

District Responses to Negative Factor Questions - Group 4		
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?
Aguilar	We would keep the teachers we have now.	We would likely have to cut yet again.
Big Sandy	We would spend money on 2 buses (we have not been able to buy a bus for 7 1/2 years). We would buy 50 computers for all of the assessments and for classroom usage. We would put money into our "capital reserve" (as we were required to put approximately \$90K each year in the past, but when they changed the law when the economy went down, we have only put in \$10K a year). We do not have money to put away, earmarked for "high" dollar special education students anymore and would put some away for that. We would give staff a step salary raise and base salary raise as we have not been able to do much in this area the last several years. We would increase our health insurance contribution to employees (the school used to pay the premium for a single person, but we froze it several years ago as we could not afford it...staff members have been hit extremely hard with raises in health insurance premiums with zero additional assistance from the school for the past several years.	We will cut an elementary teacher, will cut a counselor, will reduce another elementary teacher's position, will have our principals teach an additional class, will cut cheer-leading, will continue to postpone purchases of buses, technology, health insurance, salary step and base raises.
Burlington	We would look at covering the increase to health insurance, PERA and energy costs. With money that might be left over we would then look at: staff compensation; implementation of state mandates; classroom materials; district technology; school safety.	We would look at covering the increase to health insurance, PERA and energy costs through our beginning fund balance.
Calhan	We would reinstate step increases and possibly look at adjustments to salary schedules. We have given only one step increase in the last 5 years. Invest in technology resources for our students.	We would have to make reductions on top of the program and staff cuts that have been made over the past 5 years. We would look at cutting another \$100,000 to \$200,000 on top of the \$700,000 already cut. We are also concerned about growing energy and health insurance costs and how these will affect our bottom dollar.
Cheraw	We would look at adding a possible .5 SPED teacher and restoring our Spanish teacher rather than providing it with online courses.	We would look at cutting 1.5 FTE within the buildings possibly.
Colorado Springs D-11	Staff Compensations	No

District Responses to Negative Factor Questions - Group 4		
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?
Del Norte	We will use the money to keep staff positions and to invest in classroom materials (textbooks, technology, training)	We will have to make budget cuts this year. We are planning on cutting up to 6 staff positions. We cut several positions two years ago and we don't know where to cut at this point. We have one retiree and one teacher moving out of state and we plan to absorb those positions. We have already cut to the bare minimum when it comes to custodial, cafeteria and transportation.
Eagle County Schools	Add interventionists positions to schools; address large class sizes in schools (we have some early elementary grades at or over 30); provide raises to employees; provide relief to health care costs for employees; fully restore transportation services; restore specials (art, music, PE), purchase e-textbooks and other curricular materials; address some overdue capital projects like leaky roofs, grounds improvements, parking lot cracking.	Not expected to make cuts, but none of the items in Scenario 1 would be addressed and employees would be provided minimal salary increase.
Garfield RE-2	We are currently deficit spending so we would use the money to help with that.	We have a few more years that we can deficit spend and then we will be looking at ways to cut about \$2.4M out of our budget.
Hanover	Hanover would be able to manage the negative draw that has occurred for us with higher costs for health care and also for diesel and propane for our buses and school. With the current trend, that will be significant increase as we are already past this years allotted amount for propane with the spike in prices. If there were any additional funds, I would like to be able to support our students by providing additional intervention opportunities with either teachers or Para-professionals to assist our struggling students. We also need to consider some new curriculum that has been put off for the last four years.	This may mean reducing our bus routes to more centralized pickup spots (we are already pretty streamlined there, but still do 700 miles per day of busing with only 250 students). Possibly not backfilling positions through attrition but we are already single track so we don't have much left that we can cut in personnel.
Haxtun	We will be able to replace old, outdated curriculum and textbooks, shore up our aging technology, give teachers and staff raises -- we have not given a full step in the past 6 years, restore classroom budgets that have been cut, buy a bus (used), and proceed with repairs to our building and parking lot.	If we do not get some relief from the negative factor, we will probably have to reduce the number of paraprofessionals, postpone textbook purchases, try to keep up with repairs to the building, grounds and buses. We will also have to go into our reserves to cover items like PERA, salaries and day-to-day operating expenses.

District Responses to Negative Factor Questions - Group 4		
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?
Holly School District	If the negative factor is reduced by \$200M, Holly School District will receive \$85,554. We have figured this number will not even cover the increased energy costs, health insurance, PERA increase and step increase for the employees. We receive very little for READ and 75% of our students are on free and reduced lunches. Increased funding for at-risk students will assist us in serving those struggling readers. We have cut 8 positions since all of this started, and it looks as though we will be cutting deeper. Transparency is already present, and the multiple day count is an additional burden on our understaffed district. We need an additional kindergarten teacher next year and we aren't even funded for the one we have.	We have cut 8 positions since all of this started, and it looks as though we will be cutting deeper. Our curriculum is outdated, the buses outdated, and we cannot continue to operate in this manner.
Las Animas	For Las Animas School District answering these questions is not as simple as you might think. In the last five years we have lost nearly 40% of our total revenue, and we have been forced to cut one third of our work force. So the easy answer is that we would rehire our staff, however, our enrollment has been steadily dropping. We cannot justify rehiring everyone, and it is questionable if we would restore any of our lost programs. Another consideration for us is that we have been forced to dip into our reserve funds to the tune of \$285K this year. This is going to be a reoccurring amount if we are going to maintain the staff and programs that we have now. Will our share of the \$200M buy back of the negative factor cover the cost of our current expenses, probably not. Will we still have to make cuts? If we get the projected increases in our utility rates and hope to cover any kind of salary increases, yes we will.	Another consideration for us is that we have been forced to dip into our reserve funds to the tune of \$285K this year. This is going to be a reoccurring amount if we are going to maintain the staff and programs that we have now.
Littleton	We would add more mental health support, technology to support Colorado Academic Standards and new assessments, reduce class sizes, compensation including benefit cost increases, and professional development to support the implementation of the new reforms.	

District Responses to Negative Factor Questions - Group 4		
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?
Lone Star	<p>Implement READ, Educator Effectiveness, Professional Development.</p> <p>Maintain staff positions and ratios</p> <p>Look at some kind of staff pay increase</p> <p>Restore a balanced budget and not using reserve each year</p> <p>Restore Technology updates and support and be able to administer CMAS, PARRC, GOLD and DIBELS with our cancelling classes in Computer lab and library.</p> <p>Restore Curriculum Development and update textbooks and resources for Science and Social Studies.</p> <p>Improve maintenance, buses and transportation and safety. We have very old buses that travel many miles a day. We are in desperate need of a new boiler system. We need a fire notification system in the shop. We have written and received a BEST grant for the last two years, but can no longer match the amounts due to our need to spend reserves.</p>	<p>Cut another teaching position.</p> <p>Combine grade level classes</p> <p>Cut class offerings in HS, especially in GT</p> <p>No raise in base pay (again)</p> <p>Continue to spend reserves to meet the increasing costs of unfunded mandates, fuel propane, electricity, insurance, PERA. Our reserves will be depleted in 3 years.</p> <p>Cut bench marking, testing with NWEA.</p> <p>Cut some individualized intervention programs in Middle School and High School</p> <p>Cut High School Athletics</p> <p>Drop out of NE BOCES CTT (Collaborative Teaching Time)</p> <p>We have made cuts and really run a bare bones program. We have already cut music and art to half time to K-12, cut a technology position, a library position, and a Middle School Teacher. All of our staff members wear many "hats". We have also cut our Science competitions and trips: for example ROBOTICS. Cutting the arts and athletics makes our school less attractive to the 70% of out of district students we currently have attending. When students don't come to Lone Star we lose funding. Negative factor is a vicious cycle that is hurting students.</p>
Morgan	<p>We would be able to keep current programs and hire much needed FTE positions that have been cut in recent years. Address much needed safety and security issues in multiple buildings. Honor our contracts with staff, give much deserved step increase. Update serious technology needs. The list can go on and on...</p>	<p>Without an increase in funding we will be looking at making cuts (\$1.2M over the next two years). That's jobs and programs, what else is there to say.</p>
Plateau Valley School District #50	<p>If the \$200M is invested back to the negative factor we will be able to keep the ship afloat</p>	

District Responses to Negative Factor Questions - Group 4		
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?
Platte Canyon School District	<p>If factor is reduced:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Add funds for instruction materials and equipment including technology tools. 2. Use funds for security needs-cameras, dvr replacements 3. Add funds for repairs and maintenance which has been deferred. 4. Add funds for technology infrastructure. 5. Increase base salaries to extent feasible. 	<p>The negative factor translated to a reduction in a per pupil funding of \$1,00l in 2011-2012, \$1,300 in 2012-2013, \$1,340 in 2013-2014 and, as projected, \$1,257 for the coming 2014-2015 school year. These “negative factor” reductions of over a million dollars per year are having serious consequences for our District.</p> <p>During these years we have experienced increased PERA costs, insurance costs, fuel costs, utility costs, tuition cost for special needs students, and additional paraprofessional requirements as well as additional therapy services for severe needs students.</p> <p>We have striven to limit reductions in teacher positions to those justified by declining enrollment. We have frozen base salary increases. We have significantly reduced instructional materials and equipment allocations, reduced security services, support and administrative services, and deferred repairs and maintenance for aging facilities. Additionally, we are struggling to find resources necessary to address the new standards including 21st century skills. We are striving to provide students and teachers with technologies critical to preparing our students for post-secondary success, work place readiness, and responsible citizenship, but are very limited in our ability to provide the necessary infrastructure, equipment and training to do so.</p>
Platte Valley RE-3 / Revere School		<p>Please consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reduction in staff let to the elimination of K-12 Art and Library programs 2) Our aging and run down district-owned vehicles have left staff stranded on the road as recently as last weekend. 3) Delays in boiler and roof replacement & maintenance have been a concern for health and safety. 4) Dated curriculum, resources, and technology have left our faculty and students lagging in education. <p>Had we not had the negative factor withheld, these troublesome concerns would not exist today.</p>
Salida	Additional money would go towards balancing the budget.	We do not intend to cut staff or programs for fiscal year 2014-15.

District Responses to Negative Factor Questions - Group 4		
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?
Strasburg	Strasburg would restore Dean positions at the elementary, middle school and high school, especially with the implementaion of SB191. Award experience steps to staff since they have been frozen for 5 years. Add staff to reduce class size. Purchase textbooks to replace out dated onces since textbook purchases were frozen or minimal. Address safety issues on our campus. Tackle deferred maintenance issues. Restore bus routes that were reduced. Increase funding for technology for student learning and to address the new online assessments	With increases in utilitites and insurance, contine to freeze salaries and experience steps for all staff. Reduce health insurnce benefits. Hiring freeze even thought we are increasing in enrollment, unless absolutely necessary to address health and safety issues. Increase in fees.

District Responses to Negative Factor Questions - Group 4		
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?
Summit	<p>Programs that might be funded:</p> <p>1) Preschool (add planning and collaboration time, also add ELA and Speech Therapists in Preschool. 1A) Develop long term strategy to get more 4 yr. olds into the program. Collaborate with community as well. Very large capital costs to increase slots at full-time slots. 2) Read Act/Early literacy. We want to spread the usage of Reading Recover through 4 of out 6 elementaries. Reading recovery, however is not READ. Act complaint, but we have had great results here at our pilot program. 3) Increase in Tech hardware to ensure that we are ready for the new assessments. 3B) Long term strategy on how to go one on one computing, and other innovative strategies. 4) Greater increase in compensation other than steps and lanes. The board set a goal of \$40K base salary years ago, have not been able to get there or for that matter keep up with inflation. 5) Increase in GT/PD coordination 5B) Increase in itinerants, due to increase in need. 5C) Increase ELA and Special Ed 6) Increase PD days for staff, especially outside the school day 6B) Increase curriculum and Standards based grading PD 6C) Increase in Early literacy PD and intervention. 7) Add Math and Writing Leaders/ Coaches...we have for literacy 8) Increase in behavioral health professionals 8B) Add school resource officers and cameras 9) Capital needs, communication needs, bus and student tracking needs</p>	<p>Governor's budget enables basics: step, lane, PERA, health increases, very small program changes.</p>

District Responses to Negative Factor Questions - Group 4		
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?
Weld RE-1	<p>Weld RE-1 would use the funds to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce class size Enhance literacy instruction by hiring reading interventionists to work with students who qualify for services under the READ Act. Enhance numeracy instruction by hiring math interventionist to work with students who are not proficient in math. Provide for extended day and extended year services. Support for special needs population. Support for English language learners. Support for gifted and talented students. Support for emotional needs of students through additional FTE in social work and counseling. Fully implementing SB-191. Purchase deferred curriculum materials/resources, assessments, textbooks, etc. Recruit and retain a highly qualified staff including licensed teachers, support staff and administrators. Purchase deferred capital projects such as roofs, ceiling, lights, carpeting, tile, concrete, asphalt, HVAC replacement and other facility improvements. And cover costs the Board of Education deemed necessary to provide a safe and exemplary education for our students. 	<p>This has yet to be decided. We were able to pass a mill levy override in 2012. We will be okay this year and probably next year depending on the increase cost of PERA, health insurance and utilities. We will NOT be able to implement any of the items mentioned in the other column.</p>
West Grand	<p>West Grand has had to cut approximately \$500,000 from its general fund budget over the past 4 years and the negative factor has cost us approximately 1.4 Million dollars over the past 4 years. Almost \$2M over the past 4 years. We would hire additional staff and go back to a K-8 principal position instead of a superintendent/principal position for 300 students. Purchase new textbooks, give teachers a raise, possibly raise our base so we can attract quality teachers, upgrade our boilers. Hopefully have enough travel money for teacher training, workshops, and student field trips.</p>	

District Responses to Negative Factor Questions - Group 4		
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?
Wiley	<p>We might have enough money to buy computers and software to be ready for our new electroinc standardized testing. We might be able to restore a position or two that we have cut over the past four years. We might be able to give our staff their steps and lane increases so they want to stay in education rather than leave for other better paying jobs, we might be able to find a math teacher so my principal doesn't have to teach 3 hours of math a day, we might be able to actually find people that want to teach in Southeastern Colorado. We might be able to afford some upkeep and maintenance on our school building that is 44 years old. We might be able to update our technology in classrooms and library. It would be nice if \$200M went back into the negative factor, it would help, but honestly we would still be behind the eight ball after 8 years of cuts.</p>	<p>If there is no buydown of the negative factor, we will continue to freeze salaries, look at cutting programs, and ultimately cut people. Its hard to imagine what else we would cut because we are operating at the bare minimum right now, I guess more people would be cut because salaries and benefits are 80% of our budget. So once again we would cut people, ask other people to do more and freeze their salaries.</p>