



EGUSD's Budget Watch

The State of California's budget crisis has had a significant financial impact on Elk Grove Unified School District. Based on the most current information, the district anticipates the need to reduce its ongoing operating expenses by approximately \$40 to \$42 million for the 2010-2011 school year. The approximate \$40 million reduction is in addition to \$17 million in one-time budget cuts and \$27 million in ongoing budget cuts that the district had to make for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years.

Budget Reductions Over the Years

Since the 1993-1994 school year, the state has reduced school district funding in 12 out of 17 years.

As a result of the continued decline in school district funding, the district has been forced to make various staffing and program reductions in past years. In 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, the district made significant cuts to various positions, including administrative assistants, transportation, custodians, and maintenance and operations staff. Many of these positions have not been restored due to the continued lack of adequate funding.

From 2005 to present, several district administrative positions have either been eliminated or not filled. These include a chief of staff, secondary education director, elementary education director, English language director, summer school administrator and principal on special assignment positions.

For the 2008-2009 budget, the district made additional cuts, including eliminating 64 positions, such as instructional coaches and high school teachers.

For the 2009-2010 budget, the district used its ending-fund balance and federal stimulus funds to keep as many district employees working as possible during this school year. Upon receipt of approximately \$26 million in federal stimulus dollars, the district included these one-time dollars in the 2009-2010 budget. However, due to California's declining state revenues, even with this investment of federal one-time dollars, EGUSD still faces the need to reduce the 2010-2011 budget by approximately \$40 to \$42 million of ongoing dollars.

The Current Situation

Public education has once again suffered deeply from the state's budget problems. The Education Coalition has estimated that the current state budget has created a \$13.7 billion loss to public education over 18 months—the largest share of the state budget reductions. According to School Services of California, as a state California ranked 46th in the nation on per pupil spending in 2008-2009. California public education has incurred the greatest reduction in education funding in the United States.

EGUSD Budget Committee

The district has a budget committee reviewing and recommending potential budget cuts for the 2010-2011 school year. The 45-member budget committee is comprised of district administrators, principals and union representatives from each of the employee bargaining units. This year parent representatives who served on the district's finance committee, also joined the budget committee. The budget committee is looking at proposed budget reductions through the following lenses:

- Retain people before things
- Safety and security of district students and employees
- Maintain a clean and healthy school environment
- Continue the district's outstanding academic programs and services

For many years, the district has tried to prevent budget cuts from impacting district classrooms. With the magnitude of budget cuts the district is facing, there will be reductions made to the district's educational programs and staff.

The Drastic Effects

The district must cut \$40 to \$42 million of ongoing dollars from the 2010-2011 budget in order to maintain the fiscal solvency of the district's budget. All of these cuts are painful. Some of the proposed cuts currently being considered include 24 vice principals, all high school counselors, all school librarians and library technicians, eight administrative assistants, 28 school office assistants, the elimination of summer school and Regional Occupational Programs. The district is considering increases to class sizes in ninth grade and in grades K-3. In addition, athletic programs could be eliminated.

Looking Ahead

Superintendent Ladd continues to meet with stakeholders in the district, including parents and community members, to share information about budget cuts. He is also speaking with staff about the district's budget outlook. Dr. Ladd plans to visit all 62 school sites in the district before the end of December.

In October 2009, the district will hold a series of community meetings to invite parents, staff and students to join the budget discussion, present ideas and ask questions.

The final list of proposed budget reductions for the 2010-2011 school year will be presented to the Board of Education for action in November.

The district will continue to monitor the fiscal impact of the State of California's budget decisions. It should be noted that as the district moves forward with building a three-year budget, as required by law, the rising costs will continue to have an impact on the district's budget.

Elk Grove Unified is currently facing the most difficult budget cuts in its 50 year history. Despite the draconian reductions to school funding imposed by the state, the district remains focused on the education of our youth, high academic standards, safe campuses and clean and well-maintained facilities.

EGUSD Budget Community Meetings

The Elk Grove Unified School District will hold four community meetings in October to provide parents, staff, students and the community an opportunity to hear information and ask questions about the district's proposed budget cuts. The meetings will be held from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the following sites:

- October 8 Valley High School Cafeteria
- October 13 Florin High School Theater
- October 21 Franklin High School Theater
- October 22 Pleasant Grove H.S. Community Room

EGUSD Athletic Budget Reductions

The district has established an Athletic Budget Reduction Team to identify possible reductions. The district will hold four community meetings in October to discuss possible cuts to athletics in the 2010-2011 school year. The meetings will be held from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for the following schools at the meeting locations below:

October 12 meeting for Florin, Monterey Trail and Valley high schools will be held at Florin High School.

October 14 meeting for Pleasant Grove and Sheldon high schools will be held at Pleasant Grove High School.

October 15 meeting for Franklin and Laguna Creek high schools will be held at Franklin High School.

October 19 meeting for Elk Grove and Cosumnes Oaks high schools will be held at Cosumnes Oaks High School.

How to Help

During these difficult times, we encourage you to stay informed. The district will continue to provide updated information on the district's budget outlook on the EGUSD website at <http://www.egusd.net/news/budget/index.cfm>.

In addition, please feel free to share your ideas and questions with the district administration by going to the district's Budget Watch webpage and utilizing the comments section of that page. It is our hope that in working together we will be able to find the best solutions to enable our district to continue to provide quality services to its students and the Elk Grove Unified community.



<http://www.egusd.net/news/budget/index.cfm>