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