

FY2019-20 School District Budget Concerns – April 2019

In early April 2019, the Colorado School Finance Project (CSFP) asked school districts across the state about their budget discussions for 2019-20. We asked how districts planned to use additional funds, what are additional costs, what are you unable to fund and additional comments.

April 24, 2019:

District Location	Planning to Fund with additional dollars	Additional Cost Unsure how to cover cost	Unable to Fund
Remote Districts	Hiring one teacher for 1/2 math, 1/2 science	Increase in costs for property and casualty insurance	Aging facilities - a factor in recruitment and retention issues
Outlying Town / City Districts	Increase salaries & benefits at expense of deferred maintenance	Health insurance increase	Deferred maintenance
Outlying Town / City Districts	Utilizing new dollars for salary increases for classified and certified staff. Adding 7 teachers/counselors for student growth	Funding regular maintenance and deferred maintenance	Competitive salaries and small class sizes do not leave much for large scale maintenance jobs
Urban / Suburban / Metro Districts	\$17M in requests, \$6M in new revenue - a shortfall of \$11M	Discussing what to fund / not fund	Need \$2M in capital for Kindergarten

April 22, 2019:

District Location	Planning to Fund with additional dollars	Additional Cost Unsure how to cover cost	Unable to Fund
Remote Districts	Plan to use new dollars for salaries. Need to hire 3 teachers - a major concern	Rising costs and pressures on Special Education - can't cover demands	Need funds for preschool to support teachers
Outlying Town / City Districts	New dollars need to go to salaries to be competitive with front range \$40K starting salaries. Costs of insurance have sky-rocketed - covering these costs is not optional	Costs for supporting behavior health must be covered as costs increase rapidly as needs continue to grow	Having competitive salaries at \$40K unlikely to take place for several years due to funding
Outlying Town / City Districts	Expect Full-Day Kindergarten to cover PERA increases, property insurance increase, Health insurance increase and bus replacement	Costs continue to grow faster than inflation	Unable to fund annual and deferred maintenance on buildings
Urban / Suburban / Metro Districts	Increases cover the cost of living increases for salaries and benefits, supplies, and equipment/utility costs	Need additional dollars to catch up with neighboring district salaries	Our community has not passed a bond or Mill Levy Override in over 10 years

April 17, 2019:

District Location	Planning to Fund with additional dollars	Additional Cost Unsure how to cover cost	Unable to Fund
Remote Districts	No changes to budget for 2019-20	Need to add 3 teachers and 1 vehicle for school transportation	Currently short over \$50K for 2019-20 budget - Keeping at 2018-19 levels will not allow us to meet student growth
Remote Districts	Use extra funds to help with 100% increase in Property & Casualty insurance, 10% - 12% increase in Health Insurance costs.	Needs: Mental health, Transportation replacements, Salaries, Safety and Security - increase SROs, Retention of teachers, cost of health & liability insurance, PERA - contribution & liability, Staff housing, Busses	Higher costs for bus repairs - concern
Outlying Town/City Districts	Losing Counselor Corp - big loss, so having to try and use new dollars to keep program growing at expense of other priorities	Salary increases less than cost of living.	No dollars for busses, safety.
Urban/Suburban/Metro Districts	Cover cuts / costs for declining enrollment, Fund Special Education caseload growth, PERA and compensation increases.	Transportation (General & Special Ed), Career and Tech Education	Additional staffing, new textbooks, curriculum, safety and security items (cameras, door access), new facilities. We need additional dollars to catch up with neighboring districts.