

Colorado School Finance Project

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2012-13 Trends of Budget Cuts

2012-13 Budget Cut as of June 1, 2012:

- 1) **Cuts continue for 3rd and 4th years.** More districts are **drawing down reserves**. Reductions continue to capital (building & technology) – pent up demand and concern for safety. Lack of resources for curriculum implementation of newly adopted State Standards.
- 2) Staffing impact continues:
 - a) Reduction in administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, maintenance, etc. No replacements for attrition, retirement and/or staff reduction. **Concerns in reduction of administrators with implementation of Educator Effectiveness.**
 - b) **Freeze salaries** (often extending 2, 3, 4, 5 years of cuts), no adjustment for cost of living, employees pay for benefit increase – district impact varies.
 - c) **Furlough days** (school closed – students do not attend, staff does not come to work, no one is paid) impact of multiple years and a growing trend. Time is reduced.
- 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 students).
 - b) **Lowered graduation requirements.**
 - c) Programs cuts/in addition to cuts from prior years include: music, business, library, title, math, foreign language, speech, extracurricular, rural students get only core classes and some vocational education.
 - d) Districts increasing number of classes taught by teachers in upper grades, and fewer paraprofessionals.
- 4) District Wide Cuts, Increases (fees to participate) continue:
 - a) Transportation: fewer bus runs, eliminate field trips, contract out or charge, increase walking distance
 - 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, and or reduce school/activity budgets
- 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.

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: Reported by school districts to the CSFP and/or reported in the media, February-June 2012