

## Colorado School Finance Project

*School finance research since 1995.*

<b>District Responses to Negative Factor Questions - Group 1</b>		
<b>District</b>	<b>Scenario 1 - Buydown Negative Factor - How would your district spend money if the Legislature invested \$200M back into the Negative Factor?</b>	<b>Scenario 2 - No buy down - Would your district have to make budget cuts? If so, what do you think you would do?</b>
Aurora 28J	If \$200M is invested in the negative factor reduction, we are considering (list subject to change) a mixture of the following items: Fund new teacher positions required due to increase in enrollment; Extend the school day for middle school; Restore assistant principal positions to middle and high schools; Restore school personnel required for playground/lunch supervision; Restore mental health school support personnel; Restore school support positions (clerical).	To be decided.
Custer County	Cover anticipated increases in energy costs and health insurance. Then put money into staff compensation. Salaries have been frozen for 4 years, our base salary is lowest in region. Last spring a teaching candidate turned down our offer and went to work at Bed Bath & Beyond in Pueblo Mall because she could make more money. Our salaries have to be more competitive to attract and retain quality staff. We would try to address steps and base on salary schedule. If anything left, we would put money towards buying a new school bus. We haven't purchased a bus in 6 years, over 3/4 of our fleet has more than 100,000 miles.	We anticipate increases in energy costs and health insurance. Depending upon the increases and our projected enrollment, we may be in a position that we have to cut an elective program to balance our budget.
Dolores County	Additional teachers, support staff, rebuild our capital and transportation reserves, fund building maintenance and repair, purchase additional technology, try to get caught up with curriculum and material purchases, hopefully give staff a raise	We had substantial cuts across the board the last few years and have really tried to not have deficit spending. I will propose no more cuts and we will spend our reserves to maintain our current level of service to our students and community. Obviously this is not a long term solution, but there is nothing else to cut.
Genoa-Hugo	Would allow us some flexibility in offering courses K-12. We have a 1/2 time art teacher who we are losing. I do not believe we will find another 1/2 time person in Hugo, but if we could match that with another subject area that we have cut over the past 6 years we may be able to find someone. We could also add to our base salary in order to attract and keep more teachers.	We have a healthy fund balance and would not likely have to make any budget cuts, but we would not be looking at adding anything new, nor bumping our salary schedule that is low (\$28K base). We are trying to raise the base and become competitive in order to attract more teachers.
Kit Carson	We need the money to invest in old curriculum that we have put on the back burner during cuts (elementary language arts) and to reduce the deficit in our budget that the past 5 years of cuts has made.	If the money is earmarked as currently proposed our district wouldn't receive funds ELL or READ ACT money. We would definitely look at cuts in 2015-16. We have already talked about cutting physical education and the librarian we have been able to hang onto.

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Lamar Schools	Lamar would purchase technology, curriculum buys, look at possibly replacing some of the staff we have cut.	We may be looking at additional cuts and at this point in time I am not sure what we would cut. We have already closed a school and eliminated 40 positions two years ago. Not much left to cut without drastically impacting programs and the ability to educate our kids. We are already stressed to the limit.
St. Vrain	Most likely spend money on: 1) Recruiting and retaining high quality teachers and staff. 2) Reducing class sizes 3) Implementing instructional technology 4) Enhancing school safety measures 5) Increasing the length of the school year 6) Supporting literacy and numeracy instruction 7) Supporting students with special needs 8) Supporting gifted and talented students 9) Implementing SB191 with fidelity	Most likely we would reduce in the same areas if funding is not available.
Weldon Valley	a) Upgrade more technology needs. b) maintenance of facilities. c) try to give steps & lanes for certified staff w/ modest raise to classified and salaried at same ratio	Have to do Reduction In Force (RIF) some periods in both elementary and secondary, while losing art, business and math at different levels. Technology upgrades will not be possible, meaning we will likely not be ready for the state assessments.