

**Chino Valley Unified School District Budget
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
March 2, 2009**

Q

Is it true that teachers will not receive a pay check in March?

A

No. The State has suspended tax refunds, welfare checks and students grants in an effort to close the state's \$42-billion budget deficit and has said that it lacks sufficient cash to pay its bills come March or April. These suspensions, or IOUs, do not affect paychecks for employees of CVUSD at this time. As long as the State continues to distribute funds to schools as scheduled, we are able to meet our payroll obligations. Should the State run out of money, the District has developed a plan to continue to fund payroll.

Q

Is it true that all employees will receive a pink slip in March?

A

The issuance of intent to layoff notices will be before the Board of Education for consideration at the March 5th board meeting. At that time, the Board will determine the scope of any notices to be issued.

Q

Why didn't the District announce a list of budget cuts like other school districts did weeks ago?

A

The State Legislature did not take action to finalize a budget and it was not signed by the Governor until February 20, 2009. Until it was signed, districts were only speculating on how much of a hit education would take in the state budget. CVUSD preferred not to speculate until the state budget was signed.

Q

How much is the District's budget shortfall for 2009/10?

A

We anticipate \$20 million and \$44 million is the amount that will need to be cut over the next three years.

Q

Does the District properly manage its money?

A

Yes. The School Board and District Leadership take the responsibility of overseeing tax payer's money very seriously. The District is required to maintain a 2% reserve requirement for economic uncertainties. Currently the District has a 2.5% reserve level. However, this year's deficit is much larger than previous years and we cannot continue to borrow from our reserves.

Q

Will the school year be cut by five days this year?

A

No, the Governor has proposed a five (5) day reduction for the 2009/10 school year, but his proposal has not been finalized.

Q

Will there be layoffs of staff?

A

We have been carefully examining all potential reductions, including layoffs. Everything is on the table. Layoffs will be unavoidable in dealing with such a huge deficit of \$44 million as salaries and benefits make up 79% of the District budget. We have been working closely with all of our labor associations to ensure that employee rights are respected and that we follow all contract provisions.

Q

Will class sizes be increased to save money?

A

No decisions have been made but all options are being examined for potential cost reductions and savings. We have been working closely with all of our labor associations to ensure that employee rights are respected and that we follow all contract provisions.

Q

How is the District leadership determining priorities, considering suggestions and ultimately going to make decisions on the budget and subsequent cuts?

A

Academic performance and alignment to the District's Strategic Plan are driving the discussion. Employee relationships will be preserved to the greatest extent possible. The Cabinet will seek collaborative solutions throughout stakeholder input. The final plan must ensure the District's fiscal solvency.

Q

Why are we re-landscaping the grounds of the District Office when there is a budget crisis?

A

The funds to redo the landscaping are redevelopment funds and may only be used for certain projects as the money is restricted.

Q

If the District cut \$27 million last year over the next three years, why are more cuts necessary?

A

The State and the Nation's fiscal climate have deteriorated to such a point that revenue we should receive from both sources is being significantly decreased. The District continues to incur increased business costs (such as utilities, supplies, fuel, and step and column increases). Most disappointing of all, the State continues to reduce funding to public education.

Q

Where can I get more information and submit suggestions?

A

The District web site has a web page dedicated to budget information and updates at www.chino.k12.ca.us. To email suggestions, please use the budget suggestion form on the budget page.

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