



K-12 state budget resources for school board members

KEY MESSAGES

- The Co-Chairs' budget means drastic cuts for schools. It is \$600 million short of the \$8.4 billion needed for districts to continue offering the same programs and services.
- We need our government leaders to tackle the issue of revenue reform so Oregon can pay for vital public services, including schools, today and in the future.
- The specific cuts will vary by district, but will include lost teaching jobs, reductions in school days, elimination of programs and electives, and more.
- For our district, this is what the cuts mean:
 - Elimination of <programs>
 - Elimination of <positions> - So that between this budget and 2008 we'll have lost a total of XX positions, making classes even bigger.
 - Reduction of <X> school days - a total of XX days of school since 2008.
 - Using reserves to minimize the damage - This is a short-term solution that jeopardizes our financial stability.
- All of these cuts are on the table despite the reports that Oregon's economy is not just in good shape, it has fully recovered from the recession.
- Oregonians consider education a top priority - but Legislature is not budgeting that way.
- The good news: it's not too late for the Legislature address budget and revenue reform.
- Community members have greater influence than anyone else in the state!
- Emails, postcards and phone calls could turn things around. Let's work together now.

KEY DATES

- **April 30:** Develop budget info to share with COSA and OSBA, including specific budget impacts at \$7.8B and \$8.0B. Communicate that information to your community, spread the message through traditional and social media, and contact legislators directly.
- **By May 25:** Engage district supervisory staff in budget-related issues, embed budget discussions in meetings, continue widespread communications efforts, monitor OSBA social media and share results and experiences with OSBA.

COMMUNICATION METHODS

- Social media: Visit OSBA's Facebook page. Share and like posts and graphics detailing the effects of budget cuts on your students and schools. On Twitter, share OSBANews tweets and your own stories; use the hashtag **#fundourschools**
- In concert with your superintendent, talk with local media about the potential effects from cuts. Share those same stories with community groups and friends.
- Contact your legislators directly (see separate sheet with effective email suggestions).

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