field trips, night school.
 - 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: Some outsourcing (nursing service, technology, bus mechanics, HVAC, snow removal, food service, custodial, transportation, lawn care, and plumbing). 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 2011-12 budget, some for 2nd year.
- 8) Districts that passed Mill Override in 2011 finding that override often can't cover the 10-11, 11-12 cuts. Some districts contemplating Mill Levy Override in 2012 or 2013.
- 9) Budget Cuts possible from reporting districts as of 6/30: \$191.8M to \$211.9M. About 60% of K-12 public education students are in the reporting districts.

Source: As reported by school districts to the Colorado School Finance Project, February-June 2011, June 30th, 2011 report.