

The current budget crisis affects all of us. Scottsdale Unified School District began this year with a balanced budget adopted by our Governing Board. As a result of the State of Arizona's budget deficit, adjustments were made by the Legislature that has required us to reduce our budget by \$3.4 million after 8 months have passed in the current fiscal year. Next year's budget reductions for SUSD are projected to be over \$28 million in operating and capital funds.

Many of the variables that determine our final budget are far from being known at this time. Through these difficult times, our efforts to run SUSD efficiently and frugally are being challenged. Vacated positions have remained unfilled and jobs have been consolidated or eliminated. The process used to identify recommended budget savings involved discussions with school staff, site administrators, and input from our public.

We are fortunate to serve an exemplary school district that is supported by a community that understands the importance that quality educational experiences play in the future of that community. Student success is our top priority. Our focus is to preserve academic programs in our classrooms and the offerings available to students. Because 90% of our budget provides salaries and benefits to employees, SUSD has no other choice than impact our employees in order to absorb the loss in funding from the Legislature.

The District can not continue to deliver services with the same class size to which parents and students have become accustomed. All class ratios will be increased by four (4) students.

Position eliminations, staffing efficiencies, and class size adjustments will result in the following reduction in force:

Administration Positions – 28.6 FTE

Classified Positions – 37.9 FTE

Certified Positions – 221 FTE

In addition, we are recommending reduced department budgets, reduced benefits, and reduced services. It is critical for all of us to recognize the importance and the reality of the situation we are in. Inclusion of these items was only done after much thought and thorough discussion.

We recognize and appreciate all of our Professionals, Caring Teachers, Support Staff, and Administrators. Their positive efforts and focus on high levels of student achievement have allowed our students to experience great success. These are difficult times, but we will not lose sight of the vital role that public education plays in the health of our economy. We must continue to place a priority on the education of our children.